

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

MARCH 2014

Volume 40, Number 3



*Happy
Spring!*

FCA monthly meeting

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

Fairlington Diners

Thursday, March 6, 6:30 pm
Chez Andrée
10 East Glebe Rd., Alexandria

MOMS Club consignment sale

Saturday, March 8, 9 am
FCC

Daylight saving time begins

Sunday, March 9, 2 am

MOMS Club

Wednesday, March 12, 4:30 pm
FCC

Arlington Neighborhood Villages briefing

Thursday, March 20, 7 pm
FCC

Fairlington Diners

Monday, March 24, 6:30 pm
Ramparts Restaurant
1700 Fern St., Alexandria

See Neighborhood News on page 19 and related articles for details about calendar events.

Aging in place in Fairlington to be topic of March 20 special briefing



Arlington Neighborhood Villages Board member Peter Olivere discusses the village model with FCA Board member Carrie Street at a recent briefing. Photo by Guy Land.

Representatives from Arlington Neighborhood Villages (ANV) will speak to Fairlington residents during a special session hosted by the Fairlington Citizens Association (FCA) on March 20 to begin the community's conversation about aging in place and linking Fairlington's generations.

ANV, a nonprofit organization, serves as the "hub" in a "hub and spoke" model of local villages providing individuals ages 55 and older with social programs and support services,

allowing them to age in their own homes, thereby enhancing their quality of life. The model uses local volunteers to help deliver the services.

Carol Paquette, President of ANV, and Peter Olivere, ANV Board member, will outline the general village approach and describe how ANV works. ANV is slated to do a public launch of the model in March.

"Arlington Neighborhood Villages is an organization of neighbors helping neighbors who share the goals of staying in their own homes as they age—enjoying active, healthy, and safe lives—and working together to make this happen," Paquette says.

She explains that ANV is a network of affiliated local villages located throughout Arlington County that are supported by a common central business office. She notes that it is designed to "strengthen intergenerational ties and community connections through volunteer service and membership."

"The Fairlington community has the potential to be a great location for establishing a neighborhood village," says Olivere. "The ANV can provide the support to help establish a village in Fairlington while minimizing the

Continued on page 7

Sign up today to run in the Fairlington 5K. See 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 or leave a voice-mail message at 571-403-1943 by the Sunday before the meeting.

March 12 preliminary agenda:

Special presentation: Discussion of traffic and development issues by City of Alexandria staff.

Regular Board business:

- Approval of February minutes
- Officer reports
- Unfinished business
 - 2014 activities
- New business

March 20 special briefing:

Representatives of Arlington Neighborhood Villages will brief the Fairlington community on the “village” model for aging in place.

Online resources:

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



Find us on Facebook at Fairlington Appreciation Society.

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

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

USEFUL CONTACTS

Police, Alexandria (non-emergency)	703-838-4444
Police, Arlington (non-emergency)	703-558-2222
Animal Warden	703-931-9241
Dominion (power outages)	888-667-3000
Fairlington Community Center	703-228-6588
Metrobus Complaints	703-228-7929
Miss Utility	811
Pothole Patrol Hotline	703-228-6485
Shirlington Library	703-228-6545
Street Light Hotline	703-228-6511
www.arlingtonva.us/departments/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
571-403-1943 • president@fca-fairlington.org

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All Fairlington Bulletin

Published monthly by the FCA
Circulation: 3,449 households

Editor: Vacant

Assistant Editor: Christine Chirichella

Advertising Manager: Beth Andrews

Distribution Manager: Noemi Rivera

Writers: Amy Schardt, Janis Johnston, Jessica Marvin,
Kate Barton, Chris Weathers

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E-mail editorial announcements to:

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

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Full-Page Insert (2 Sides)	11 in.	8.5 in.	\$570

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Alexandria traffic and development: Because the snow caused the cancellation of February's presentation by City of Alexandria staff, the discussion of Alexandria traffic and development issues has been rescheduled for Wednesday, March 12 as part of FCA's regular monthly meeting. *See page 5.*

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Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Rarely have I seen such energy and enthusiasm for a Fairlington topic as I've experienced around the subject of "aging in place." Last spring a Fairlingtonian wrote a letter to the editor suggesting that FCA look at ways of helping our senior residents cope with the demands of the winter or other needs. Almost immediately, emails poured into my inbox saying what a great idea that was.

This month we launch that community-wide conversation with a presentation by representatives from Arlington Neighborhood Villages (ANV). We gave you some background on the village model last month. Many of you probably saw Brian Williams' NBC piece or a recent *Washington Post* article on a version in Mount Vernon. These provide a good introduction to the village concept.

This is the beginning of an inquiry to determine what approach best meets YOUR needs, what arrangements best fit our community, and what is the appropriate role for FCA. I don't see FCA becoming a senior services agency. Rather, we can serve as convener, researcher, and facilitator in helping you determine what you want in Fairlington. ANV is one approach, but there could be others that would work better here. We haven't predetermined any specific outcome.

Note that this is about more than a program for seniors. It is a richer conversation about how we link the generations in Fairlington. Fairlington is skewing toward both ends of the age spectrum. We have more families with small children and more residents over 65 than at any other time in our history as a condo community. We have more strollers on our sidewalks and more handicapped parking signs in our lots than we've ever had. Connecting these generations is our challenge and opportunity.

Many of you have been chomping at the bit to get moving on this. "When can we start looking at options?" you've asked me. This month is when we begin. I hope we can engage large numbers of you in this dialog. Tell us what would work for you, what your concerns are. What models have you heard about in other communities? What role are you willing to play if we were to go down one of these paths?

Fairlington is at an inflection point. We have the chance to harness the demographic changes that are making Fairlington quite different from what it was twenty years ago. Join us in this exciting endeavor.

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



Fairlington Sellers Market is Here!

"A Huge amount of Buyers with very low Interest Rates, very little inventory (few houses on the market) creates a Sellers Market! Homes are selling faster and at Higher Prices than in normal conditions." - Tom Arehart

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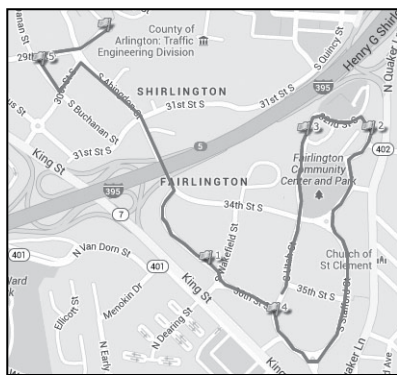
Coming next month: mark your calendars for the Fairlington 5K!

It's time to put away the parkas and dust off those running shoes—not only is warm spring weather just around the corner, but the 2014 Fairlington 5K is only one month away! This April, for the first time in ten years our Fairlington community will put on a neighborhood 5K race.



On Saturday morning April 5, at 8 am, FCA, in partnership with our friends at Abingdon Elementary School, will host a 5K run/walk through the streets of Fairlington. The race will begin at Abingdon Elementary and follow a loop through North Fairlington, across I-395 and through South Fairlington, before returning to Abingdon Elementary. Participants may choose to run or walk, and families and children are welcome.

The run will be followed by games, prizes, and fun for all ages. Participants will also receive T-shirts and prizes donated from local businesses and organizations.



Fairlington 5K route.

The central goal of the event is to promote health and physical fitness while bringing the community together for a good cause. Traditionally the Fairlington 5K has been held to benefit a local charity, and this year is no exception. Proceeds will benefit the Abingdon Elementary

School physical education program, Abingdon's literacy program, and *A Cure for Ellie*, a nonprofit organization dedicated to finding a cure for mitochondrial disease.

Ellie McGinn is a kindergartener at Abingdon Elementary and a Fairlington resident who was diagnosed with Leukodystrophy (LBSL) in September 2011. LBSL is a rare degenerative brain and spinal cord mitochondrial disease. Due to the genetic disorder, Ellie's body does not produce a protein essential for the production of myelin. Myelin is a critical substance for the brain and nervous system, provides insulation, and helps transmit signals from the brain to the rest of the body. There is no known cure yet for LBSL. To learn more about *A Cure For Ellie*, please visit <http://acureforellie.org>.

Abingdon Elementary School's physical education pro-

gram and literacy program help all Abingdon students through innovative and forward-thinking learning experiences. Students choreograph dances during P.E. and participate in authentic book clubs during reading class. Funds will be used to purchase better equipment for P.E. class and expand classroom libraries.

The roster of volunteers and participants is quickly growing as word spreads of the

event. In addition to members of the Abingdon Elementary faculty and administration, members of the FCA, the Fairlington Social Club, the Shirlington Running Group, a local girl scout troop, and a local church, several local Fairlington-Shirlington area businesses have now signed on as sponsors. We've lined up a contractor who routinely manages 5K races to handle things like runners' bibbs, a time clock, and other major components.

We need your participation to make this a first-rate Fairlington community event. To sign up to participate in the 5K please visit www.fairlington5k.com. Entry fees are \$30 for individual adult runners age 17 or older, and \$15 for runners age 16 or younger. Children under the age of five participate free of charge. Various sponsorship levels are also available for individuals and organizations. To sponsor the event, visit www.fairlington5k.com/pages/sponsorship.

**Sign up online at
www.fairlington5k.com**

Alexandria staff presentations rescheduled for March 12

Presentations by the City of Alexandria staff on traffic and real estate development issues, originally set for February 12, have been rescheduled for FCA's regular meeting on March 12. The onslaught of the February Nor'easter caused the cancellation of the February presentation.

Participants will likely include Bob Garbacz, Transportation Division Chief, and Lisa Jaatinen, Project Manager, in the Alexandria Department of Transportation and Environmental Services, and Rob Kearns, Planning Division Chief in the Department of Planning and Zoning.

Topics are expected to include the Braddock-King-Quaker Lane intersection, redevelopment of 4600 King St., and other West End development issues.

Fairlington Village

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overhead associated with providing services and benefits to your members. We look forward to working with FCA and Fairlington residents to see if being part of ANV is best for you."

Aging in place was the topic of a recent story on *NBC Nightly News*, featuring anchor Brian Williams' in-laws, who are members of a Connecticut local village. A February 7 *Washington Post* story described the nearby village, Mount Vernon at Home. These articles, along with the launch of ANV, complement FCA's focus on this issue as its priority initiative for 2014.

ANV has created a central office where operational and administrative tasks are performed for the individual neighborhood villages created throughout Arlington. A few of these functions include conducting intake interviews with new members, serving as a single point of contact for all service requests, handling volunteer logistics, receiving membership fees and other budgetary functions, and organizing social, educational and community service events among all participating villages.

Services provided by a Fairlington neighborhood village could include transportation, grocery shopping and other errands, support in inclement weather, social activities, and technology assistance.

Under the ANV structure, members pay an annual fee which goes towards ANV's operational and liability costs. Members would join as individuals or as a household.

Volunteers from the community are key to the village approach, as the routine services are delivered by local volunteers. Volunteers interested in providing services through ANV are required to pass a background check and be screened by the ANV staff. Volunteers may also be members, but members are not required to volunteer. The experience of other neighborhood villages, such as the one that serves Capitol Hill, suggests that volunteers are often in their twenties or thirties.

FCA has established a steering committee to determine if the ANV structure is the right model for Fairlington or if some other approach would better meet the needs of Fairlington residents. Future activities are likely to include community briefings, online surveys, and facilitated community discussions. If you are interested in joining the group of residents exploring the aging in place concept, contact president@fca-fairlington.org.

—Carrie Street

Park Shirlington Committee gets to work

The Park Shirlington Redevelopment Advisory Committee met in February to consider potential positive and adverse impacts on Fairlington that may result from the proposed Park Shirlington redevelopment. The committee will advise the FCA Board on positions it might take in discussions with Arlington County regarding the redevelopment proposal.



Park Shirlington apartments.

The redevelopment proposal filed with the county by Home Properties, Inc., the owner of the Park Shirlington apartments on S. 31st St., requests rezoning to replace the existing 294 apartments with 750 units. Under current zoning, the existing structures could be replaced with up to 380 apartments or townhouses.

The advisory committee has identified four primary areas, and related topics, for consideration:

1. **Fairlington property values and neighborhood integration:** Overall density impact; fit of the proposed development with Fairlington's architecture and historical character; neighborhood integration; impact on homeowners' property values; transition plan for existing Park Shirlington residents; and effect of an increased dog population (sufficient open spaces and clean up incentives).
2. **Traffic and parking:** Impact of increased traffic and parking on 31st St. and adequacy of proposed off-street parking plans; pedestrian safety; the impact on bus service; and bike safety and the effects increased bike use will have on drivers and pedestrians.
3. **Construction impact and community infrastructure:** Noise and disruption during construction and appropriate mitigating measures; adequacy of neighborhood utility infrastructure and plans for upgrades; and the effect on county's emergency services.
4. **Affordable housing:** Implications for affordable housing in Arlington; and retention of "market-rate affordable" housing and below-market rate units.

The Committee will meet again in early March. Residents may submit comments to ParkShirlingtonAC@fca-fairlington.org.

—Carol Bell



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IT DOESN'T CHANGE YOU. -Fred DeVito

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County to initiate community forums on Fairlington Farmers Market

Further exploration by Arlington County of the Fairlington Farmers Market (FFM) will likely delay the opening of the market planned for this April. The Department of Parks and Recreation will conduct two community-wide meetings this spring to gauge the impact and need of a farmers market at Fairlington Community Center (FCC).



According to Kimberly Haun, Staff Coordinator for the Urban Agriculture Initiative with Arlington County and Market Sponsor for the Courthouse Farmers Market, the county needs to first determine the best needs for the community before proceeding with permits for the FFM. The purpose of the two meetings are to gauge the interest and need of a farmers market in the community; determine the impact of the market on current use of the FCC facilities; and determine whether the market is generally supported by the community. Dates for the two community meetings have not yet been scheduled.

If the meetings result in a “yes”, the county will then send out an RFP seeking bids from entities interested in running the market. Because the FCC is operated by the county, the county must approve any special use permits along with permission for a business to run the market on county land. Both permits must be approved by the County Board.

Haun says the county is “committed to moving forward with the process. I don’t think any doors are shut.”

In the FCA’s original proposal, Field to Table, a non-profit that runs the Westover farmers market, would operate the FFM and take full financial liability for the market. It submitted an application to the county for the FFM market in the fall.

In November, the FCA board unanimously voted in favor of a farmers market to be located at the back plaza of the FCC, with a review of the market to occur by the end of the first season. According to the proposal, the farmers market would operate between April and November on Sundays from 9 am to 1 pm.

In an online survey last fall, over 85 percent of 275 respondents supported the FFM plan.

In spite of the broad community support for the farmers market, concerns remain over potential impacts on

parking, traffic, and trash and sanitation issues at the FCC. In a letter to the County Board from the Fairlington Meadows Board in early February, Meadows residents voiced their reservations about the adverse affects the farmers market could have on people living across the street from the FCC. While the Meadows supports the idea of a farmers market in that location, they propose testing it out for one year and assessing the impacts on the neighborhood after that time.

“Planning for this farmers market began in April 2013 in response to interest expressed by residents via FCA surveys and meetings, and we believe that the county will see that support in any additional community meetings they hold” said Lane Erwin, co-chair of the exploratory committee. “And we will continue to work with the county and residents to minimize adverse effects on those living nearby.”

—Janis Johnston

Join the online all-Fairlington conversation

Can anyone recommend a good carpet cleaner? What’s a good company for cleaning my dryer vent? Any suggestions for replacing the old mail slot in our front door? Is anyone else experiencing low water pressure?

These were some of the questions posted on the Fairlington Appreciation Society Facebook page last month as neighbors shared their experiences and suggestions with each other. Of course, there were complaints—along with some compliments—about snow removal efforts in Fairlington during the February Nor’easter, but also alerts about crime in Alexandria and suggestions for social things to do in the area.

FCA also uses the page to provide reminders and updates about events and meetings, as well as notices when the online version of the *All Fairlington Bulletin* is posted.

More than 500 people are members of the group. If you are on Facebook, consider joining today and become a part of the online conversation about all things Fairlington. Just keep your comments civil and respectful.

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Fairlington real estate assessments bounce back

Reversing several years of declines, Arlington County real estate assessments for most Fairlington units increased for 2014. Real estate agents who routinely work Fairlington suggest that the market is rebounding, with prices rising and units remaining on the market for shorter periods of time.



Photo by Guy Land.

Most Clarendon I units (1500 square feet), which predominate in South Fairlington, saw an increase of 5.1 percent, while the smaller Clarendon II units (1382 square feet), which are common in North Fairlington, rose 11.3 percent. Assessments for individual units can vary, even within the same style and square footage.

Across the county, the value of the average single-family Arlington residence, which includes condominiums, townhouses, and detached homes, increased 5.3 percent to \$552,700. Overall, residential and commercial assessments grew 5.8 percent.

2014 real estate assessments, selected Fairlington units*

Unit Type	Square feet	2013	2014	Percent change
Arlington	2145	472600	481600	1.9
Ashlawn	1470	371600	376600	1.3
Barcroft	1490	336800	351800	4.5
Braddock	711	221100	239000	8.1
Bradford	1009	273400	306400	12.1
Clarendon I	1500	393000	414000	5.3
Clarendon II	1383	364300	405300	11.3
Dominion I (North)	1800	445600	454600	2.0
Dominion I (South)	1830	445600	464200	4.2
Dominion II	1689	433000	433000	0.0
Edgewood	1400	354200	369000	4.2
Georgetown	922	303300	316300	4.3
Monticello	1712	354300	384300	8.5
Mt. Vernon	1860	380800	386800	1.6
Richmond	1031	266000	300000	12.8
Sherwood	1257	301300	328300	9.0
Staunton	1121	300100	310100	3.3

Source: Arlington County real estate assessments

<http://topics.arlingtonva.us/realestate/>

*Units of the same type may have different assessments.

"We are grateful that Arlington continues to show resilience and stability, despite ongoing tensions in the larger economy," said Barbara Donnellan, Arlington County Manager, in releasing the assessment information.

Last year most units in Fairlington experienced declines of up to eight percent, with many Clarendons falling roughly four percent.

Likewise in 2012 most Clarendons

fell, though by a smaller percentage.

Bonnie Blaszczyk of RE/MAX Allegiance Realtors, who has worked with Fairlington homeowners for many years, notes that Fairlington is following the larger national trend of increasing home values.

"There is not enough inventory to satisfy the demand, especially in a desirable community like Fairlington," says Blaszczyk. "So prices last year increased substantially, especially the prices of the townhomes. The year 2014 should bring higher prices still."

Tom Arehart of The Tom Team, who also focuses on Fairlington transactions, notes that "homes are selling faster and at higher prices than in normal conditions," which he attributes to large numbers of buyers, low interest rates, and few units on the market.

Real estate assessments are based on previous sales figures, so they may lag behind current resale prices. Residential assessments are based primarily on neighborhood sales occurring July 1, 2012 through August 31, 2013. The real estate tax rate determines the amount of tax that is levied on the property. A uniform tax rate for all real property is set by the Arlington County Board. The current rate is 1.006 cents for every \$100 of property value. The County Board will set the property tax rate for the coming year in April.

In November the county projected an FY2015 budget gap of \$10-25 million for the county and the schools. That projection was based on an anticipated rise in the overall real estate tax base of 2.6 percent. Although the tax base grew more than that, the county still projects a shortfall, and the County Board and the School Board will be making difficult choices in this year's budget deliberations.

—Guy Land



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February Nor'easter

Fairlington's first major snow in four years brought out the kid in Fairlingtonians of all ages. *Photos by Guy Land.*





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Fisette outlines county board agenda to civic federation

A focus on sustainability—the “ability to prosper through change”—will mark the work of the Arlington County Board this year, 2014 Chair Jay Fisette told members of the Arlington County Civic Federation at the Federation’s February meeting, which was attended by several FCA Board members.

According to Fisette, the county benefits from the largest percentage of residents between the ages of 25 and 34 of any major jurisdiction in the country, a broad tax base, a balance between residential and commercial property, and a rare AAA bond rating, which saves the county money when it borrows money.

Fisette identified three major challenges facing the county:

- **A growing school enrollment.** “This is a symptom of our success,” Fisette explained, noting that the school system is projected to serve over 4000 additional students over the next five years. Fisette stated that this created a challenge for both the budget and the use of land within the county.
- **Housing affordability.** Fisette noted that the pressure on housing was a result of Arlington’s attractive environment. But he cautioned that increasing housing prices were “squeezing out workers and neighbors.” He reaffirmed the Board’s commitment to maintaining affordable housing, a priority of last year’s Board Chair, Walter Tejada. He pointed to the “no net loss” affordable housing policy that the Board adopted for Columbia Pike redevelopment. “What we do dwarfs what every other county in Virginia does,” he said.
- **Economic competitiveness.** Fisette declared the Board’s goal of making Arlington the hub of an “innovation economy”—creating an ecosystem that supports business startups, fosters partnerships with universities and the federal government, and engages the private sector. Noting that the economy and the environment go hand-in-hand, he repeated his priority of environmental sustainability and advocated a policy of “reduce, reuse, recycle”—a 25-year strategy to achieve “zero waste,” which Fisette explained consisted of diverting 90 percent of trash from landfills.

Fisette and several other Board members reaffirmed their support of the Columbia Pike streetcar plan. Board member Libby Garvey stated her continuing opposition to the streetcar and her support for a bus rapid transit option.

Responding to concerns about Arlington being adversely affected as Metro’s silver line becomes operational,



FCA Board member Bill Russell (center) visits with Arlington County Board Chair Jay Fisette and outgoing Board member Chris Zimmerman at February’s civic federation meeting. Photo by Guy Land.

Fisette and fellow Board member Chris Zimmerman argued that the new line will actually benefit Arlington because of its schools and amenities. “Our competition is not Tysons,” said Zimmerman. “It’s the capital waterfront, NoMa [North of Massachusetts Avenue], and the green line....This is a competition over place.”

County Board members traditionally meet with civic federation delegates once a year to address general county policies.

—Guy Land

County considers food waste recycling

Arlington County is considering including food and yard waste recycling as part of the county’s trash collection contract. Although there would be no immediate impact on Fairlington, since trash collection is handled by the contractors of the individual condo associations, the county’s action could influence the terms of those condo trash collection contracts when they come up for renewal.

The county’s two major residential trash collection contracts expire at the end of June, and the county will examine the cost of requiring the new contracts to include food and yard waste recycling, according to Erik Grabowsky, Director of the Solid Waste Bureau in the county’s Department of Environmental Services.

Adding yard and food waste recycling would boost the county’s overall recycling percentage and help implement a 25-year strategy to achieve zero waste in the county.

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— Rick Micker, Former Fairlington Condo VP

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— Denice McCullough, Fairlington Resident

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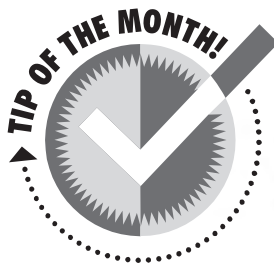
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Fairlington news clips

Line repairs cause low water pressure

During the latter part of January, many Fairlington residents experienced low water pressure in their units. According to Arlington County, a key 30-inch main line that supplies water to South Arlington had developed a leak, causing the loss of pressure. The same 1957-era pipe had developed a leak about a year ago but in a different spot.

While the pipe has been tested and is in good shape, leaks have occurred at the joints where the pipe connects with other pipes. The pipe itself is made of a type of steel and concrete that is complex to repair. In addition, the January leak was near a high-pressure bend in the water line that added to the difficulty of the repair. The county needed to order the specialized parts and find a specialized welder in order to complete the repair.

In the interim, the county made adjustments to a secondary water line in order to improve water pressure in South Arlington. Repairs to the main line were completed in late January.

The county continues to monitor the water lines and make adjustments to maintain adequate water pressure. The use of the secondary line should help stabilize pressure if another leak occurs in the main line. Concerns and questions about water can be reported to the county at 703-228-6555.

—Kent Duffy

County offers spring break creative arts camp for kids

Whether beginning or advanced, young artists will love Arlington County's week-long visual arts class during spring break, April 14 to 18. Designed for kids ages five through eight, this series will offer students a chance to create projects based on famous artworks throughout history and from around the globe. The camp is offered at the Fairlington Community Center.

Students will spend their days experimenting with a variety of exciting art materials and techniques. Emphasis is placed on developing creativity and imagination with a special focus on skill building. The county's staff shares their expertise in a variety of techniques that may include drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, bookmaking, mask making and multi-cultural arts. Participants invite their family and friends to their art show at the end of the session.

Students should wear clothes that they can get messy. Five-year-olds must have completed kindergarten. The staff to participant ratio is 1 to 8. The camp is held daily from 9 am to 3 pm. To register, visit www.registration.arlingtonva.us and search activity code #616810.

Alexandria conducts public art survey

The City of Alexandria invites Fairlington residents who live in Alexandria to participate in a survey on the future direction of public art in Alexandria. It should take you only 10 to 15 minutes to complete. Your responses will help the City to better understand residents' thoughts on public art, where public art would have a strong impact in Alexandria, and how projects can create a sense of community pride and engagement.

The results will be shared with a consulting team and will help shape the recommendations in the Alexandria Public Art Master Plan, to be completed in 2014. You may access the survey at <http://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/1401370/Public-Art-Master-Plan-Online-Survey>.

County sponsors native plant sale

Want to improve your Fairlington patio for local birds and butterflies? Then it's time to Grow Native! The Arlington County Department of Parks and Recreation is offering a great selection of plants that are accustomed to local climate and wildlife. They have natives for sun to shade. Plants include bee balm, black-eyed susan, blue phlox, purple coneflower, royal fern, wild columbine, and more than a dozen others. On the day of the sale at Long Branch there will be an even wider selection to choose from.

Check out their online order form for more information and to pre-order your plants today. Orders must be placed by April 4, 2014. Pick-up will be April 26 from 1 to 5 pm at Long Branch Nature Center (625 S. Carlin Springs Rd). <http://www.arlingtonva.us/departments/parksrecreation/documents/file91228.pdf>.

Get your Fairlington T-shirt

With spring activities just around the corner, now's the time to get your Fairlington T-shirt. Shirts come in white or hunter green, cost \$15, and are 100 percent cotton. Shirts come in sizes S, M, L, and XL. Ladies, youth, and infant sizes are also available.

Pick one up at an FCA-sponsored event, send an e-mail to president@fca-fairlington.org, or call the FCA at 571-403-1943 and leave your name and number.

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neighborhood news

Fairlington Diners

The Fairlington Diners gather a couple of times a month for relaxed dinners nearby. We focus on having a good meal and an opportunity to chat with neighbors. In February, we enjoyed our long-awaited visit to Ray's The Steaks, with another near-record turnout.

Here's what's planned for March:

Thursday, March 6, 6:30 pm, Chez Andrée, 10 East Glebe Rd., Alexandria, 703-836-1404, www.chezandree.com/. We'll return to this restaurant known for country French cuisine. Chez Andrée opened in 1964 and is located near Potomac Yard. Specialties include duck à l'orange, rack of lamb, and chicken livers, as well as fresh seafood.

Monday, March 24, 6:30 pm, Ramparts Restaurant, 1700 Fern St., Alexandria, 703-998-6616, www.rampartstavern.com/. This local favorite offers half-price on burgers with the purchase of a beverage on Mondays, and the rest of the menu is also available.

Please call Carol at 703-379-6840 if you plan to attend, and leave a voicemail if you don't reach her—include your name and how to contact you the day of the event, in case plans change. If you want to receive a copy of these notices early in the previous month, send your email address to carol_dabbs@yahoo.com.

MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington

Members (and their children) of the MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington VA© chapter of the International MOMS Club participate in fun activities, service projects, Parents' Night Out, meetings with interesting speakers, and groups such as our walking, dinner, and book clubs. Our weekly age-specific playgroups start as young as birth and go up to 3+ years old.

Parents and parents-to-be are welcome to join us for our next general meeting on Wednesday, March 12, at 4:30 pm in the Fairlington Community Center. Children are always welcome. The group's spring consignment sale will be Saturday, March 8 from 9 am to 12:30 pm. For more information about the club, the meeting, or membership, contact our Membership VP at fairlingtonmomscub@gmail.com or visit www.fairlingtonmomscub.com. Annual dues of \$25 support our club activities and charitable projects.

MOMS Club consignment sale

Has your toddler outgrown her shoes? Is it time to replace that worn-out toy? Then head to the MOMS Club's spring consignment sale on Saturday, March 8, from 9 am to 12:30 pm at the Fairlington Community Center. The consignment sale is always popular, with a wide selection of clothing and toys.

Fairlington Babysitting Co-op

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

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

To request an application or for more information, email the coordinators, Rebecca Carpenter and Michelle Gregory, at fairlington.babysitting@gmail.com.

Library gardener needed

The Shirlington Branch Library is looking for a gardener who would like to bring the container garden back to life and then maintain it. The library has eight containers about 1.5 to 2 feet in diameter. The gardener would have to bring her own tools, but other supplies will be provided. Interested? Email the volunteer program manager at volunteercoordinator@arlingtonva.us.

Plant tour coming up

Based on the popularity of last year's spring and fall plant and grounds tours, FCA will be sponsoring another tour this spring, tentatively in April. See the details in next month's *Bulletin*.

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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



March brings the beginning of Fairlington's gardening season

March typically is the beginning of "gardening" season in our area. We could've started earlier, if February had given us milder weather. Then again, we also can have snowstorms into mid-March, so we have to react to current weather conditions.

Seems people have questions this time of year, so now's the time to provide answers as you tend to your garden.

Is the ground still frozen in early March?

Yes and no—it depends on the weather. If we have snow or freezing temperatures, the soil may well be hard and not conducive to digging holes for new plants. But if it is warmer, the soil will be softer and allow the "digging in the dirt" to be easier. Remember, even if the ground is frozen, it is for only four to five inches deep.

What plants can I install in March?

It depends on what's in stock at the nursery. Annuals don't arrive until the third week of April. Sometimes, Primrose—grown in a greenhouse—is on sale at a nursery. This is a tender perennial, which means it has a 50-50 chance of reviving the following year. What you can plant are those with woody or thick fibrous roots. A plant's root ball (what's in the plastic container) will have compacted dirt clinging to either woody roots (the size of your finger) or bunched fibrous roots (thick clumps composed of many "needle-like" roots). Annuals aren't available

at retailers until late April because their tiny root balls (two inches by two inches thick) are loose clumps of fibrous roots.

Do I need to till the soil at the beginning of each planting season?

It is not essential. What is necessary is to make sure the hole is deep and wide enough when you put new plantings in the soil. The top of a root ball should be "out of the ground" two inches. And the width of the hole should be one and a half times the size of the plant's root ball. This gives new roots space to establish. It is wise to remove old roots, rock, and clumps of clay from the planting hole. Mass tilling is recommended for crop fields, vegetable gardens, or herb beds but not for a patio garden.

Should I wait until the plants are out of the "bubbles" at the nursery?

Again, it depends on the weather. Nurseries have the wherewithal to protect plants from winter's chill by housing them inside heated, plastic "houses." The plant root ball stays moist and irrigated and doesn't suffer frozen or damaged branches due to the cold, wind, ice, and snow. If you buy a shrub with a woody root ball, it's safe to plant it in your garden now.

What about watering this time of year?

It's wise to water, but do so modestly, since moisture loss in the root ball is minimal now. With



Primrose.

swirling winds, however, the soil can become dry. In that case, you should add water around the root ball, but you don't have to soak this area. Save extensive watering for summer.

Should I try to remove snow and ice from the branches of plants?

I would, but do it carefully. Banging the branches hard with a bat or broomstick can crack a branch, so tap them lightly until the ice crumbles and snow falls off of the branch. One winter, my 16-foot-tall Leyland Cypress tree was so laden with snow and ice, it bent over parallel to the ground. I knocked off as much snow and ice I could, which helped it slowly return to its upright form.

—Bill Sullivan
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Community benefits from auxiliary police volunteers

The odds are that most Arlington County residents have never heard of the Arlington County Police Department's Auxiliary Unit. They dress like police and do many of the same jobs as police. "The only difference is we don't get paid," said Auxiliary Lt. Heather Hurlock at February's FCA meeting.

At just eight members, their ranks may be small, but their impact is felt around the county. Auxiliary officers participate in parking and traffic enforcement, safety seat inspections and bicycle registration, shopping mall security details, and assisting in DUI checkpoints. You may see them directing traffic at a local 10K and 5K charity run, providing security and crowd control at special events like the Marine Corps Marathon, or anywhere they are needed to supplement the work of paid officers.

Fairlington resident and active auxiliary officer Chris Dionigi has volunteered for the force for the past three years. Deputy Director of the National Invasive Species Council by day, Dionigi volunteers with the auxiliary most Friday and Saturday nights, taking the midnight shift from 9 pm to 3 am.



*Auxiliary Officer Chris Dionigi.
Photo by Janis Johnston.*

Dionigi said. "And what we do as auxiliaries is the tip of what the full-time officers do."

Dionigi sees the greatest satisfaction from his service as the opportunity to earn the respect of the full-time officers. Auxiliary officers train at the academy along with career officer candidates and must be able to meet the same physical demands of their paid counterparts. Auxiliary officers don't carry firearms, but Dionigi says

Officers are required to volunteer for a minimum of 180 hours a year. Last year, Dionigi gave more than 400 hours to the force.

Dionigi first heard about the auxiliary force in an article here in the *All Fairlington Bulletin*. He read about their bike patrols and thought joining the force would be an opportunity to ride his bicycle more, get in better condition, and serve his community. "But that wasn't even the tip of the iceberg,"

his best protection is his patrol partner and his radio. Officers are also trained to use pepper spray as well other tactical techniques.

Recruitment efforts are in full swing to increase the auxiliary ranks to the full staffing level of 30 officers. The unit is accepting new applicants for the Auxiliary Academy class scheduled to begin in May.

If you are seeking a different and interesting way to contribute to your community, the Arlington Auxiliary

Police Unit offers an opportunity to learn new skills and serve a critical need. You will receive extensive training, all equipment and uniforms, and the opportunity to perform a wide range of police functions.

Classes will be conducted primarily on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and several Saturdays over a three-month period. For more information, contact Lt. Heather Hurlock, 702-338-4057, hhurlock@arlingtonva.us, or visit their website at www.arlingtonva.us/policejobs/auxiliary-police.

—Janis Johnston



*Auxiliary Lt. Heather Hurlock
addresses the February FCA
meeting.*

County mobile app now available for reporting problems

There's a new app that makes it easier to report problems in Arlington. You can report right from your smartphone, along with a photo of the issue (pothole, broken streetlight, fallen tree, damaged playground, missing sign). The service requests are instantly routed to the right county division. And if you sign up and share your email address, you'll receive a tracking number and notification when the issue is resolved.

You can download the app from iTunes (choose iPhone, not iPad) or the Android app from the Google Play Store. Search for ArlingtonVA. You can also submit items from the county website—go to www.arlingtonva.us and choose the "Report a Problem" link. For more information contact jksmith@arlingtonva.us.



LIBBY!

Dear Fairlington Friends and Neighbors,

As you may know, there is a special election April 8 for the Arlington County Board. I will be voting for my friend John Vihstadt, whom I've known and worked with on community issues for about 25 years. He is highly respected throughout Arlington for his integrity and ability to bring people together.

Unlike every other candidate I've asked you to support, John is not a Democrat. He is a moderate Republican running as an Independent. I do not make this endorsement lightly. Arlington has a lot of good things going for it and the current board deserves a lot of credit, but I believe it is time for some fresh perspective on the board. We need to examine our spending priorities and support our core services like public education, public safety, and infrastructure maintenance rather than expensive and useless projects like the Columbia Pike streetcar. John will help me take Arlington in the direction it needs to go.

You can learn more information about John's campaign at www.VoteforVihstadt.com.

I hope to see you at your regular polling place on April 8 between 6am and 7pm and that you will vote for John Vihstadt. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or want to discuss this race or any County Board issue. It is a real pleasure to serve you on the County Board.

Sincerely, Libby Garvey
libbygarvey@gmail.com

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Rising kindergartners will love Abingdon!



Abingdon kindergarten teachers (from left) Shannon Brady, Mary Cantwell, Julia Winkler, Kate Neal, and Lynn Robinson. Photo by Abingdon PTA.

Fairlington parents of rising kindergartners will discover that Abingdon has a fantastic group of kindergarten teachers. Kate Neal, Julia Winkler, Mary Cantwell, Shannon Brady, and Lynn Robinson have cultivated a warm, open, and highly enriching learning experience for kindergarten students.

Parent feedback has been extremely positive about their children's experiences at Abingdon. Consistently, parents mention teaching practices, staff receptiveness, and the friendly communal atmosphere as reasons they love Abingdon.

Kindergarten parent Shalon Ironroad says, "I am pleased to say that things have gone even better than I had hoped. I have seen my son make significant progress socially (which had been his biggest challenge during his preschool years), and he is thriving academically in Ms. Winkler's class."

Jasmine Hayes adds, "Our kindergartener loves his teacher, Mrs. Cantwell, and her teaching assistants, Mrs. Bodensteiner and Mrs. Penaranda. We have seen our son's

continued development, particularly in math and reading. On a daily basis he is excited to tell us about his classes, especially architecture and science."

Nicole Van Hoey has two children at Abingdon and says, "Abingdon staff are outstanding in their approach to literacy—bringing children with little English in kindergarten all the way up to grade-level reading skills and earning a grant for the unique summer book bus to combat summer reading loss. The teachers run the bus during their summer hours outside of the classroom. No one, from the newest reader to the strongest reader, is idle in the Abingdon library, literacy room, or any classroom."

Asked what is so unique about teaching at Abingdon, kindergarten teacher Julia Winkler commented, "I think there's an indelible sense of community embedded within our kindergarten classes; every voice is valued. Not only are the individual teachers highly dedicated, we collaborate and set aside time each month for all five kindergarten classes to get together. My colleague Shannon Brady has spearheaded "Team Time," and it's really boosted our sense of camaraderie and allowed us to focus on active community citizenship."

In her second year teaching at Abingdon, kindergarten teacher Kate Neal expressed the unique learning paradigm that is offered at Abingdon, "We have a very creative team. We love taking the Kennedy Center Ceta Classes and implementing them into our classrooms. We have taken classes on storytell-

ing, technology, arts integration, poetry, and music. Lessons are more meaningful when taught with arts integration!"

Abingdon looks forward to welcoming new Fairlington families next school year.

Book Fair returns to Abingdon

The annual Book Fair returns to Abingdon's library March 17 to 21. For the second consecutive year, "Bookworm Central" was chosen as the school's Book Fair vendor. All profits benefit the school's library.

All students will visit the Book Fair twice with their classroom teachers—once to browse and make a wish list and a second time to purchase books. Abingdon families and community members are invited to shop at the Book Fair during the sale's extended hours:

Monday, March 17: open until 4 pm
Tuesday, March 18: 5 to 7:30 pm
Wednesday, March 19: 4 to 6:30 pm

Adult volunteers are needed to staff the Book Fair during school and extended hours. Community members interested in volunteering should contact abingdonelementarypta@gmail.com

Sign up to run or sponsor the Fairlington 5k. Proceeds support Abingdon's P.E. and literacy programs. www.fairlington5k.com.

RECIPE: Tom Spiggle's Never-Get-Sick-Even-If-You-Have-a-Bunch-of-Germy-Kids Oatmeal

The health claims above have been evaluated by no one, true enough. But I can say that I have gotten sick less - and with four kids ages 8 to 1, I have plenty of opportunity - since I started eating this oatmeal. So here it goes. The amounts are suggestions. Feel free to experiment.

- ½ cup of rolled oats
- ½ cup milk (I use 2%)
- ¼ or ½ cup water. Add more if you like it a bit soupy (me). Add less if you like it to be like cement (my wife). You can use all water or all milk per your preference.

Microwave for 6 minutes at 60% power (may vary by microwave). While it is cooking, prepare the following ingredients:

- Cut up 3-4 dates. You can substitute raisins, but I've found that they aren't sweet enough alone. If I use them, I add a teaspoon or so of brown sugar.
- ¼ cup chopped walnuts and ¼ cup pecans
- ¼ cup apple, peeled and chopped
- 1 tsp of chopped ginger, raw. This is my secret ingredient. Raw ginger has a kick, but I've found that it is balanced out by the dates. If you think it's too much, try candied ginger.

Dump it all in, mix it up, and enjoy. Even share it with your germy toddler who begs for it even though she's already had her breakfast.

You can also make this the night before and heat it in the morning. I even like to eat it cold. (Note that the longer you let it sit, the more liquid the oats will absorb, so you can expect the consistency to be thicker if you leave it overnight.)

If you want to transform this into I-Have-a-Big-Meeting-And-Will-Not-Be-Able-To-Eat-Lunch Oatmeal, substitute a higher fat milk than you usually do, e.g., whole milk if you usually use 2%. Also add ⅓ cup (or a splash) of heavy cream. This stuff will power you most of the day.

Protect your rights at work. Your family deserves it.

If you live in Fairlington, doing so could be as simple as taking a walk down the block to the Fairlington Office Park. The Spiggle Law Firm is ready to help you make sense of your workplace issues.

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Animal Talk

Dealing with the loss of a pet

Many Fairlingtonians consider their pets to be part of their family. We feed them, play with them, talk to them, snuggle with them, and pay for sitters when we are away. The bond we feel with our pets is undeniable and strong. And when we lose a pet, the grief can be devastating.

I lost my dog Opie in June, and today I got a postcard from a vet I used once or twice, reminding me that he was due for a vaccine. When I called to update the vet's records, I burst into tears when they asked, "Did he...?" even though nine months had passed. I know I'm not alone in coping with the loss of a

pet, so I wanted to offer some help for others who are going through their own grieving process.

- Take the time, and give yourself permission, to grieve.
- Let your family, friends, and neighbors know about your pet's passing, and let them know what you need, whether it's a shoulder to cry on or space to be alone.
- Memorialize your pet in a way that has meaning for you, whether it's keeping the remains, getting a stone with your pet's name for the garden, creating a photo book, or contributing to a charity in your pet's name.

- Write your feelings in a journal or on a blog.
- Help your children deal with the loss and understand death.
- Spend extra time with your remaining pets, who might also feel sad.
- Seek help from a pet loss support group or hotline. A simple online search can help you find one.
- Consider volunteering at a local shelter or with a rescue group to get a pet fix.
- In time, perhaps, consider getting another pet.

—Christine M. Chirichella, Assistant Editor


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Mini-ads

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

NEW E-Mail Address for All Ads: admanager@fca-fairlington.org

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Drop-Off Location for Ads and Checks: Drop-Off Box in Fairlington Community Center,
3308 S. Stafford Street. The FCC is closed Sunday.
Open 8 am – 9 pm M – F, and 8 am – 5 pm Saturday.

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

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

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