BULLETIN

MARCH 2011



Volume 37, Number 3

FAIRLINGTON FCA

www.fca-fairlington.org

Calendar

FCA Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, March 9, 7 p.m.

Fair Golds meeting Thursday, March 3, noon FCC

Four Mile Run spring clean-up Saturday, March 12, 9 a.m. – noon

Daylight Saving Time begins Sunday, March 13, 2 a.m.

Fairlington Diners Sunday, March 13, 6:30 p.m. Clyde's Alexandria

Fair Golds meeting Thursday, March 17, noon FCC

Book Group Tuesday, March 22, 7:30 p.m. North Fairlington CC

Fairlington Diners Sunday, March 27, 7:30 p.m. Ramparts Restaurant Alexandria

See Neighborhood News on pages 23 – 24 and related articles for details about calendar events.

Don't be tempted into carelessness, say public safety officers



Brush up on safety tips on Wednesday, March 9, at 7 p.m., when the FCA will host top Arlington County Police and Fire Department officials: ACPD Captain Michelle Nuneville, commander of the Third District team, and ACFD Captain Rudy Eversburg, chief of Station 7. With warmer weather just weeks away, residents can benefit from fire and police advice about spring and summer safety, as well as learn about any trends in incidents from the past several months.

Captain Nuneville notes that the number of stolen cars is down: Ten last year, compared to seven in the current, comparable reporting period. Of the seven, three cars were left unlocked with the keys inside; one was a car left running while the owner went into a store for "just a minute." Car break-ins continue (the "larceny from auto" incident as described in crime reports), though not at the pace of the recent past. Two and three years ago, GPS units were the most popular target for thieves breaking into cars; the trend diminished as the re-sale value of the units came down; and now the theft of GPS units is back up slightly. There has also been a recent uptick in bike thefts. Auxiliary police Lieutenant Heather Hurlock will discuss ways to safeguard your bike, including registering it with the police.

Based on statistics compiled by ACFD, Captain Eversburg can offer an overview of trends in fire and EMS calls in the Fairlington area over the last year. Structure fires are down nationwide—true for our neighborhood, too—but other kinds of calls continue, especially medical calls, as well as mutual aid and public assistance. Captain Eversburg can explain the variety of ways ACFD responds to citizens' needs and offer perspective on how Fairlington responses compare to those Arlington-wide. In addition, there are tried and true steps we can take to ensure our homes' fire safety—e.g., change your smoke detector batteries when we switch to Daylight Saving Time on March 13.

Coming up ...

The FCA Board invites all Fairlington residents to attend its meetings, which occur on the second Wednesday of the month 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 by logging on to Facebook and joining "Fairlington Appreciation Society."

Preliminary agenda:

7 p.m. Speaker/presentation: Arlington County Police Department Third District commander, Captain Michelle Nuneville, and Arlington County Fire Department Station 7 chief, Captain Rudy Eversburg, will discuss public safety issues.

8 p.m. Regular business meeting:

- Approval of February 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)		
	bob.laser@faa.gov		

Fairlington Citizens Association

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

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All Fairlington Bulletin

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: 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

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Potholes in bloom

Arlington County Manager Barbara Donnellan said in mid-February that the county would wait until spring to fully address the many potholes that have sprouted on county roadways. Despite a relatively minor snow season, the continuous freezing and thawing of streets leaves behind a predictable blossoming of potholes. You can report potholes to the county: Call 703-228-6570 or go online to www.arlingtonva.us.

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fairlingtonians,

Arlington County had a big win in early February when the Virginia Department of Transportation announced that they were abandoning plans to convert the current high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes to high occupancy toll (HOT) lanes on I-395. The county had filed a federal lawsuit opposing the change and many Fairlington residents have been active in the fight against HOT lanes. *(See the story, page 5.)*

The HOT lanes would have increased traffic noise and pollution while making commuting worse, not better. Giving people the ability to buy their way out of carpooling or taking public transportation would not have made traffic move faster—it would only put more cars on the road. The whole plan was misguided: With I-395, we have an interstate highway that empties onto city streets. Putting down more asphalt isn't going to change that. Neither is re-striping the asphalt that's already there.

More importantly, the HOT proposal would have etched in concrete a fundamental unfairness: You can't just pave over the inner suburbs so that people who live further out can have an autobahn to get to and from work. We who live in Fairlington have chosen to live in a fashion that reduces suburban sprawl. Of course, there are consequences for that decision: Paying the same amount of money as commuters from the south, we tend to have smaller homes and yards. We don't have garages or tool sheds, either. At the same time, we do have shorter commutes and the treasures of the city nearby. We also have treasures closer to home such as Shirlington, Signature Theatre, and Old Town. With our housing dollars, we've made different choices from long-distance commuters. We don't need yards as big as theirs because we have wonderful shared space—and we consider it an advantage that it's shared because we get to know our neighbors better that way.

In this area there is a clear and well understood trade-off between size of home for the dollar and distance from D.C. These schemes to refashion our transportation system offer only a false hope of better commutes for those who live further out. But some were willing to reduce the quality of life for those of us closer in to chase that illusion (never mind the questionable financing and long-term profit implications). I'm glad VDOT made the correct decision. We'll have to watch to make sure they stick to it.

Sincerely,

Reed Franklin president@fca-fairlington.org

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The demise of HOT—in our backyard at least, for now anyway

Welcome news, particularly to Fairlington and Parkfairfax residents, arrived the first week in February when Sean Connaughton, Secretary of the Virginia Department of Transportation, announced that the state had abandoned plans to build HOT (high occupancy toll) lanes in the six-mile-long segment of I-395 through Alexandria and Arlington. As originally planned, HOT would have extended along I-95/395 from far exurban Stafford County in the south all



the way north to the District. But the project was halted in 2009 not only by the deepening recession that made investor funding untenable, but also to some extent by Arlington County's anti-HOT federal lawsuit, which served to delay the project and forestall VDOT's ability to proceed. The lawsuit claimed that the proposed construction unfairly received a Categorical Exclusion (a federal exemption from environmental impact analysis) in the waning days of the Bush administration and, more controversially, that it would disadvantage minority residents who live near the highway.

The state's current, revised HOT plan calls for: Building toll lanes on a 29-mile stretch of I-95 from Garrisonville Road in Stafford County to the Beltway (I-495) at Edsall Road in Fairfax; building a link from the new HOT lanes directly to the HOT lanes already under construction on the Beltway; building, quickly, a ramp connecting the existing HOV lanes on I-395 to the BRAC-133 construction at the Mark Center (set to fully open by September 2011) on Seminary Road in Alexandria; and conducting an environmental

Primaries set for August

As reported at the end of January, the Virginia General Assembly agreed to hold this year's primary elections in legislative races on August 23. Usually the primaries are held on the second Tuesday in June, but this year the primaries have been pushed back because of redistricting—the legislature's need to redraw its districts every 10 years in response to census results. Redistricting, which is seldom quick or easy for any state legislature, is additionally time-consuming in Virginia because, under the 1965 Voting Right Act, the state must submit its plans to the U.S. Justice Department for approval before voting can begin. impact assessment of the project.

Widely reported in local media on February 3, Connaughton's press release attributed the cancellation of inside-the-Beltway HOT lanes to Arlington's lawsuit having "severely delayed" the entire project; some skeptical commentators suggested that the project's failure to attract investor funding was the more pressing cause of VDOT's reversal. Regardless, the not-HOT-here announcement was greeted

by Virginia Delegate David Englin, Fairlington's representative in the General Assembly, as "an important victory for thousands of Alexandria and Arlington residents whose neighborhoods and quality of life would have been harmed." Arlington County Board chairman Chris Zimmerman, saying the cancellation "vindicated" the lawsuit's call for a comprehensive environmental analysis, noted that "the state is now doing, for this new project, what Arlington asked it to do for the I-95/395 one."

On February 8, the county announced it would withdraw the lawsuit. Even so, Richmond observers opined that Arlington's "frivolous" lawsuit, as downstate legislators called it, could continue to cost the county in the form of ill will in the state capitol. Lawmakers had effectively blocked a bill in the General Assembly reauthorizing Arlington's hotel tax surcharge, which provides \$1 million per year for tourism promotion, as a punitive disincentive for Arlington's pursuit of the lawsuit. (On February 9, the bill was resurrected, approved in subcommittee, and given an even chance of passing.)

The Dillon Rule rules

Virginia follows the Dillon Rule (or Dillon's Rule), a legal concept derived from a 19th century court case that strictly limits the power of local governments to only those things expressly allowed by the state legislature. If a county, city, or town wanted to make policy changes in their localities regarding, for example, taxation, business and environmental regulation, or land use, they would have to seek authorization from the state. Most of the 50 states observe some form of the Dillon Rule, to varying degrees; Virginia is said to interpret the rule narrowly. Critics call it a ball and chain that prevents local autonomy by imposing top-down, one-size-fits-all solutions; supporters say it is a positive tradition of legislative oversight and restraint that ensures uniformity across the state.

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A sidewalk for King Street, maybe



Standing at the stop-light intersection of King and S. Taylor Streets, facing Bradlee, turn left (L) to see the well-worn path between Taylor and Quaker Lane; turn right (R) to see the stretch of King from Taylor to Wakefield. Photographs by Gretchen Fallon.

The City of Alexandria is considering installing a sidewalk along the north side of King Street, west of Quaker Lane—either a shorter segment between Quaker Lane and S. Taylor or a longer stretch between Quaker Lane and S. Wakefield. The FCA board has been asked to make a recommendation regarding the sidewalk proposals. If anyone in Fairlington would like to offer a comment about the sidewalk, please contact the FCA by March 31. Leave a voice-mail message at 703-243-1735 or send an e-mail, subject line "King Street sidewalk," to FCA treasurer Ed Hilz, treasurer@fca-fairlington.org. Staff members in Alexandria's Transportation Division have made it clear that the proposed sidewalk is an item for future planning; currently, there are no immediate plans to implement any proposal, because the city does not have money to fund construction.

Spring forward, March 13

At 2 a.m. on Sunday, March 13, set your clocks ahead to 3 a.m. for the start of Daylight Saving Time. This annual "spring forward" change effectively moves an hour of daylight from the morning to the evening. The start of DST also is widely seen as a good reminder that it's time to check your smoke-detector batteries. For more information, go online to the U.S. Naval Observatory Web site, www.usno.navy.mil.

County Board answers questions about budget process

The five members of the Arlington County board engaged in a two-hour question-and-answer session early last month at the February meeting of the Arlington County Civic Federation. FCA board member Guy Land attended and reported that, with budget deliberations now underway for FY 2012, taxing and spending were prime topics.

Asked about restoring certain cuts in last year's budget, board members were reluctant to speak directly about funding for specific programs until after County Manager Barbara Donnellan published her recommended budget. The board said it would hold a general budget work session on February 8; Donnellan would release (and post online) the proposed budget by February 12; and the county would advertise the proposed tax rate on February 15. The board then will hold two public hearings on the budget-March 22 on expenditures and March 24 on revenues (both at 7 p.m. in the County Board room, Suite 300, 2100 Clarendon Blvd.). The board will adopt the final FY 2012 budget on April 16 and at that time also set the tax rate for calendar year 2011. Taxes are due in two installments, in June and in October. (The final, adopted tax rate cannot go higher than the rate advertised on February 15, although it can be lower).

Note: For the current fiscal year, FY 2011, which began July 1, 2010, the board raised the base real estate tax rate 8.0 cents, to \$0.945 per \$100 of assessed value. The storm water tax rate was also increased by 0.3 cents to 1.3 cents per \$100 of assessed value, for a blended tax rate of \$0.958. The personal property tax rate remained \$5 per \$100 of assessed value. The total FY 2011 budget, which includes appropriations to Arlington Public Schools, as well as the Utility Fund and other self-supported funds, is \$1.2 billion, an increase of 0.4 percent from the FY 2010 revised budget.

Update: On February 8, Donnellan's proposed budget called for no increase in the real estate tax rate, which would see it remain at 95.8 cents per \$100 of assessed value. On February 15, the board advertised a rate of 96.8 cents for calendar year 2011.

For more information about the budget, go online to the county Web site, www.arlingtonva.us, select the County Manager page (under the Government tab), and click the icon for FY 2012 Budget Updates.

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Mysteries of Fairlington population revealed

Total population numbers from the 2010 census were released in February so that state legislatures could begin the every-ten-years redistricting task. County staff members are still processing and analyzing the data compiled for Arlington (and, per regulation, they will submit a formal challenge to the Census Bureau for any result they deem question-



able). After county analysis of the federal government's raw data, more detailed information about Arlington's residents and neighborhoods will become available this summer. In the meantime, thanks to Arlington County demographer Elizabeth Rodgers, we know that Arlington's official population is 207,627 and Fairlington's population is 9,064.

In addition, Rodgers has solved a decades-long mystery. A comparison of published census data from 1990 and 2000 seemed to show that Fairlington's population had declined by a noticeable 7.1 percent—a surprising conclusion given that overall numbers for Arlington showed a 10 percent increase during the same 10-year time span. It seemed odd, if not downright puzzling—Fairlingtonians who have lived here for twenty years had not noticed that the sidewalks and streets seemed a little less crowded in the 90s—rather, the reverse. Now we know why. The "decline" in total numbers for Fairlington was the result of a discrepancy—a change in how and where the boundary lines were drawn for the two census counts. In 1990, the calculations were done using block groups, but in 2000, the calculations used blocks, with the result that the later count simply omitted some of blocks that

had been included 10 years earlier. No surprise, then, that the 2000 count total showed a smaller population. It's rather like comparing apples and oranges—there's no completely appropriate population comparison available for "Fairlington 1990" and "Fairlington 2000." Recently, however, Rodgers adjusted the boundaries for the 2000 census count to more closely align them with those used in 1990. The resulting, more accurate comparison shows an increase in total population from 1990 to 2000 of some 330 people, or an increase of 3.6 percent.

Rodgers' office is documenting Arlington's neighborhoods in a series of reports derived from the five-year 2005-09 American Community Survey data. The first report was posted online in February, and 11 more reports on ACS topics are planned for release through July. For more information, go online to www.arlingtonva.us/departments/ CPHD/planning/data_maps/pdf/file79777.pdf.

New recycling rules mean no TVs in the trash

The county's new recycling code requires more residents to recycle more things. Multi-family properties, including condos and apartments, and businesses will increase recycling—in short, last year's guidelines for recycling are now requirements. In the past, many apartment buildings collected only newspapers and soda cans for recycling. Many commercial properties did not recycle at all. Among Fairlington's seven condo associations, property managers accommodated varying levels of recycling collection. Now, all property managers will make provision to recycle the following:

- Mixed paper (junk mail, magazines, newspapers, office paper, and miscellaneous papers)
- Cardboard
- Metal cans
- Aluminum cans

- Glass (bottles and jars)
- Plastics (bottles, jars, plastic tables, chairs, and buckets)
- Metal household items (large household appliances, bicycles, cabinets, doors, grills, iron furniture, and miscellaneous metals).

In addition, traditional TV sets and computer monitors (CRTs, or cathode ray tube models) can no longer be thrown away as trash. Residents can dispose of CRTs, for a fee, and thermostats containing mercury, for free, at the county's Household Hazardous Materials facility. The new regulations were effective January 1, but property managers have "90 days from February 1" (presumably around May 1) to comply with the new recycling rules. For more information, go online to the county Web site, www.arlingtonva.us, and search recycling.

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Spring plantings to benefit AFAC

The Arlington Food Assistance Center is asking local gardeners to join a nationwide food assistance effort by planting an extra row of vegetables for the Plot Against Hunger program and donating the bounty to AFAC, Arlington's food pantry. Last year 14 schools, 10 congregations, and six community gardens grew vegetables for AFAC. You can also get free vegetable seeds (tomatoes and peppers) this month, and start extra seedlings now, so the plants can be distributed to AFAC clients in May. To join the effort and receive free vegetable seeds for an individual or community Plant a Row plot, call Puwen Lee at 703-845-8486 or send an e-mail to puwen.lee@afac.org.

Green living expo, March 19

Sponsored by Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment, the second annual green living expo will take place on Saturday, March 19, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Washington Lee High School, 1301 N. Stafford Street. The expo will have exhibits and seminars that help educate residents about practical ways to green their lifestyles, as well as activities for children and a raffle. Featured will be businesses and organizations with products and services focusing on energy conservation, solid waste reduction, eco-friendly transportation, green home remodeling, sustainable landscaping, and healthy homes. New in 2011-a green schools section that will include a separate area in the exhibit hall with exhibit booths, networking roundtables, and posters from individual schools on green school activities. For more information, go online to www.arlingtonenvironment.org.

CERT training begins in March

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training is being offered by the county's Office of Emergency Management and Fire Department. The eight-session course covers disaster preparedness, disaster medical operations, light search and rescue, team organization, disaster psychology, fire suppression, and terrorism. Spring classes are scheduled to begin on March 16 and 22 and are held at the ACFD training academy in Shirlington. CERT training is open to Arlington residents (and those who work in the county but reside elsewhere) who are at least 18 years old (16 if accompanied by at least one parent) and able to participate in all aspects of the training, some of which requires lifting and carrying. Seats are filled on a first-come, first-served basis, and advance registration is required. For more information or to sign up, contact the program's volunteer coordinator, Cynthia Kellams, at ArlingtonCERT@aol.com.

Four Mile Run spring clean-up, March 12



Four Mile Run, which is undergoing long-term redesign and renovation, is home to many plant and animal species.

The annual clean-up of the Four Mile Run watershed's stream banks and park areas will take place on Saturday, March 12, from 9 a.m. to noon. Individuals, families, and groups are welcome to participate. In years past, the clean-up effort resulted in an average of one-and-a-half tons of garbage being collected from the stream's six sites. County park rangers organize the morning's work and Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment will be joining the effort at the Shirlington site: From S. Four Mile Run Drive, turn onto Nelson Street, park at the end, and meet at the pedestrian bridge. Wear waterproof boots and bring work gloves; bags will be supplied. For more information, contact the park rangers at 703-525-0168. Light rain or drizzle will not stop the clean-up, but if the weather is truly bad on March 12, check the phone number for a recorded message about cancellation.

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FAIRLINGTRY center news

Sign up for Summer Camp now

Now is the time to sign up for any of the eleven summer camps that will be held at the FCC. For example, in the Computer Build and Repair camp, for ages 9 to14, you'll take a computer completely apart and learn the hardware components, reassemble, install an operating system and software, do technology upgrades and add-ons, and debug. For more information about camps, fees, and registration, pick up a copy of the camp catalog at the FCC or go online to the county Web site, www.arlingtonva.us, and search "summer camp." Camps include:

Tot camp, ages 3 to 5 On the farm, ages 3 to 5 Dinosaurs, ages 3 to 5 Creative arts, ages 5 to 8 and 8 to 11 Page to stage, ages 8 to 12 Basketball skills, ages 4 to 6 Video game design, ages 8 to 14 Hands-on computer camps, ages 9 to 14 Java programmer, ages 11 to 15 Game design II, ages 8 to 14 Chess camp, ages 4 to 13

Classes and workshops

Get the complete description online or go to the FCC to pick up a copy of *Enjoy Arlington*. For questions or registration, go online to www. arlingtonva.us or call 703-228-4747.

Money management class series.

Thursdays, March 17, 24, and 31, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Learn how to create a successful spending and savings plan, manage debt, maintain good credit records, and find creative ways to save money on everyday purchases. A light dinner will be provided. Free, sponsored by Virginia Cooperative Extension. To register, call Jennifer Abel, 703-228-6417.

Spring break art series. Monday through Friday, April 18 – 21, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Classes offer students a chance to create projects based on famous artworks throughout history. Students will experiment with a variety of materials and techniques that may include drawing, painting, sculpting, print-making, bookmaking, mask-making, and multicultural arts. Emphasis is placed on developing creativity and imagination with a special focus on skill building. Participants invite their family and friends to their art show at the end of the session. Students should wear clothes they can get messy. Ages 5 to 8. Five year olds must have completed kindergarten. Inst.: Halloran. Registration opens March 29. 5 sessions, \$213, 616810A.

Senior center events

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

Master Gardeners plant clinic Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to noon. Help Desk, 703-228-6414.

Open play in the gym 13 and older, Saturday, 3 to 5 p.m. **13 and younger**, whenever no other scheduled programming is ongoing. Check the FCC bulletin board or call the day-of to confirm availability.

FCC hours and contact Info

Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 9 p.m. Saturday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. 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

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- Denice McCullough, Fairlington Resident

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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



Warming temperatures welcome back perennials

Despite the winds and sometimesnows of March, spring perennial flowers soon will be blooming. If you have cultivated seedlings inside, you can move them outside after the final frost. And by mid-March, local nurseries will be unveiling their perennials collections. Here are ones I enjoy that flower in March and/or April.

Aquilegia (Columbine). This interesting flower shows from mid-March to mid-June. It looks like a colorful cricket perched on a 12-inch-long, pink stem while "sticking out" its whisker-like pistils and stamens. The nodding bloom shows in color combinations of orange, yellow, maroon, blue, purple, and white and will thrive in full sun to part shade. It looks best in a small berm decorated with rocks or stones. Columbine's foliage is clumped and features a bluishgreen, scalloped-edged leaf.

Erythronium (Trout lily). A

creamy white flower blooms this month and next. The solitary flower is pendulous and comes one-perstem. The three-inch-long, lanced leaf is greenish-purple and grows in clumps. A vigorous grower, it is also suitable for a rock or wildflower garden.

Hellebores (Lenten rose).

Greenish-white flowers nod amid a collection of serrated, broad leaves close to the ground. Look closely and you'll see purple markings on the insides of its petals. Flowers bear



Trout lily. Photograph by Corey Hilz, www.coreyhilz.com.

a flush of mauve when the weather cools in late fall and early winter. Ground-cover-like, Lenten rose is good for the understories of taller plants, since it prefers shade.

Anemone (Snowdrop). Pure white, cup-shaped flowers with yellow stamens are solitary and nod on the ends of 12-inch-long stems.

The basal leaves are three-lobed and fuzzy. The flower closes at sundown and reopens in sunlight, similar to the summer perennial Spiderwort.

Campanula (Bell flower). This blue or lavender three-inch-diameter flower is bell-shaped and grows in clusters on three-foot-long stems in the full sun of April, May, and June. Toothed, lanced leaves are eight inches long and clump near the soil. Campanula is Latin for "little bell."

Dianthus (Cheddar pink or Sweet William). Pink and white flowers—some with red variegation on the insides of the ruffled petal edges—show in the full sun of April and May. The one-inch-diameter, fragrant blooms grow singularly off 10-inch-long stems rooted in bluishgreen, mat-forming foliage.

Epimedium (Barrenwort). Tiny white flowers show in April, eight to ten inches above cordate (heart-shaped) leaves that grow in threes from the stem. The flower's four petals curve all the way back, resembling the headgear of The Flying Nun.

Heuchera (Coral bells). Tiny tubular pink, white, or red flowers cling to 12-inch-long stems from April through October. The dense basal foliage is scalloped, fuzzy, and shows in apricot, maroon, and shades of green.

— Bill Sullivan, www.sullivanslandscaping.net



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Animal talk

Dogs gone AWOL, part two: Recovering your dog when he's outta sight

Last month we looked at what to do if your dog gets away from you but is still within sight. If your dog truly runs away, you will need to try other tactics to get it back.

Start a search as soon as possible once you know the dog is missing. Enlist the help of friends and neighbors, both on foot and in the car. Everyone should carry a leash, collar, treats, and perhaps a favorite squeaky toy. Assign each person a specific area and time frame in which to search. Exchange cell phone numbers to stay in touch and narrow the search if a sighting occurs. Someone may want to stay at home base in case the dog returns—leave food and water out.

Those on foot should call the dog's name, squeeze a squeak toy to get your dog's attention, or even take along a dog buddy. Check underneath bushes or other hiding places. If the dog has a favorite visiting spot, check it or station someone there in case the dog shows up.



To step up your search, contact local organizations for help. File a missing pet report with local shelters. Create signs and flyers that include your dog's name, photo, distinguishing characteristics, and your contact information (but never your address). Deliver flyers to shelters, animal hospitals, and businesses and ask if they will put them up. E-mail the flyers to rescue groups, neighbors, or anyone who can spread the word. Post signs throughout the neighborhood, on your car, and at major intersections within a few miles. Post information on missing pet Web sites or

neighborhood discussion boards on Facebook or Yahoo.

Some organizations may be able to help with organized searches or guide you on advanced search techniques like tracking or setting baits and traps. Most importantly, do not give up hope. Chances are, with a persistent strategy and help from friends and local organizations, your dog will make it safely home.

Resources

Animal Welfare League of Arlington, www.awla.org or 703-931-9421

Animal Welfare League of Alexandria, www.alexandriaanimals.org or 703-764-4774

Online Resources

www.petharbor.com www.Pets911.com www.petfinder.com www.craigslist.com www.findtoto.com

—By Christine Chirichella, AFB *Assistant Editor*



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ABING Chool news





Fourth grader Akash Chatterjee's blue ribbon winning artwork, "Together we can make the world a greener place." Photograph by Tina Masciangioli.

Abingdon students honored at county program

On January 25, four Abingdon students were among those honored at a program held by the County Council of PTAs to recognize achievement in the Reflections program. Reflections is a national PTA program that encourages students to think and create through various artistic media. This year's theme was, "Together, we can...."

The student winners at Abingdon who advanced to the countywide competition were:

Literature: Abigail Presson, 3rd grade Music: Holly Matthews, 3rd grade Photography: Holly Matthews, 3rd grade

Video: MJ Brown, 4th grade Visual Arts: Akash Chatterjee, 4th grade

Akash Chatterjee's artwork, titled "Together we can make the world a greener place," won first place countywide. His piece represented Arlington County in the Northern Virginia District Intermediate Visual Arts competition, as well. Congratulations to Akash and all our Abingdon artisans!

It's book fair time!

The Scholastic Book Fair is coming back to Abingdon the week of March 14. There will be an assortment of both

paperback and hardcover fiction and nonfiction titles for sale along with some Spanish language materials, posters, and novelty items. Students will have the opportunity to purchase items during the school day. For Parent Night, which is from 5 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday, March 15, the book fair will be open to the public. All proceeds will benefit the Abingdon PTA and the school library.

Former Abingdon student chosen for District Orchestra festival

Zoe Broussard, a former Abingdon student, was among just six Arlington middle school students chosen to participate in the District Orchestra festival on January 8-9 at Oakton High School in Fairfax. Zoe, who plays the cello, got her start with Ms. Gomez in Abingdon's strings program, through which all fourth graders take Suzuki violin as part of their standard curriculum. Way to go, Zoe!

Still time to check out Abingdon for Kindergarten

There are still two more Kindergarten orientations scheduled for Abingdon Elementary School. These are great opportunities for parents of preschoolers to meet with teachers and parents, learn how the school day works and the curriculum unfolds in the classroom, and take a tour of our school. You can come to one or even both of the following orientations:

Tuesday, March 8, 12:45 to 2:15 p.m. Thursday, April 14, 9:15 to 10:45 a.m.

Supporting our schoolwide literary project

This spring, Abingdon students will be working on a school-wide literary project, writing six-word biographies based on portraits from the National Portrait Gallery. The resulting book of their work will be provided to all students free of charge, just like the poetry anthology the students created last year. To help pay for this project, and to continue providing support for Abingdon classrooms, the Abingdon PTA is selling reusable grocery bags. The bags are red with our brand new Project GIFT logo in white. They are 13 inches wide, 12 7/8 inches high, and five inches deep and are made of recyclable, non-woven, water repellant material. They sell for \$3 a piece or 2 for \$5. Contact Michelle at 703-625-9597 or michellecmarston@gmail.com if you would like to purchase one.

—By Michelle Marston, Abingdon PTA co-president



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neighborhood news

Fair Golds

The Fair Golds, an Arlington County social group in and around the Fairlington area (including Alexandria), will meet at noon on Thursday, March 3, and Thursday, March 17, at the Fairlington Community Center. The meetings begin with a brown-bag lunch; dessert and beverages are provided. We always welcome guests and/ or new members over 55 years of age. For more information, call Gertrude Frankel at 703-931-3759 or Vernette Kukolich at 703-548-8571.

Card players welcome

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

Fairlington Diners

Fairlington Diners is a group of Fairlington and non-Fairlington friends who gather for dinner a couple of times a month. We focus on just having a good meal in great company. If you'd like to be included in our e-mail list, please send your e-mail address to carol_dabbs@ yahoo.com.

Sunday, March 13, 6:30 p.m., Clyde's at Mark Center, 1700 N Beauregard St., Alexandria, 703-820-8300, www. clydescom. Clyde's is a traditional American restaurant, with a wide range of moderately-priced dishes that change frequently. Please call Carol at 703-379-6840 by 6 p.m. on Saturday the 12th if you plan to attend, so we can make a reservation.

Monday, March 28, 7:30 p.m., half-price burger night at Ramparts Restaurant, 1700 Fern St., Alexandria, 703-998-6616. This is a local favorite that we visit monthly usually with a large turnout. Please call Carol to let us know if you plan to attend, so we can choose the right size table when we arrive. Prior to the day of the event, please call at 703-379-6840. On the day of the event, please call by 6 p.m. at 202-647-2624. Please leave a voicemail if you don't reach Carol directly; include your name and how to contact you the day of the event, in case of a change in plans.

Book Group

In Marianne Wiggins' *Evidence of Things Unseen*, Ray "Fos" Foster's fascination with the science of illumination is a thread that leads from World War I trenches to photography, love of luminescent Opal, business misadventure, tragedy at the atomic bomb project at Oak Ridge, and life challenges for Fos and Opal's foundling son Lightfoot. Please join us on Tuesday, March 22, at 7:30 p.m. in the North Fairlington Community Center to discuss this novel of the transformation from scientific trust to the stark realities of the atomic age. For more information, contact Kavita Kalsy at kkalsy@hotmail.com or Terry Gough at tjgough@verizon.net.

Fairlington Babysitting Co-op accepting new members

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

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. Members send out their own sit requests via the Fairlington Babysitting Google Group. During the day, children normally are 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.

Fairlington residents can e-mail the spring quarter co-coordinators Stephanie Seltz and Cara Fahey at fairlington.babysitting@gmail.com to request an application and a complete set of rules. Once your application is complete, your references will be contacted, and then the co-coordinators will come for an in home interview. Once all of these steps are successfully completed, you will receive a supply of co-op cards. The Co-op is currently accepting new members.

neighborhood news

Continued

Home and Garden Tour plans

The 2011 Fairlington Historical Society's Home and Garden Tour, which occurs every other year, is just three months away and plans are taking shape. The committee will be selecting homes and gardens for the tour in the next few weeks and nominations are still open for renovated homes of all floor plan types.

The committee is still welcoming new volunteers to help with planning, fundraising, advertising, and with tour day logistics. We divide volunteer responsibilities so that even a small amount of time from you can make an important contribution to this signature community event. Our volunteers have found that as enjoyable as it is to participate in the tour, helping with the production is even more satisfying.

If you would like to nominate your home or garden or are interested in volunteering, please e-mail us at FHSHomeTour@gmail.com or call Kevin Silvia or Patsy Hester at 703-578-3824.

Kindergarten open house for Alexandria residents of Fairlington, March 11

If you live in the Alexandria section of Fairlington Villages (Ward 6), your neighborhood elementary school is John Adams Elementary, in the west end of Alexandria at Rayburn and Beauregard Streets. You are invited to learn more about the school at an Open House to be held on Friday, March 11, at 9 a.m. Meet the principals, talk to current parents, tour the school, and find out about the exciting Spanish immersion program for children in grades K – 5. The school has a CETA (Changing Education through the Arts) partnership with the Kennedy Center, and many teachers have special training to successfully integrate music and arts into the curriculum. After school programs include Mad Science, Scouting, Spanish Club, and Campagna Center child care. Each summer, new kindergarten students may attend the two-week-long "K-Prep," a 9 a.m. to 1p.m. introduction to the Kindergarten routine. For more information or to join one of the school listservs, go online to www.acps.k12.va.us/adams/pta.php.



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MICHELE'S MAIDS. Reliable, honest & affordable. Specializing in detailed cleaning. Serving Fairlington for over 13 years. LICENSED, BONDED & INSURED. Fairlington references available. No Machines to talk to. 703-820-1808 Visit our website at www. michelesmaids.net

FAIRLINGTON MAID SERVICE.

Serving Fairlington since 1978. Call for our Spring Cleaning Specials. We are family owned and operated. Our staff is reliable, trustworthy, punctual, and detail oriented. We are great with pets. Our prices are reasonable and our service is very thorough. Call for a free estimate. 703-820-8635.

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

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



HOUSE KEEPER. My house keeper is looking for houses or apartments to clean. Cleaning since 2000. Weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, move-in/ out. Insured. Free estimate. Call 703-313-0454.

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

Pet Services

PET & PLANTCARE BY GERRI, LLC. Reliable, loving care for your dogs, cats, rabbits, birds, or fish. Petsitting, playgroups, walks, feedings, medications. Indoor/outdoor plantcare. Established 1999 by 19-year Parkfairfax resident; bonded and insured. Competitive rates; flexible arrangements. Call 703-379-7719.

ALWAYS CARING PET CARE. Dog walking, cat sitting. Reliable, flexible, midday, holiday or vacation care for your pets. Serving Fairlington for over 10 years. Excellent references. 703-765-0990. **HOME ALONE FELINES**. Loving, professional in-home care of your special feline. 703-671-5504; homealonefelines@gmail.com

DOG WALKER & PET SITTER-REASONABLE RATES. Special rates for regular walks. Mature, responsible, reliable and dependable woman with excellent Fairlington references. Suzanne Mitchell: Pal4Paws.Suzanne@ gmail.com or call 703-868-8894.

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NOTICE TO ALL ADVERTISERS

Due Date for All Ads:6 pm on 10th of the preceding month (Mar 10th for April 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.orgMailing Address for All Ads and Checks:FCA-AFB, PO Box 6182, Arlington, VA 22206-0182Drop-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):	

* Long & Foster Arlington/Alexandria Office *

Attention Renters

Rent vs. Buy Chat

March 15 Tuesday This is Your Date! 6:30-7:30 PM

Learn the advantages of buying verses renting.

*4800 31st Street South * 703-998-3111* Arlington, Va. 22206 *



Renter's vs. Buyer's Chat

- Learn the tax advantages of ownership.
- Perform a personalized rent vs. buy analysis.
- See how closely your rent payment compares to a mortgage payment.
- See how to start saving for your future.
- Let your income & good credit work for you, not your landlord.
- Welcome to your renter's forum. Let us show you.

When: 3/15/11 6:30-7:30 pm

Where: Join us at our newly renovated sales office-4800 S. 31st. St.

Intersection of S. Buchanan St. & 31st St, S.-in Fairlington Villages.

Who: All renters & buyers. RSVP 703-998-3111 <u>Mortage rates are</u> <u>historically Low!</u> <u>Sales prices have</u> <u>become affordable to all!</u> Let Us Help You Save

 Call us prior to this CHAT with your rental info and we will provide your personalized Rent vs. Buy analysis.

Call us at 703-998-3111 or

Email our Broker at: Steve.Crime@longandfoster.com

* Let Our Knowledge & Expertise of Fairlington Save You Thousands!!



Plan Ahead Now ! <u>Get your home ready for the</u> <u>Spring Market.</u> Free Market Analysis Voted Top Sales Office Industry Leader Sales * Rentals *property management *investment properties *relocation services Agents licensed in VA, DC,MD