

## ***Police urge you to call: Register complaints, report something unusual***

### ***FCA monthly meeting***

There is no FCA meeting in March.

### **Fair Golds business meeting**

Thursday, March 1, noon  
FCC

### **MOMS Club**

Wednesday, March 7, 4 pm  
FCC

### **Fairlington Diners**

Thursday, March 8, 6:30 pm  
Virtue Feed and Grain  
Alexandria

### **Daylight Saving Time begins**

Sunday, March 11, 2 am

### **Fair Golds program**

Thursday, March 15, noon  
FCC

### **Fairlington Diners**

Monday, March 26, 6:30 pm  
Ramparts half-price burger night  
Alexandria

### **Special election for County Board seat**

Tuesday, March 27, 6 am – 7 pm  
Polling places

### **Book Group**

Tuesday, March 27, 7:30 pm  
North Fairlington CC

*Continued on page 3*



*ACPD Captain Brett Butler is flanked by FCA president Rosiland Jordan and FCA vice president Bryan Pettigrew. Photograph by Gretchen Fallon.*

Police Department Lieutenant Shirl Mammarella, deputy commander of Sector 3, noted that Larceny from Auto continues to be the statistically most significant crime in Fairlington, as well as in Arlington and Alexandria generally. (In addition, before the officers presented their review of recent crime activity at the meeting, representatives from Arlington's Office of Emergency Management provided an overview of their agency's work in planning and preparedness. *See the box, page 7*).

Captain Butler and Lieutenant Mammarella explained their respective areas of responsibility: Arlington's Third District essentially covers all of south Arlington except for Crystal City; Alexandria's Sector 3 covers the city's "west end," essentially everything west of Quaker Lane. Of foremost interest to Fairlingtonians was gaining clarity on the way the two departments coordinate efforts, particularly as they affect the residents in Fairlington Villages who have Arlington addresses but who actually live in Alexandria. Butler and Mammarella agreed that emergency response should not be a problem; 9-1-1 dispatchers in both jurisdictions use computerized data, based on location, to send first responders.

At the FCA meeting in February, residents heard the good news that police officers consider Fairlington a "quiet" area, largely untouched by anything approaching double-digit crime. Law enforcement officers know that quiet now doesn't mean quiet tomorrow, so they continued to urge residents to be vigilant and to report any suspicious or even merely questionable activity. Arlington County Police Captain Brett Butler, commander of the Third District, and Alexandria

*Continued on page 5*

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.fca-fairlington.org), and on Facebook at "Fairlington Appreciation Society."

### Preliminary agenda:

**7 p.m. Special program:** There will be no speaker/presentation in March.

**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](http://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](http://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](http://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
<a href="http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/Environmental">www.arlingtonva.us/departments/Environmental</a>	
<a href="http://Services/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm">Services/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm</a>	
Helicopter Noise Complaints	Bob Laser (FAA) <a href="mailto:bob.laser@faa.gov">bob.laser@faa.gov</a>

### Fairlington Citizens Association

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### All Fairlington Bulletin

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**Assistant Editor:** Christine Chirichella

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**Distribution Manager:** Noemi Rivera

### — DEADLINE —

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

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Ad Size	Height	Width	Rate
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Back Cover (Full Page)	9.5 in.	7.5 in.	\$505
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Full-Page Insert (2 Sides)	11 in.	8.5 in.	\$570

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For more information, visit [www.fca-fairlington.org](http://www.fca-fairlington.org)

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## Calendar, cont.

### **Invasive weed pull**

Saturday, March 31, 9 – 11 am  
S. 32nd Street tree stand

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

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Some images in this publication may  
be digitally enhanced.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Thirty-three-year-old Joshua Weissman died on Thursday, February 9.

He was a paramedic with the Alexandria City Fire Department. He was injured the night before, in the line of duty.

According to the *Washington Post*, "Weissman was climbing over a cement barrier along I-395 to get to a burning vehicle Wednesday evening when he fell through a large gap between the barriers and dropped 30 feet into Four Mile Creek, police and fire officials said after the accident."

Think about that: Weissman was trying to get to a burning vehicle. He didn't know if anyone was trapped inside, but it was his obligation that night to rescue all who were inside. The oily fire, the cold rain, the heavy traffic—he was trained to let none of these things interfere with his duty: saving lives.

As it happened, the FCA had invited police representatives from both Alexandria and Arlington to our monthly meeting on that Wednesday night to share updated crime information and crime prevention tips with Fairlingtonians. I've been marveling over the fact that Arlington Captain Brett Butler, Alexandria Lieutenant Shirl Mammarella, and their fellow officers still came to talk with residents about our concerns, when one of their fellow public safety officers was fighting for his life.

That is public service. That is a huge act of generosity.

Please thank your fire fighters, your paramedics and EMTs, and your police officers when you see them.

And please keep Alexandria paramedic Joshua Weissman and his family in your thoughts. Weissman was brave; his last assignment was testament to his character.

Rosiland Jordan, President  
Fairlington Citizens Association  
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*Captain Butler (right) talks with Alexandria Police Department Lieutenant Shirl Mammarella (center) and ACPD Third District team member, Corporal Aviv Bercovicz.*

One meeting attendee asked about a recent incident: A resident of Fairlington Villages heard what she thought was gunshots (which later turned out to be fireworks). The resident first called Arlington police, was referred to Alexandria police, who referred her back to Arlington police. After the situation was resolved, some residents were left with questions about whom to call. Captain Butler said that he couldn't speak to the particular incident, but that he wanted all residents to feel comfortable calling the Arlington police non-emergency number (703-558-2222). In addition, he provided his e-mail contact information for any resident with a question—about anything law-enforcement or public-safety related, from jurisdictions to traffic issues to suspicious behavior (Bbutle@arlingtonva.us. NB: Leave off the "r" in Butler).

In both Arlington and Alexandria, police note a recent increase in the theft of motorcycles. Officers encourage owners to secure their motorcycles with something more than just the factory lock on the ignition. Use an anti-theft device; secure the bike to something stationary with a heavy-duty chain and lock (so that it can't be simply lifted up, for example, and placed in the back of a van). Despite that uptick, and for perspective about crime generally in Arlington, Captain Butler noted the number of homicides last year—zero. The year before, there were two homicides; one was a "domestic," and the other was a robbery gone bad. The overall trend is decidedly in favor of fewer part one (felony) crimes—a trend that mirrors a nationwide decrease in violent and property crimes, as reported by the FBI.

The officers agreed that, in this area, traffic and traffic violations tend to be the most constant source of complaints. Over a six-month period, Butler said that

229 tickets were issued in Fairlington (on the periphery of the neighborhood, inside Fairlington, and down to Walter Reed Drive). Ninety-six were stop sign violations. Traffic enforcement tends to follow areas that generate numerous complaints, both Butler and Mammarella said. Of course, any officer can cite any driver at any time. But enforcement officers can be assigned to monitor a specific intersection when there have been continual complaints about violations in that area. It was recommended that residents call or go online (there are several reporting links on the ACPD Web page) to register complaints about specific locations and problems—for example, the intersection of S. 36th Street and Quaker Lane, where drivers on Quaker routinely ignore signs that say "Do not block the intersection." The same is true when you observe violations at the stop sign intersection of S. 36th Street and S. Taylor—which Butler described as a "hot bed" of violation. In one hour last summer, 30 tickets were issued there. Depending on the volume of complaints registered with police, the areas of enforcement attention will fluctuate.

Gang activity in Arlington is not what it was 10 to 15 years ago, said Butler. It used to be vocal and open, but that has subsided considerably in recent years, due primarily to RICO legislation (the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act) and associated enhanced penalties. At the same time, the Neighborhood Watch program seems to be in decline as a formal entity. Butler believes that's because, particularly in highly-walkable neighborhoods like Fairlington, every person out and about on the sidewalks is essentially "on neighborhood watch." Every mom with a cell phone pushing a stroller is on neighborhood watch. So is every dog-walker, jogger, bike rider, and person waiting at the bus stop.

In conclusion, said Butler, "our goal is to fix problems." Residents are advised to stay vigilant and to let police know of problems. If you see something odd, puzzling, or questionable, don't hesitate to call the police non-emergency numbers (Arlington, 703-558-2222; Alexandria, 703-838-4444). As Butler noted, "We can come check it out. We're glad to come check it out. It's what we do. It gives us contact, and this contact might lead to something else." If, for example, you see people walking down a line of cars, looking inside, maybe touching door handles, call. If you see something strange, or if you smell something you think is marijuana, or, particularly late at night, if you see/hear/smell/encounter anything out of the ordinary, call. The police realize that by the time they get there, the potential bad actor might be gone; but your call gives them information about a location, to which they can return. In short, when in doubt—call.

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# CivFed meeting addresses stormwater concerns

—Guy Land

At the February meeting of the Arlington County Civic Federation, staff from the Department of Environmental Services discussed the county's stormwater and watershed improvement plans:

- Stormwater and sanitary sewer drains are on completely separate systems in Arlington (unlike in many other jurisdictions). All stormwater goes (eventually) directly into the Potomac and the Chesapeake Bay without being treated.
- Most of Arlington was developed before stormwater regulations existed, so county streams are heavily impacted by stormwater runoff.
- More than half of the county's stormwater network is over 50 years old.
- Federal and state regulations have strengthened the controls on stormwater runoff, including new regs last year.
- The county is improving existing stormwater facilities that focus on natural treatment of stormwater, upgrading the infrastructure, imposing new restrictions on runoff from impervious surfaces in new development, and upgrading the county's stormwater master plan.
- Pet waste is the number one source of e-coli bacteria in Arlington streams.
- The county is establishing a StormwaterWise Landscape program, selecting 40 pilot participants who will work with the county to identify strategies to reduce stormwater runoff from their properties. The program will have matching grants to implement the improvements.

*(See next month's Bulletin for additional information.)*

## County Board special election, March 27

Arlington will hold a special election on Tuesday, March 27 to fill the vacant County Board seat. On the ballot will be Audrey Clement (Green), Libby Garvey (Democrat), and Mark Kelly (Republican). The winner of the special election will succeed Barbara Favola, who resigned from the board after winning a seat in the state Senate. The deadline for registering to vote in the special election is Monday, March 12. For information on absentee voting and other election-related matters, call 703- 228-3456 or go online to the county's Web site, [www.arlingtonva.us](http://www.arlingtonva.us) and search elections.

## OEM's good advice on how to get prepared, stay informed



*Arlington County OEM representatives Robb Hoffower and Lissa Westerman. Photograph by Gretchen Fallon.*

Representatives from Arlington's Office of Emergency Management, Lissa Westerman and Robb Hoffower, explained how OEM acts as a coordinating office for planning and preparedness for any large or complex event, so that all county departments know their roles in an emergency. An emergency might be a weather event, like a severe summer storm or extreme winter temperatures or snowfall; an extended period of power outage; a terrorist event that might

be a cyber attack or that might require hazmat or public health responses or calls for evacuation; or a large accident involving a chemical spill or mass injuries. OEM does not respond directly to the event—police and fire departments do that. Rather, OEM conducts prior planning to anticipate needs and identify resources to contribute to the response. On a day-to-day basis, OEM operates the county's emergency communications networks (9-1-1 dispatch) and conducts outreach among county officials and regional agencies.

OEM's best advice for residents, which echoes that of federal and state agencies and the Red Cross, is: Be informed. Make a plan. Get involved. And the OEM recommends these things for you to do now to step-up your personal preparedness. Sign up for ArlingtonAlert; you can tailor the list to the kinds of alerts you want to receive and on which devices. Download OEM's smart phone app, Arlington Prepares, and enter your emergency information there. Become familiar with Arlington's emergency radio station and with the wealth of readiness publications and resource referrals OEM has to offer. For more tips and detailed information, go online to the county Web site, [www.arlingtonva.us](http://www.arlingtonva.us), and search emergency management.

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## Work resumes at the S. 32nd Street tree stand, March 31



If you've observed the uniformly brown and barren tree stand along S. 32nd Street this winter, take note of how things begin to green up this month. Fairlington resident Lenny Bankester, who organized work days at the tree stand throughout last year, will return on Saturday, March 31, for a renewed effort at removing invasive species like English ivy and Japanese honeysuckle. Join the neighborhood's band of

volunteer weed pullers, from about 9 to 11 am—you'll be among the first this year to poke about the naturalized area and see what plants are coming up. Neighbors may be joined by some of Bankester's classmates in Tree Steward training. In addition, there may be a few Virginia Tech students, who currently are taking a class in invasive species, and to whom Bankester made a presentation about the ongoing reclamation work in Fairlington. Bring gloves. No experience required.

**Become a Fairlington volunteer:** Here's a call-out to all Fairlington residents, to join in the fun and make a difference, at two of the neighborhood's traditional events.



For Fairlington Day, which will be held on the second Saturday in May in conjunction with the county's annual Neighborhood Day, you can sign up to organize an activity, like a kids' craft, face-painting, balloon filling, or music making.

Or choose a time slot for flipping burgers. Or take charge of corralling a collection of coolers and then getting and toting ice. Be the wrangler for napkins, paper plates, and plastic forks. Any and all contributions are welcome. (All products are paid for by FCA.)

For the 4th of July parade and after-party, FCA is thinking of expanding the parade route to include a southern loop, so that the parade can proceed from the Fairlington Community Center, over the bridge and past the firehouse, to the after-party in the parking lot of the North Fairlington Community Center. You can help plan the route and/or make arrangements with Arlington police for traffic management. Or coordinate plans with the fire fighters of Station 7. To indicate your interest, contact FCA president Rosiland Jordan at [president@fca-fairlington.org](mailto:president@fca-fairlington.org).

## Letters to the Editor

I'd like to commend ACPD Captain Brett Butler for the help he gave to Abingdon Elementary last year. The school's parents and staff were looking for help with re-configuring our pick-up and drop-off system—although "system" doesn't aptly describe the confusion of cars and busses we experienced in the morning and afternoon. We had had several fender benders. At least one student was nearly hit. And parents acknowledged frayed nerves as an integral part of the routine. In short, we needed to make the parking lot a safer place.

Captain Butler responded to the PTA's request and came out to observe our morning drop-off procedures. Not only that, he worked with us on making improvements, and he enlisted the help of other officers on the Third District team and even other ACPD divisions in the effort. He also helped us get a lower speed limit for the approach to Abingdon. We've heard stories from

other schools about a perfunctory response from other police districts, but we certainly never sensed anything but commitment from Captain Butler. He took our concerns seriously, and he's earned our heartfelt thanks for his service to the school and the community

Michelle Marston  
Abingdon PTA past president

*The All Fairlington Bulletin welcomes letters to the editor and will print them as space permits. However, the opinions expressed are those of the writers and do not represent endorsement by this publication or the FCA. In addition, the AFB reserves the right to edit letters for length or clarity, and the AFB may refuse to print letters that are not appropriate for a community newsletter.*



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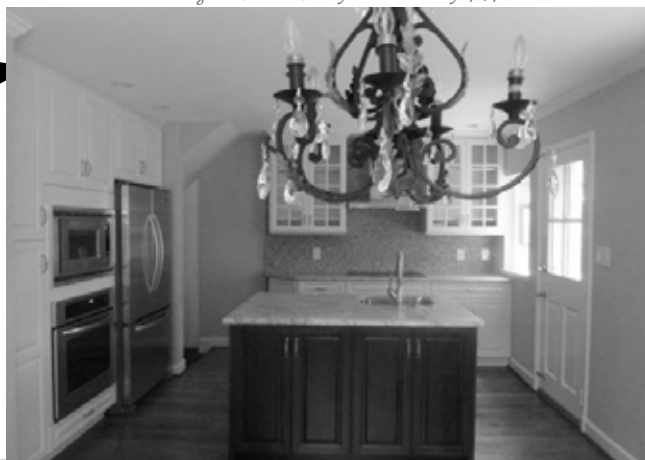
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## Lights go up at Utah Park



The eight old wooden light poles at Utah Park field were taken down to make way for six new concrete poles, which will deliver improved lighting in an energy-efficient and neighbor-friendly “dark sky” design. The old

wooden poles and old lighting fixtures will be recycled for use elsewhere in the county. Despite some soggy weather in January, the new lights were up and in place by early February. *Photographs by Gretchen Fallon.*

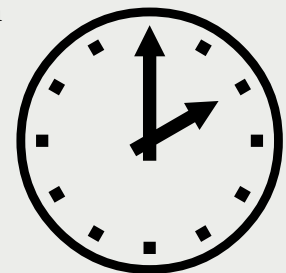
## Sewer work update

Part two of the sanitary sewer infrastructure project is scheduled to begin by early March, according to the county’s Department of Environmental Services. During construction, a portion of S. Utah Street, near Utah Park, from a point north of 32nd Road S. to 32nd Street S. will be blocked off and closed to traffic. Barring weather delays, the work is expected to take about six months.



## Spring forward, March 11

At 2 am on Sunday, March 11, set your clocks ahead to 3 am for the start of Daylight Saving Time. The annual “spring forward” time change effectively moves an hour of daylight from the morning to the evening. DST, called “summer time” in Britain, has been observed in much of the U.S., Canada, and Europe since World War I. As prescribed in the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the duration of DST has expanded by about four weeks, now beginning on the second Sunday in March and ending on the first Sunday in November. For more information, go online to the U.S. Naval Observatory Web site, [www.usno.navy.mil](http://www.usno.navy.mil).



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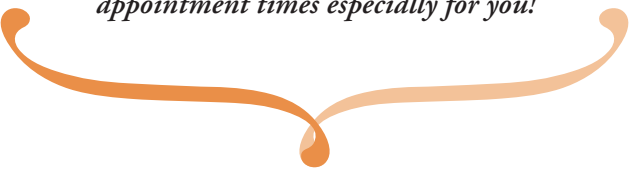




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## *Fairlington's street trees counted, assessed for Arlington's tree inventory*



*Left, County Arborist Vincent Verweij takes the measure of Fairlington's street trees. Center, the Champion blackjack oak at the FCC. Right, the ailing linden tree and, in the background, the brown-leaf-covered juvenile pin oak. Photographs by Gretchen Fallon.*

In January and February, Fairlington residents may have noticed a man walking around the neighborhood paying close attention to the street trees. He would stop at a tree, look, enter notes on his electronic tablet, look again, take more notes, perhaps touch the tree's bark or inspect a damaged area, and then move on to the next tree. Repeat. That was Vincent Verweij, Arlington's Arborist from the Department of Parks and Recreation, carrying out Fairlington's segment of the county's tree inventory.

This year, Arlington will conduct a comprehensive survey of the county's approximately 20,000 street trees—trees in the public right-of-way, which the county owns and maintains along the streets and in street-adjacent grassy areas. (The survey does not include trees in parks, on school grounds, or on other public properties. Including all trees on public and private property, DPR estimates that there are about 200,000 specimens in the county's urban forest canopy.) With iPad in hand, Verweij will spend fair weather days for much of the year assessing street trees; he will confirm the

species and location, gauge the diameter and height, check for any problems or distinguishing features, and assess the specimen's overall health and condition. Ultimately, Verweij will account for every street tree in Arlington.

The data being collected now in 2012 can be compared to what was recorded from a previous tree inventory in 2003, but this year's survey will be aided in accuracy and comprehensiveness by technology. For the earlier survey, tree examiners went into the field carrying very large paper maps; they made notations that then would be transcribed and entered into a database back in the office. With his tablet, Verweij can consult a GPS supported electronic map, with all the locator and viewing function of Google mapping, and he can enter his findings directly into the database on the spot. The new database will enable county arborists and landscapers easily to track trends in species health, check for species diversity, assess locations that are doing well or poorly, identify problem species, identify vacant locations for planting, and target certain areas or species for moni-

toring or stepped-up maintenance. Verweij originally envisioned the inventory as a single-handed, year-long project, but recently he was pleased to receive offers of assistance from Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia and Tree Stewards of Arlington and Alexandria. With a trained cadre of knowledgeable and similarly equipped volunteers, Verweij anticipated that he might complete the survey by the summer.

By early last month, Verweij had arrived at some conclusions: Notably, Fairlington's street trees have undergone change in the last ten years, and the most significant event affecting street trees here was the microburst storm of August 2010. There are now many young replacement trees planted among some of the neighborhood's 60- and 70-year-old oaks. One section of S. 34th Street, planted with a willow oak, a linden tree, and a pin oak, offered some interesting evidence of how the street trees are doing. The willow oak, a "teenage" tree, perhaps five years in the ground, was doing well, despite some severe weather conditions in the last few years (particularly summer drought). The pin oak, staked and supported, was a replacement tree planted in the aftermath of the 2010 storm. It, too, was doing well—even though it retains a covering of brown leaves that make it seem more lifeless than would bare branches. Verweij pointed out that the juvenile pin oak typically holds onto its dead leaves throughout the winter. In this case, brown leaves are not a sign of ill health; rather they're a young pin oak's natural defense against sun scald (*see the box, below*).

The linden tree, oldest of the three, was not faring as well. The bark is split and there's evidence of heavy pruning—probably in response to limbs broken in the 2010 storm. Most significant, the diameter reveals less than optimal growth. A tree's diameter is measured at roughly chest height, about four and a half feet from the ground. In 2003, the linden's diameter was recorded as 3 inches. Today, it's about 6 inches—not as much of an increase as one would hope for in ten years. A standard arboriculture rating system assigns numbers for overall

tree health on a scale from 0 (essentially dead) to 100, and a rating of 70 to 80 is considered good for street trees. In 2003, the linden's overall condition was rated 70. Today, Verweij gives it a 50.

Despite the ups and downs of various street trees in Fairlington, Verweij credited the community's park-like setting and physical layout for actually supporting street tree health. Street trees, generally, he noted, are at a disadvantage because of the physical environment of surrounding hardscape—paving, concrete, and other impervious surfaces—so that tree roots between the sidewalk and curb soon run up against a hard barrier. But Fairlington's long stretches of uninterrupted grassy areas in the public right-of-way at least provide the trees with some lateral "elbow" room. Today, the typical life of a street tree is about 10 years; for Fairlington plantings, Verweij expects an extended survival period.

There's additional good news in Fairlington's eight Notable trees and one Champion tree—the blackjack oak on the grounds of the Fairlington Community Center, where it stands on its own, just to the right of the building and next to the parking lot. A champion is simply the largest specimen of its species in the county. As a general rule, forest trees of equal age will be taller, thinner, and have a smaller crown compared to counterparts grown in more open environments. The Champion blackjack oak, about 70 feet tall, is distinguishable by its very dark, almost black, bark, and its gnarly branches. Watch for the leaves to come out this spring—elongated and broadening at the end, they resemble the shape of a leather truncheon or blackjack.

**New name for Parks and Rec:** The county's Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources has shortened its name to the Department of Parks and Recreation. In acronym-speak, the old PRCR becomes the new DPR.

**Defense against sun scald:** The USDA describes sun scald as damage to a tree's bark and trunk that can occur on warm winter days, due to intense light, often reflected off snow, during the dormant season. Sometimes called southwest injury, sun scald usually occurs on the southwest side of young trees. A juvenile tree's retention of dead leaves throughout the winter can act as a shield against sun scald. The dead leaves remain attached to the shoots until new leaves appear in the spring.

## ***Virginia Cooperative Extension events at the FCC***

**Tuesday, March 6, 6:30 to 8:30 pm.** Spring lawn care for Northern Virginia, Dr. Mike Goatley, Virginia Tech Extension Specialist.

**Saturday, March 24, 9 am to noon.** Vegetable gardening 101: Seed-starting, soil preparation, and where and when to plant.



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# DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



## *Plants respond to warmer winter temperatures*

“Global warming” prompts two thoughts: Is it a reality and how do plants respond?

Scientists and climatologists continue their research to determine an answer to the former. In December, 2011, for example, the *New York Times* reported that carbon dioxide emissions increased a record 5.9 percent in 2010, according to the Global Carbon Project, a consortium of international scientists.

While conclusions are still debated, we do know the weather this winter is warmer than what one expects, and the warmer temperatures affect plants. Here are some observed examples of how plants respond to recent temperature fluctuations.

Flower bloom times have accelerated. In early February, I noticed periwinkle blooming in Fairfax. Normally, that blooms in summer. I also saw the perennial columbine showing a yellow flower in late January. That usually blooms in the spring. Mahonia used to show its yellow flower in late January, but I saw some out in December. The same is true with winter jasmine, another winter bloomer with a yellow flower. And clematis, normally a summer-blooming flowering vine, was out in mid-January. Even some Yoshino cherry trees along West Braddock Road in Alexandria were in full bloom in early January. Usually, the Yoshino shows its flower in mid- to late March.

More curiosities to ponder: Three



*Fruit and leaves of the Mahonia plant. Photograph by Corey Hilz, coreyhilz.com.*

years ago (late December 2008), I installed an evergreen landscape in south Arlington. All plantings were juniper, a bristly-foliated shrub that tolerates heat, pollution, and drought. But in order to dig a hole, I had to use an iron bar to break through four to five inches of frozen soil. Below that crust was soft loam. However, three months ago (December, 2011), soil everywhere locally was malleable enough to turn over by using a pitchfork and a trowel, simply because warmer tempera-

tures had softened the dirt.

This past December was the warmest on record in our area with an average temperature of 45 degrees. January was not a record, but it was still warm enough to see the occasional jogger in T-shirt and shorts, as well as gardeners out tilling their gardens for “spring.” So far in 2012, there has been an abundance of days in the mid-50s. On January 31, it was 65 degrees. A day later, it warmed to 74.

On January 25, the U. S. Department of Agriculture announced a slight northward change in its plant hardiness zone mapping. Our zone is 6B-7. Previously, for that zone, the northernmost geographic area in which a crape myrtle could be planted with hopes of survival was the Philadelphia area. But with the hardiness zone adjustment, gardeners in the more northern Pennsylvania cities of Scranton and Stroudsburg just might be able to plant a crape myrtle and see it thrive.

Regarding our warm winter, people may wonder, “Is it safe to plant now or should I wait until spring?” The safe bet is to wait until late March when threat of frost has passed. But I found it practical to plant evergreens (with woody as opposed to fibrous roots) in January and February. Yes, the planting time was accelerated, but so was our warmer weather.

— Bill Sullivan,  
[www.sullivanlandscaping.net](http://www.sullivanlandscaping.net)

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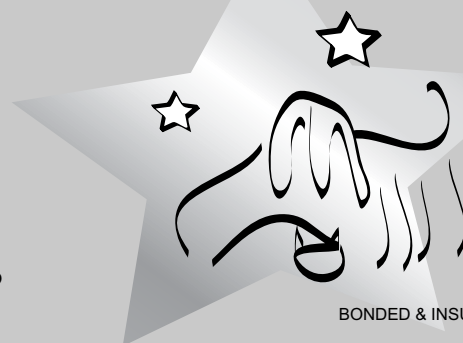
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**FOR COUNTY BOARD**

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I'd like to thank all of you who voted in the County Board caucus in January. There was tremendous turnout for the caucus, especially here in Fairlington. Once again, I couldn't have done this without you. There is still one more election to go to fill Senator Favola's seat on the County Board. I hope I will earn your vote on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Vote at your normal polling location between 6am and 7pm.

-Libby

**Thank You! Please remember to Vote on March 27<sup>th</sup>!**

For more information visit [LibbyGarvey.com](http://LibbyGarvey.com)

Authorized by  
Libby Garvey for County Board





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**Faces of Abingdon:** Left to right: Second grader Allison Campbell works diligently in Ms. Weaver's class; fifth grade teacher Katharine Hale uses a SMART board to manipulate items on the screen during her instructional unit on space; first grader Brodie Schwarz uses an iPad to digitally record his reading voice, then replay it to listen for fluency. Photographs by Dana Andy.

## Abingdon's Rube and Smith to present at international reading conference

Mary Lou Rube and Susanna Smith, Abingdon Co-Lead reading specialists, will present at the 57th annual International Reading Association Conference. Their presentation is Family Literacy Nights: *The Who, What, When, Where, and Why to Effectively Plan and Host Literacy Nights in Your School Library*. The conference will be held in Chicago, April 29 – May 2.

## See Abingdon shine in two events

Two musical productions, *How Does Your Garden Grow* and *Bugz*, both featuring first and second grade students, will be performed at the school on Thursday, March 8. Under the direction of Kerry Brown Abbott, the students have been practicing for these shows since the beginning of the school year. The shows will be performed from 6:15 to 6:45 pm and 6:45 to 7:15 pm, respectively.

Abingdon will spotlight its CETA (Changing Education Through the Arts) partnership with the Kennedy Center on Thursday, March 23 during its annual CETA Day program. Spectators will be invited to watch or participate with students during arts-integrated lessons. A light breakfast will be served at 7:50 am with classroom visits ending around 10 am.

## Annual book drive, through March 23

Abingdon's Literacy Team is soliciting book donations for its second annual Book Drive. Abingdon families and community members are asked to donate gently-used books from now through March 23. Though all books are welcome, this year's focus is books in a series. Some of the most popular series titles are: *Biscuit*, *Henry and Mudge*, *Curious George*, *Cam Jansen*, *Danny and the Dinosaur*, *Little House on the Prairie*, *Little Bear*, *Frog and Toad*, *Clifford*, *Arthur*, *Franklin*, *Nate the Great*, *Pinky and Rex*, *Bailey School Kids*, *Junie B. Jones*, *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, *Katie Kazoo*, *Amber Brown*, *Magic Tree House*, *Ramona*, *Boxcar Children*, *Magic School Bus*, *Nancy Drew*, and

*Harry Potter*. Books may be dropped off at the front office of the school. For more information, please contact Language Arts Specialist Erin Watson at [erin.watson@apsva.us](mailto:erin.watson@apsva.us).



Fifth graders Neeka Samimi and Maddy Maxwell were selected for the APS Junior Honors Orchestra (grades 4 to 6).

## Events calendar

Kindergarten open house, March 6, 12:45 to 2:15 pm, April 12, 9:15 to 10:45 am  
Project GIFT showcase, March 8, 6 to 7:30 pm  
Movie night, March 16, 6:15 pm, *Dolphin Tale*  
CETA day, March 23, 7:50 to 10 am

—Dan Branch and Dana Andy, PTA co-presidents



# LIBBY!

## FOR COUNTY BOARD

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I'm very glad that Libby is running for the County Board. Libby has been a strong advocate for this community for many years. I know Libby will continue to effectively serve Fairlington on the County Board. I hope you will join me in voting for Libby Garvey in the special election for County Board. Please vote at your usual polling place on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Polls will be open from 6am to 7pm

**Vote  
March 27<sup>th</sup>!**

-Paul Ferguson, Arlington County Clerk of the Court

For more information visit [LibbyGarvey.com](http://LibbyGarvey.com)  
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# neighborhood news

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## ***Card players welcome***

Join your Fairlington neighbors for a friendly game of Canasta. No previous experience necessary. The group meets Tuesday mornings at a local church hall near Fairlington. Call Carol Ann at 703-931-8533.

## ***MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington***

The MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington VA© chapter of the International MOMS Club will hold a general meeting on Wednesday, March 7 at 4 pm at the Fairlington Community Center. Parents and parents-to-be and children are welcome. For more information about the club or membership, contact Lauren Bailey (Membership VP) at [laurencbailey@gmail.com](mailto:laurencbailey@gmail.com). Annual dues of \$25 support quarterly group functions and community service projects.

## ***Fairlington Diners***

Fairlington Diners focus on having a good meal with enjoyable conversation. This month: **Thursday, March 8, 6:30 pm**, Virtue Feed and Grain, 100 S. Union St., Alexandria, 571-970-3669, [www.virtuefeedandgrain.com](http://www.virtuefeedandgrain.com). Described by *Washingtonian* magazine as serving comfort food with an Irish spin. We may want to car-pool. **Monday, March 26, 6:30 pm**, half-price burger night at Ramparts Restaurant, 1700 Fern St, Alexandria, 703-998-6616. A local favorite we visit monthly, often with a large turnout. Call Carol, 703-379-6840, and leave a voice-mail 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. To join the e-mail list, send and e-mail to [carol\\_dabbs@yahoo.com](mailto:carol_dabbs@yahoo.com).

## ***FCC news for March***

**Register for spring classes:** For residents, online, fax, and mail-in begins Wednesday, March 14 at 8 am. For residents, phone and walk-in registration begins Wednesday, March 21. Non-resident registration begins Wednesday, March 28, 2012. Spring classes begin Monday, April 16.

**Photoshop class, top ten tricks:** Tuesday, March 6, 7 – 9 pm. Ages 15 to adult, 3 sessions, \$134. 240172A. Call 703-228-4747 to register.

## ***Fair Golds***

The Fair Golds, a social group for those 55 and older, will meet at the Fairlington Community Center on Thursday, March 1 for a business meeting and on Thursday, March 15 for a program meeting.

## ***Book Group***

Come abroad with Mark Twain as he sails to Europe and the Mideast and comments comically on peoples, cultures, and societies in *The Innocents Abroad*. All are invited to discuss the book on Tuesday, March 27, at 7:30 pm in the North Fairlington Community Center. For more information, contact Terry Gough at [tjgough@verizon.net](mailto:tjgough@verizon.net).

## ***Green Living Expo, March 17***

Sponsored by Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment, the third annual Green Living Expo will take place on Saturday, March 17, 10 am to 4 pm, at Washington-Lee High School, 1301 N. Stafford Street. Find practical advice on energy conservation, waste reduction, remodeling, and more. There will be local and national exhibitors, children's activities, a raffle, and cooking demonstrations. Free and open to the public. For more information, or to volunteer (extra help is needed from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm), contact office@[arlingtonenvironment.org](http://arlingtonenvironment.org) or 703-228-6427.

## ***Get free vegetable seeds, donate produce to AFAC***

The county's food pantry, Arlington Food Assistance Center, is offering free vegetable and flower seeds to gardeners who support AFAC's Plot Against Hunger program by planting an extra row this growing season to donate produce to AFAC. You can stop by and pick up seeds on weekday afternoons from 1 to 4:30 pm and Saturdays from 11:30 am to 1 pm, 2708 S. Nelson Street. AFAC also requests tomato and pepper seedlings for distribution to clients and participating gardens. For more information, contact Puwen at [puwen.lee@afac.org](mailto:puwen.lee@afac.org) or 703-845-8486.



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**HOME IMPROVEMENT.** Ask to see finished bathrooms and kitchens to compare quality and price. Call Fairlington Maintenance Service. 703-379-7733. [fairlingtonmaintenance.com](http://fairlingtonmaintenance.com)

**HOME IMPROVEMENTS AND REPAIRS.** Serving Fairlington since 1978. Hundreds of bathrooms and kitchens renovated. Other services include painting, plumbing, window repairs, leak detection and correction, dryer vent replacement, regrouting, recaulking, drywall repairs, etc. Call Vic Sison at Fairlington Maintenance Service 703-379-7733. [fairlingtonmaintenance.com](http://fairlingtonmaintenance.com)

**RESALE OR RE-RENT PREPARATIONS.** We have previously prepared hundreds of units for sale or rent. Lots of references. Call Fairlington Maintenance Service. 703-379-7733.

**BATHROOM AND KITCHEN.** Fairlington Maintenance Service is now on "Angie's List" of contractors. Thanks to all Fairlingtonians who voluntarily recommended us. Company ID 462536. Call 703-379-7733.

**JOEL RIGGS REMODELING AND HOME IMPROVEMENTS:** Joel Riggs Home Repair Service. Your Fairlington specialist. Kitchen and bath renovations, bath ceramic tile repair, painting, drywall, handyman services, trim work, flooring, carpentry, wallpaper removal. Free design services. Free estimates. VA. Class-A lic./ins., fast turn around time. 20 years N. Va. Experience. Joel 703-929-4676.

**PAINTING & WALLPAPERING.** 25 years experience. Excellent references in Fairlington and all areas. Interior and exterior. Faux finish. Call Ricardo for free estimate 703-495-0781. [rrhomeimprove.com](http://rrhomeimprove.com).

*Publication of advertisements in no way implies an endorsement by the FCA or its board members of the advertisers' products or services.*

# Mini-ads

## MICHAEL PACHECO

**CONTRACTING.** 40 years experience. No job too small. Interior renovations to include painting, finish carpentry, window and door casings, complete kitchen and bathroom remodeling, and plaster repair. We also remove wallpaper, do tile grouting, kitchen and bathroom floors, and wall to wall carpeting. We install storm doors. We do all types of household repairs. We upgrade electric panels with new code approved panels by a licensed, insured, electrician. We can help you with any of your other electrical needs. We can help you with all your plumbing work. Your home left clean and neat. Old fashioned quality at an affordable price. Call Michael at 703-379-6725.

**WITT CONSTRUCTION.** Kitchens, baths, built-in cabinetry and design consultation. Licensed/insured. Fairlington resident. 703-626-6429. garywitt44@gmail.com.

**HOME IMPROVEMENTS.** Painting and wallpapering. Clean, neat, reliable. 25 years experience. Liscensed, bonded, insured. Free estimates. References available. Call Steve Chute. 571-216-9338.

## R.R. HOME IMPROVEMENT, INC.

Celebrating our 20 year anniversary with very LOW RATES. Painting, drywall, carpentry, plumbing, electrical, floors, and general household repairs. Office 703-495-0781. Call 703-801-9151. rrhomeimprove.com.

**STAPLES REMODELING.** For all of your improvement needs. Specializing in kitchens, bathrooms, basements and painting. Give us a call to set up an appointment for a free estimate at 703-499-2249 or visit our website at www.staplesremodeling.com.

**PAINTING.** Greg the Painter – Sixteen years Fairlington resident, quality interior painting and drywall repair. Large and small jobs. Call 571-242-2702.

## House Cleaning

**MICHELE'S MAIDS.** Reliable, honest, affordable. BACKGROUND CHECK ON EVERY EMPLOYEE. Specializing in detailed cleaning. LICENSED, BONDED INSURED. 13 years in Fairlington. 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. Family owned and operated. Our staff is reliable, trustworthy, punctual, and detail oriented. Our prices are extremely competitive, our service is thorough, plus we are great with family pets. We have references throughout the neighborhood. Call today for a free estimate. 703-820-8635.

**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.

**HOUSE CLEANING.** Reliable, experienced, good references, flexible scheduling, reasonable rates. We bring our own equipment. Weekly - bi-weekly - monthly - occasionally. One-time, move-in/out, offices. For free in home estimate call Maryen/Raul at 703-321-5335.

## JADA'S CLEANING SERVICE.

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.

## Irish Maid

### Cleaning Service

*Licensed Insured*

*Cleaning Fairlington since 1989!  
Local references available from 20-year clients.*

*Happy Saint Patrick's Day  
To all my  
Fairlington Friends!*



**Shirley White: Owner & Irish Made**

703-867-2683

irishmaidcleaning@gmail.com

## Doggie-Do (and cats too!) Neighborhood Pet Services

Affordable, affectionate care.  
whether you're here or there.

Walking, bark-park visits, play dates,  
boarding, daycare, sitting, and more...  
What can we do for you?

Andrew & Kerryn Zechiel  
www.doggie-do.biz



703-563-4973  
doggie-do@doggie-do.biz

# Mini-ads

## 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.

Providing reliable, flexible, and responsible pet care to Fairlington dogs and cats for over 15 years! Daily dog walking, cat sitting, overnite, vacation and holiday visits. Special housebreaking schedule for puppies. Excellent references. 703-765-0990/c 703-405-2775.

**HOME ALONE FELINES.** Loving, professional, in-home care of your special feline. 703-671-5504; homealonefelines@gmail.com

## Miscellaneous

**MOMPRENUER FAIR!** Hosted by the Moms Club of Arlington-Fairlington. Come support the mom-run businesses in our neighborhood. Saturday, March 10, 2012. 9am to 12pm in room 100 at the Fairlington Community Center.

### NOTICE TO ALL ADVERTISERS

Due Date for All Ads: 6 pm on 10th of the preceding month (Mar 10th for Apr issue)

Payment: BOTH payment and ad copy must be received by the 10th.  
Make checks payable to "Fairlington Citizens Association."

NEW E-Mail Address for All Ads: [admanager@fca-fairlington.org](mailto:admanager@fca-fairlington.org)

Mailing Address for All Ads and Checks: FCA-AFB, PO Box 6182, Arlington, VA 22206-0182

Drop-Off Location for Ads and Checks: Drop-Off Box in Fairlington Community Center,  
3308 S. Stafford Street

### MINI-AD FORM

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

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

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

Please include the following information with all ads:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (h): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (w): \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Category (see newsletter for options): \_\_\_\_\_

Mini-Ad Text (please print clearly): \_\_\_\_\_

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LONG AND FOSTER  
**ARLINGTON/ALEXANDRIA**

OFFICE

ArlingtonAlexandriaSales.Lnfre.com

4800 S. 31st Street | Arlington, VA 22206 | 703-998-3111

## THOUGHT OF THE MONTH

The Arlington/Alexandria office is proudly serving your area, and all of Northern VA.

CONGRATULATIONS  
 TOP PRODUCERS

# January



**Doug Luzik**  
 Top Producer & Selling Agent



**Pat Shannon**  
 Top Listing Agent

## FEATURED LISTINGS OF THE MONTH



**Templeton of Alexandria** 1 bedroom/ 1 bath/ \$205,000/ Pristine 1br w/fantastic view from balcony. Updated kit, expanded bath w/Jacuzzi tub, beautiful wood bookcases in LR. Garage parking & extra storage. Minutes to Metro. Call Barbara Kirkland



**The Vista on Courthouse**...4 bedrooms/ 2.5 baths/ \$919,000/ Spectacular 4 lvl TH w/ gourmet kitchen, hrdwds on all lvls, master suite with spa, fenced patio, 3 car garage and mins to the metro. Call Pat Shannon



**\$259,500/ Alexandria: Point at Park Center** Light and bright w/ 2MBRs/ 2 Ba. Fresh paint, new carpet, newer heat pump/air handler & newer full size washer and dryer. Over 1000 sq ft w/ balcony. Call Joanne Ritchick



**\$259,000 / Arlington Court:** Charming 3 br w/ 2 lvls. Updates thru-out. New plumbing, electric, kitchen, cabinets, w/d, paint, blinds, and remodeled bath. Fenced backyard w/ patio. Call Pat Shannon



**\$479,000 / Annandale:** Light filled home with 5/3. Hardwood floors on main level. Newer energy efficient windows. Spacious kitchen, separate dining room with deck. Wood burning fireplaces on each level. Fenced back yard. Fully finished LL with 2 bdrms, 2nd kitchen w/ separate dining area. Call office



**\$425,000 / Oakton:** Recently renovated end townhome with completely new kitchen with granite counters, stainless steel appliances, tall cabinets & ceramic tile flooring. New carpet throughout and remodeled baths. Numerous other recent improvements. Property is in move-in condition. Call office

**SERVING FAIRLINGTON**  
 & ALL NORTHERN VA

