



www.fca-fairlington.org

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John Vihstadt to speak at March 11 FCA meeting

Arlington County Board Member John Vihstadt will be the guest speaker at the FCA meeting on Wednesday, March 11, at 7 pm at the Fairlington Community Center. Vihstadt will be available to answer any county-related questions raised by Fairlingtonians.

Vihstadt's visit to Fairlington comes shortly before the board finalizes the county's FY 2016 budget in April. Vihstadt plans to discuss budget challenges and priorities with those at the meeting.

In November, the county board directed the county manager to prepare a balanced budget for FY 2016 that assumes no tax rate increase and includes options for county budget reductions, excluding schools (which the school board will be working on). At that time, the projected budget gap for FY 2016 was more than \$24 million, which includes more than \$20 million for Arlington Public Schools (APS), and \$4 million for county government.



John Vihstadt, left, discusses the proposed Fairlington Farmers' Market with Melissa Beene and Doug Penn at last year's Fairlington Day. Photo by Guy Land.

A recent county board initiative sure to be of interest to many in Fairlington is the Facilities Study Group. The board launched the 24-member group in January in partnership with the Arlington School Board. According to the county board's website, the year-long planning effort aims to "build a consensus framework regarding future revenue and facility needs that will inform county and school board decision-making related to meeting the community's requirements for additional school, fire station, vehicle storage sites, and other facility needs in the context of Arlington's and the region's projected economic and demographic growth." Vihstadt will further explain this new effort and its importance to the county.

Vihstadt may be most widely known for his opposition to the Columbia Pike streetcar project, which the board canceled shortly after Vihstadt was elected to serve a full term in November 2014.

-Michelle Woolley

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. Before the beginning of each monthly Executive Board meeting, FCA members may address the board on matters affecting the community, limited to three minutes per member.

March 11 preliminary agenda:

Special presentation: County Board Member John Vihstadt

Regular board business:

- Approval of February minutes
- Officer reports
- Committee reports
- Unfinished business
- New business

Online resources:

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



Find us on Facebook at Fairlington Appreciation Society.

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

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

USEFUL CONTACTS

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Police, Arlington (non-emergency)	703-558-2222	
Animal Warden	703-931-9241	
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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		

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Artwork and check made payable to **FCA** are due the 10th of the month preceding desired publication date. Direct inquiries regarding advertising file requirements to Beth Andrews at 571-403-1942.

Ad Size	Height	Width	Rate
1/8 page	2 3/16 in.	3 5/8 in.	\$47
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Bob Laser (FAA)

bob.laser@faa.gov

FCA Calendar

FCA monthly meeting Wednesday, March 11, 7 pm FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

MOMS Club consignment sale Saturday, March 7, 9 am – 1 pm FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Fairlington Diners

Thursday, March 12, 6:30 pm Copperwood Tavern 4201 Campbell Ave., Arlington

Fairlington Diners

Monday, March 23, 6:30 pm Samuel Beckett's Gastro Pub 2800 S. Randolph St., Arlington

Book Group

Tuesday, March 24, 7:30 pm FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Update your information with the Arlington Alert System



The Arlington Alert System has made recent changes to its platform. If

you haven't registered for Arlington Alert recently, existing subscribers are being asked to provide updated account information. Go to emergency.arlingtonva.us. This free service sends you emergency notifications by text, email, cell, or land line. When an emergency occurs, the county will instantly notify you with updates, instructions on where to go, what to do, or what not to do, whom to contact, and other important information.

Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

This month the Arlington School Board is expected to approve the concept design for the expansion of Abingdon Elementary School. For almost a year, the FCA has been working closely with the PTA, Arlington Public Schools (APS) staff, and nearby residents to secure adequate funding for the project and help shape the school's general design.

Why is FCA so interested in Abingdon?

First, scores of Fairlington families have children who are students at Abingdon, and that number is likely to grow. As part of FCA's effort to be an advocate for the community, we want to make sure that our residents can send their children to a modern neighborhood school that fosters student learning.

Abingdon is already overcrowded—a condition projected to get worse—and suffers from several years of deferred maintenance. These are impediments to the good instructional work of the teachers and staff who work with Fairlington children. The expansion and renovation will address both of these problems.

Second, a modern and vibrant neighborhood school is an important component of property values. All of us benefit when real estate agents point out to potential buyers the proximity of a quality school. So even if you don't have children at Abingdon, you have an interest in having a well-designed school nearby.

Finally, we need to make sure that the new school fits comfortably within the neighborhood, that its architectural style is compatible with that of Fairlington, that it is easily accessible for community use—including offering green space the community can enjoy—and that adverse impacts on traffic and parking are minimized (such as the current congestion at the intersection of S. Abingdon St. and S. 29th St. during the morning student drop-off period).

FCA has a strong voice on the advisory committees that have been reviewing the plans for the school. FCA's representatives pushed to make changes to earlier designs that could have created student safety issues and adversely affected nearby residents. APS responded with improved options. We take seriously our obligation to look out for the larger interests of Fairlington.

The school board's March vote is the first major step in an ongoing process in which designs are refined, permits are issued, and construction launched. Many key steps are still ahead. FCA will continue to be your voice in these conversations.

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

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Police stress importance of "see something, say something"

Arlington County Police
Department's Third District
Commander Captain Stu Ellis
addressed a larger than usual
crowd at the February FCA
meeting, responding to questions and concerns from Fairlington residents in response
to the recent spate of crime
in the neighborhood. His
advice to residents: Be aware
of your surroundings, be
diligent, and don't be afraid
to call something in.

Ellis reported that over this past year, three cars were stolen from Fairlington, one most recently in late January. In addition, thieves have targeted driver-side

air bags over the past year. Police reported nine air bags stolen in April and four more in September. "Fairlington is a shopping ground for spare parts," Ellis remarked. "Air bags can be sold on the open market and the parts are interchangeable."

The crime trend in Fairlington tends to be auto theft and vandalism due to the neighborhood's proximity to I-395. But, observed Ellis, despite the recent string of auto thefts and vandalism, crime is down in Fairlington compared with earlier high crime years.

In reaction to the latest incidents in South Fairlington, Ellis reported that plain-clothed officers have been assigned to walk around the neighborhood at night, some from his Third District team. The team consists of four officers and two supervisors who are sometimes called to work with officers from the patrol division.

Emergency contact numbers

The *All Fairlington Bulletin* runs a full list of emergency contact numbers each month on page 2. The following are key contacts for police and emergency services in Arlington and Alexandria.

Police, medical, and fire emergency911Police, Alexandria (non-emergency)703-838-4444Police, Arlington (non-emergency)703-558-2222Third District Police desk703-228-4130



FCA Treasurer Ed Hilz, left, Captain Stu Ellis, and FCA President Guy Land talk neighborhood safety tips at the February FCA meeting. Photo by Janis Johnston.

"If you see something suspicious, call it in," said Ellis. Although, he quipped, it may be one of these undercover officers you are calling about. "It helps when you report things. It may not seem like a big deal to you, but if something doesn't sit right with you, call it in," Ellis stated.

When asked what safety measures Fairlington residents can take to make the neighborhood more secure, Ellis noted that the Arlington Police offers a crime prevention service. This free service sends an officer out to conduct a survey of your home and suggest safety improvements, such

as trimming back bushes or improving lighting around the outside of the house. For more information on this service, go to police.arlingtonva.us and click on Crime Prevention & Safety.

To receive the Third District team's monthly crime report, contact Captain Ellis at sellis@arlingtonva.us. For more information on the work of the Arlington Police, go to police.arlingtonva.us.

The 411 on dialing 911

With the proliferation of cell phones, the 911 system is busier than ever. When the Air Florida plane crashed in the Potomac River in 1982, one call came in to 911, says Vanessa Coles, Bureau Chief, Operations, Office of Emergency Management, the person in charge of the 911 call center in Arlington County. Today, she notes, when there's an accident, 911 can receive hundreds of calls.

During an emergency situation when 911 has a high volume of callers, Coles urges that if you get a recording when you call, don't hang up. Stay on the line. Your call will automatically go into a queue and be answered by a dispatcher. When calling 911 on a mobile phone, Coles advises callers to know their location, as the call locator system can only locate the nearest cell tower. She also recommends for callers to stay where they are, and answer the dispatcher's questions as calmly as possible.

—Janis Johnston



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School board set to vote on Abingdon concept design

The Arlington School Board is scheduled to vote on the concept design for the expansion of Abingdon Elementary School on Thursday, March 5. The school board vote caps six months of work by Arlington Public Schools (APS) staff with public advisory committees and sets the stage for the detailed design work by the architectural team. The FCA board endorsed the proposal at its February 11 meeting.

The concept design outlines how the school will add 27,000 square feet of space to accommodate 136 additional students and addresses current and projected overcrowding issues. Funding for the project was in the school bond issue Arlington voters approved last November.



The county's most recent plan creates new pick-up and drop-off locations for students. Visit www.fca-fairlington.org to view a larger PDF. Illustration courtesy Arlington Public Schools.

Four key elements mark the concept design:

 A redesigned parking lot with separate student drop-off/ pick-up lanes for cars and buses. APS staff notes the improved safety that will result from separating bus and car drop-offs.

The plan avoids an earlier controversial proposal that would have routed the traffic flow along a new loop road running around the existing playing field. Residents were concerned about safety issues of students cutting through the traffic lane to cross the field in order to get to the school.

The new traffic circulation pattern is designed to reduce the congestion at the intersection of S. Abingdon St. and S. 29th St. during the peak student dropoff time in the morning.

• Relocation and expansion of the gym from its current location to the northwestern end of the building. The expanded gym will provide adequate room to gather all the students at one time.

Placing the gym at the end of the building moves it closer to the playing field and the parking lot and facilitates use of the gym by the community or outside groups. A separate entrance enhances school security and will allow the public to access the facility (such as for voting or for basketball games) with-

out providing access to the rest of the building.

The cafeteria will be relocated to the area of the current gym, and the paved area between the school and Fairlington units would be improved to serve as a service road for deliveries to the cafeteria.

- Addition of a three-story set of classrooms behind the building, next to the county's Trades Center property.
 This provides the extra classroom space needed to address overcrowding. Because of the drop off in the terrain in that area, the new wing will only look like a two-story addition to nearby Fairlington residents.
- Relocation of the entrance. The main entrance will shift to the end of the current walkway that leads to the school from S. Abingdon St. This was the original entrance for the school in the 1950s.

The concept design won the strong support of the two citizen advisory committees, although residents of CourtBridge II did not support it.

In addition to endorsing the concept design, the FCA board also urged APS to expeditiously develop a comprehensive traffic demand management plan (including rationalized bus routes, alternative transportation options and incentives, and "walking buses") for its schools and integrate this into its planning for new or expanded schools.

—Guy Land



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Fairlington assessments show modest gains

Reflecting broader trends in Arlington, Fairlington's 2015 real estate assessments generally showed either small gains or held steady when compared with 2014. Most assessments a year ago also showed modest increases, reversing several years of declines.

Real estate agents who routinely work Fairlington note that prices continue to rise. The market has strengthened over the past couple of years, with units remaining on the market for shorter periods.

Most Clarendon I models (1,500 square feet), which predominate in South Fairlington, showed an increase in assessed value of 1.7 percent, while Clarendon II units (1,383 square feet) generally were unchanged.

Several larger models showed greater assessment increases. The assessment for the 2,145-square-foot Arlington rose 10.4 percent, and a selected Dominion I (1,800 square feet) in North Fairlington saw its assessment rise 10.7 percent.

"I think 2015 is going to be a wonderful year for the real estate market in Fairlington as well as the surrounding areas," says Jennifir Birtwhistle, a NVAR Top Producer with Weichert, Realtors, who lives in South Fairlington.

"Many of my clients and those of my colleagues are right now prepping their homes to be ready to sell within the month—just in time for spring," she adds. "This is wonderful news, as the buyers are definitely out there patiently waiting for homes to look at."

Pat Shannon, a Top Producer with Long and Foster Realtors, also sees a strong real estate market in Fairlington. "With current interest rates hovering at a two-year low and a lack of inventory on the market, Fairlington continues to be in high demand," she says. "Everybody loves Fairlington, a fun and convenient community!"

According to county officials, the value of the average Arlington single-family residence (including condominiums, townhouses, and detached homes) was \$579,800, a 4.9 percent increase over 2014. Commercial real estate values were flat.

"Arlington's overall real estate market remains resilient," Arlington County Manager Barbara Donnellan said in a release. "The strength of our residential market balances the tremendous pressures we see in the office building market due to the effects of BRAC and regional competition."

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, 2013, through August 31, 2014. Individual assessments of similar units can vary, and assessments for specific units may not reflect the fair market value for that unit as determined by the market-place. This may be particularly true for units that have had major internal improvements.

The real estate tax rate determines the amount of tax that is levied on the property. A uniform tax rate for all real estate property is set by the Arlington County Board. The current rate is 99.6 cents for every \$100 of property value. The county board will set the property tax rate for the coming year in April. In November 2014, the board instructed the county manager to develop a budget that had no increase in the tax rate.

—Guy Land

2015 real estate assessments, selected Fairlington units*				
Unit Type	Square feet	2014	2015	Percent change
Arlington	2145	481,600	531,500	10.4
Ashlawn	1470	376,600	382,400	1.5
Barcroft	1490	351,800	360,800	2.6
Braddock	711	239,000	242,900	1.6
Bradford	1009	314,400	314,400	0.0
Clarendon I South	1500	414,000	421,000	1.7
Clarendon I North	1500	414,000	421,000	1.7
Clarendon II South	1383	405,300	405,300	0.0
Dominion North	1800	454,600	503,200	10.7
Dominion I South	1830	464,200	464,200	0.0
Dominion II	1689	433,000	443,900	2.5
Edgewood	1400	369,000	369,000	0.0
Georgetown	922	316,300	337,900	6.8
Monticello	1712	384,300	387,500	0.8
Mt Vernon	1860	386,800	396,400	2.5
Richmond	1031	300,000	305,000	1.7
Sherwood	1257	328,300	336,100	2.4
Staunton	1121	310,100	310,100	0.0

Source: Arlington County real estate assessments http://topics.arlingtonva.us/realestate/

*Units of the same type may have different assessments.

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Donations needed for the Fairlington 5K silent auction

Are you looking for a way to support the Fairlington 5K that doesn't require working up a sweat? The Fairlington 5K silent auction may be just the ticket. Co-sponsored by Abingdon Elementary, the Abingdon PTA, and the FCA, the silent auction will take place Wednesday, April 8, from 6 to 8 pm at the Fairlington Villages Community Center, 3005 S. Abingdon St. Appetizers, beer, and wine will be available for adults. Parents are encouraged to take advantage of free babysitting and a movie offered at Abingdon Elementary during the event.

At this time, the auction already has items donated from the Washington Capitals, Washington Nationals, and the Orlando Magic. In addition, there are summer camp registrations, and Abingdon and its staff have made several donations, among them an evening's gym rental and a chance to be principal for a day.

For a silent auction donation form, go to www.fairlington5K.com and click on the "donate" tab. All donations are tax deductible and will be featured in the silent auction catalog distributed to all Abingdon families and made available on the Fairlington 5K website and other social media sites. Donors will also have the opportunity to have their name linked to their business's website.

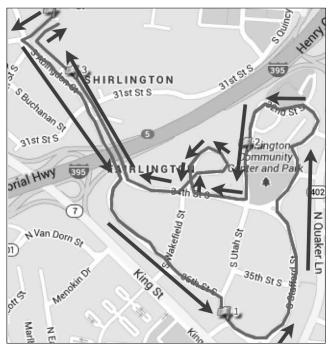
Looking for ideas for items to donate? How about baked goods, babysitting services, or an organized play date? Or perhaps you can offer up a vacation home rental, a weekend hotel package, a restaurant gift certificate, or a round of golf at a nearby course. Local businesses can contribute any goods or services or create a gift basket. Do you have a special talent? What about offering some of your time to provide private lessons (swimming/singing/piano/basketball/cooking)?

Mail, fax, or email completed donation forms by March 23. For more information about donating to the auction, contact Joe Reed, Fairlington 5K director, at fairlington5k@gmail.com or Erin Sonn, silent auction co-chair, at Erin.Sonn@apsva.us.

Register today for the 2015 Fairlington 5K

The second annual Fairlington 5K fun run and walk is scheduled for Saturday, April 11. Participants can choose to register for the 5K fun run that winds through the streets of North and South Fairlington or for the 1 mile walk that loops along S. Abingdon St. just beyond the 395 overpass.

Streets along the race course will be closed off to vehicle traffic throughout the race. See the race course map pictured. The 5K begins at 8:30 am at the Abingdon Elementary parking lot and ends back at the school parking lot. Streets along the route will be closed to all traffic during the race and will reopen once the racers have passed through that area.



Race map (above). Streets along the route will be closed to all traffic during the race and will reopen once the racers have passed through that area.

Registration information can be found on the Fair-

lington 5K website at www. fairlington5k.com.

At the end of this year's race, the PTA will be sponsoring the Abingdon Spring Festival—an event open to the entire community. The festival will feature food, moon bounces, games, face painting, and more. Tickets for the Spring Festival are \$5 for those not registered for the Fairlington 5K.

Proceeds from the 5K and silent auction benefit programs at Abingdon Elementary and A Cure for Ellie, a local charity created by the McGinn family of Fairlington Arbor, whose daughter Ellie, an Abingdon first-grader, was diagnosed with Leukodystrophy. The charity helps fami-

lies who are also affected by mitochondrial disease and helps fund research towards a cure for the disease.

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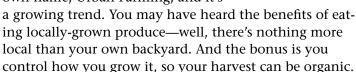
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The Fairlington farmer: Growing fruits and veggies in our close quarters? You bet!

A wise person once said, "Give someone a fish, they eat for a day. Teach someone to garden, the whole neighborhood gets tomatoes." (I may not be remembering this correctly. But the advice is sage, no?)

If you've ever been the recipient of a neighbor's freshly-grown tomatoes, you know the value of a good veggie garden. But did you know that you can grow your own veggies right here in Fairlington? It's true! Limited space does not mean limited vegetable potential. In fact, gardening in small spaces has its own name, Urban Farming, and it's



I've been growing veggies in my Fairlington farm (a.k.a., my patio) for 12 years, and this past season I grew more than 40 varieties. But even as an experienced farmer, I still have a tough time getting started in the garden after a long winter. After months of neglect, the garden looks as hopeless as I feel, so taking baby steps makes it more manageable. Here are some steps you can take right now to get started on your own Fairlington farm:

- **Identify your space**. Most veggies thrive with at least eight hours of direct sunlight, and they need to catch rainfall and drain well.
- Choose your produce. What do you love to eat?
 Pick a couple of your favorites, and start with those—no need to get fancy, just stick with what you love.
- Create a garden plan. It's important to plan ahead so you'll have enough space. I use Mother Earth's garden planning tool to map out my beds—it's easy to use, and helps you figure out how much space you'll need for each plant. This is particularly useful for urban farmers like us, who need to maximize small spaces. For more information, go to www.motherearthnews.com/garden-planner/vegetable-garden-planner.aspx.
- Order seeds. It's surprisingly gratifying to read through the new seed catalogs each spring. I particularly like Southern Exposure Seed Exchange—they're



Small Fairlington back yards can make for successful vegetable gardens. Photo by Rebecca Carpenter.

in central Virginia, so they know what grows well in our region, and their seeds are organic. You can find them at www.southernexposure.com.

• **Prepare your bed(s).** When the weather is bearable, begin cleaning out your space. Enlist a helper, put on some good tunes, grab your tools, and take it bit by bit. Clear out rocks, throw away debris, and start turning over the soil and adding compost (I use a hoe, but a sturdy rake or shovel also works). An easy alternative is to use containers, it saves you from having to break through our dense Virginia clay.

The preparation is the least gratifying phase of farming, but building a strong foundation is critical for a successful harvest. Like life, the garden is cyclical. And I'm thankful for that.

-Rebecca Carpenter

Fairlington's Home and Garden Tour to showcase neighborhood character

Plan now to attend the 2015 Fairlington Home and Garden Tour on Saturday, May 16. Sponsored by the Fairlington Historical Society, this biennial event showcases our community's architecture, grounds, and the unique character of each of our neighborhoods and homes.

Want to be an even bigger part of the tour? The tour committee is still looking for homes to add to the schedule, especially any homes that have had major renovations. The committee would like the tour to include at least one home from each of the Fairlington communities, with examples of each type of floor plan (Braddock, Clarendon, Edgewood, etc.).

The tour committee is also seeking volunteers to help with planning, advertising, ticket sales, and fundraising with local businesses. Tour guides and house sitters are also needed on the day of the tour.

If you would like to nominate your home or garden, or are interested in volunteering to help with the tour, send an email to FairlingtonTour2015@gmail.com.

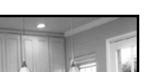


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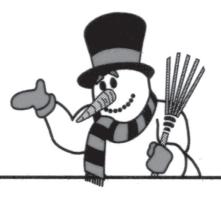
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- Denice McCullough, Fairlington Resident

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County launches facilities planning effort

Fairlington will have a voice in the county's new citizenled process to build a consensus around the principles and criteria to guide decision making on new county and school facilities over the next two decades. A study committee of 24 Arlington residents will lead the effort.

FCA Board member Gretchen Fallon will represent Fairlington on the resident forum, which will provide input to the study committee. The study committee will meet regularly with the resident forum to discuss issues and gather feedback and ideas. Arlington County Board Chair Mary Hynes asked civic associations to be active in the process, but other interested residents are also invited to participate.

The Arlington County Facility Study—a Plan for the Future was jointly launched by the county board and the school board in January and will help the two boards make decisions related to needs such as new schools, fire stations, and public vehicle storage sites in the context of the region's projected growth over the next 5-, 10-, and 20-year timeframes.

For more information on the facility study process, see http://commissions.arlingtonva.us/community-facilities-study/.

—Guy Land

Fairlington MOMS Club spring consignment sale returns

As spring approaches, bargains are in the air! The Fairlington MOMS Club is holding its semi-annual consignment sale on Saturday, March 7, from 9 am to 1 pm at the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. The event, which has been a MOMS Club tradition for several years, is an opportunity for local moms to sell new and gently used baby clothing, shoes, books, toys, and maternity wear. This year's sale will also feature a separate room for baby gear including high chairs, bouncy seats, swings, feeding supplies, baby carriers, and more.

Items are typically priced at a small fraction of their original retail cost and it is easy to find steals on designer baby items. The MOMS Club donates proceeds from the sale to the March of Dimes. Savvy shoppers normally get there before 9 am to stand in line. At noon, most items will be reduced to 50 percent off until the close of the sale. Credit cards are accepted. Sale information will be updated routinely at www.facebook. com/FairlingtonMomsClubConsignmentSale.

Fairlington has large role in Abingdon advisory committees

FCA has a formal role in the two public advisory committees that are reviewing the plans for Abingdon School. FCA secretary Carol Dabbs and North Fairlington condo board director Anne Wasowski represent FCA on the committee that advises the school board. They are joined by PTA co-chairs Jennifer Davies and Andrew Vitols (both North Fairlington residents), along with several parents and teachers who live in Fairlington.

FCA vice president Kent Duffy and president Guy Land serve on the committee that advises the county board, along with FCA treasurer Ed Hilz, also chair of the county's Urban Forestry Commission. Other members include North Fairlington condo president Terry Placek and Kim Malinowksi, chair of the Fairlington Villages Parking, Security, and Traffic Committee. Former Fairlington resident Christine Ng of the Environment and Energy Conservation Commission also sits on the advisory committee.

Neighborhood preschool opens doors



Portia Moore, owner of the new Fairlington STEM preschool, cuts the ribbon on her new facility, which is housed in the building next to the fire station on S. Abingdon St. The preschool opened in late January, with many of the students coming from Fairlington. At FCA's request, Moore made a special effort to serve children living in Fairlington. Photo by Guy Land.





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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



For some color in the winter, try forsythia

With all due respect to the flirting symphony of rust-breasted robins, the official welcome mat of spring in our area is the forsythia.

Even with scarves wrapped across their faces to shield gusting March winds, pedestrians and motorists can't ignore the lemon-yellow burst of a forsythia in full bloom. Given that its flowers are precocious (appearing before the foliage germinates), the geyser-like habit of its far-reaching branches bear yellow, four-lobed flowers that enliven late winter's brown landscape.

What's interesting is that forsythia, like lilac, is a member of the olive (oleaceae) family. Both flowering specimens can be "forced" indoors in late February and March. Even though she didn't have a lilac in her S. Stafford St. patio, my mother had a gangly forsythia in the back corner near the gate. Every winter, she'd pull on her coat, take her clippers and cut some forsythia branches to put in a kitchen vase. Soon after, yellow flowers would fill her kitchen counter while March snowfalls covered the ground.

The most common forsythia in our area is the forsythia x intermedia or border forsythia—a cross between two species of the genus, forsythia. Its leaves are kelly-green, like that of an azalea "encore" plant. Once leaves have appeared on forsythia's branches, the specimen becomes a garden centerpiece.



Forsythia.

Although the forsythia is most recognizable by its vivid flowers, it can be easily identified in the dead of winter. Its branches are buff and knobby and grow in a haphazard manner. At maturity, the shrub can reach 8 feet tall with a similar spread. Before forsythia defoliates in autumn, notice how its leaves take on a purplish-amber-burgundy color.

Sometimes, forsythia is confused with winter jasmine, another olive family member that bears yellowish flowers in late winter. There is a stand of winter jasmine in the parking lot of the Alexandria Commons Shopping Center on Duke St. in Alexandria.

How does one tell the two specimens apart? By habit. Forsythia grows upright and wild while winter jasmine is low-growing

and mounded, with pendulous branches. There is another stand of winter jasmine atop a stone wall at a hillside home on W. Braddock Rd. in Alexandria between W. Windsor Ave. and Russell Rd. Both winter jasmine and forsythia's yellow flowers are non-fragrant.

And even though forsythia is an upright grower, its lowest branches sometimes contact the ground and root into another plant. Either cut this branch away or let it colonize. Then you'll have one more forsythia in your garden.

Illustrating just how vivid its yellow flowers are, here are some forsythia cultivars: "Arnold Brilliant," "Evergold," "Golden Nugget," and "Spring Glory."

—Bill Sullivan www.sullivanslandscaping.net

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ABING School news





Education leaders from across the country interested in CETA implementation watched as Abingdon students demonstrated authentic arts and technology integration. Photo by Erin Sonn.

Abingdon shows its many talents at Project GIFT Showcase



On February 6, Abingdon Elementary hosted its annual Project GIFT Showcase: Arts Integration Day. Project

GIFT stands for "Guiding Instruction through Fine Arts and Technology" and is the school's exemplary focus. Accordingly, Abingdon's mission is to increase student achievement and community engagement by integrating arts and technology into its daily instructional practices.

The event attracted well over 100 parents and several Arlington Public Schools (APS) assistant superintendents and supervisors. In addition, Amy Duma, director of the Kennedy Center's Changing Education Through the Arts (CETA) program, brought more

than 40 guests that included leaders of arts organizations, superintendents, and administrators from around the country, all of whom were in town for the Kennedy Center's Annual National Arts Integration Conference. Duma invited these guests to Abingdon to witness the precise implementation of

CETA and how it benefits student achievement.

The Project GIFT showcase was organized into 12 different sessions across the K–5 classrooms, giving visitors the opportunity to choose among the myriad presentations. In one classroom, visitors observed students exploring the connection between science and art while creating tableaus to demonstrate their understanding of different states of matter. In another session, students analyzed visual art, wrote poetry, and created original music about Greek gods and goddesses.

Visitors also watched as students unlocked secrets of the Jamestown settlement using a Computer-Aided Design (CAD) program to construct scale 3-D models. At this session, architecture teacher and Fairlington resident David McDavitt remarked, "It was rewarding to see students demonstrating such remarkable

expertise and aplomb in integrating art, architecture, computer-aided design, history, and mathematics."

Although a lot of preparation went into the showcase, the event offered the public a peek into typical instruction at Abingdon. Pam Farrell, APS's Supervisor for the Arts, was impressed with the whole event and remarked that the best part of the showcase was that "this was a snapshot of what is happening at Abingdon every day. Nothing here was artificial."

If you missed the showcase and would like more information about the great instruction and learning going on every day in your neighborhood school, follow Abingdon on Twitter (@AbingdonPR) and Facebook (AbingdonES), or call 703-228-6650 for more information.

-Erin Sonn

Abingdon featured in Time magazine

Abingdon Elementary School was featured in the February 16 issue of *Time* magazine. The school was included in an article "Leaving Standardized Testing Behind" and demonstrated how thoughtful, creative teaching could allow for alternative assessments in lieu of standardized tests. The article profiles Matthew Tosiello, Abindgon's science teacher—and Fairlington resident—and his third-grade class. It examined the larger issues associated with national standardized testing as a result of the No Child Left Behind legislation.

To read the article online, go to www.time.com/3696882/leaving-standardized-testing-behind.

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Off-leash dog fatality in South Fairlington

Their late evening walk on Sunday, January 18, started uneventfully. JoAnn Haveland, a Fairlington Glen resident, leashed up her beloved Mokie, a 15-yearold Yorkshire terrier that weighed just 12 pounds and belonged to her mother before she passed seven years ago.

Haveland recalls hearing a dog coming from behind her, but didn't think anything of it. As the dog got closer, Haveland moved to the side to let what she assumed was a neighbor walking their dog get by. She didn't realize until it was too late that the dog was off leash, or she might have picked Mokie up. But in an instant, the off-leash dog

attacked Mokie, throwing her around "like a ragdoll." Haveland started screaming and tried to pull Mokie from the attacking dog—putting her own safety at risk—to no avail.

Two neighbors ran out to help and restrained the dog, but by that time it was too late and Mokie had died.

The Animal Welfare League of Arlington (AWLA) and the police responded and took the attacking dog away. Haveland notes that the dog had a "prior record" and had maimed another dog in a previous similar incident. According to her, the owner had been warned and was supposed to keep the dog contained and muzzled. But somehow the dog escaped again, something the neighbors had feared in a courtyard where a lot of young



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Mokie. Photo by Mary Eggers.

children lived.

Since the attack, the dog has been euthanized, meaning two dogs died unnecessarily. The owner of the attacking dog is now facing criminal charges from the Commonwealth of Virginia and the AWLA. The AWLA was contacted for details, but could not release any information on charges or fines since the case is still under review.

All of this could have been avoided had the attacking dog been on a leash and prevented from escaping its home.

Both Arlington County and the City of Alexandria have leash laws in place

for very important reasons. According to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (aspca. org), leash laws:

- Protect dogs from traffic;
- Curb dogs' natural instinct to chase children, get into trash, or dig up landscaping; and
- Allow for the safe passage of the public.

The laws are in place for everyone's protection, but many residents do not abide by them, thinking the laws don't apply because their dog is "nice." It does not matter if your dog is nice or not—dogs are animals, and unpredictable. And even if your dog is nice, other dogs or people it encounters may not be. In our densely populated neighborhood, there are too many people, cars, children, and other dogs to take a risk and wind up losing a beloved pet due to negligence.

Haveland agreed to be interviewed for this article with the hope that from this terrible experience, some good might come by increasing neighbors' awareness that offleash dogs are truly a danger to everyone's safety—dogs included.

Please be a considerate and responsible dog owner and keep your dogs on leash at all times unless they are in a sanctioned, fenced-in dog exercise area.

—Christine M. Chirichella



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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, a large group braved the cold to enjoy an excellent meal at Rabieng Thai.

Here's what's planned for March:

Thursday, March 12, 6:30 pm, Copperwood Tavern, 4021 Campbell Ave., Arlington, 703-552-8010, www. copperwoodtavern.com. This relatively new restaurant in Shirlington, where Bistro Bistro once was, has a varied menu worth trying.

Monday, March 23, 6:30 pm, Samuel Beckett's Gastro Pub, 2800 S. Randolph St., Arlington, 703-379-0122, www.samuelbecketts.com. This is an alternate burger night for us in Shirlington, which we've enjoyed at previous visits. There is a special burger menu 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 at yahoo.com.

Book Group

Join the Fairlington Book Group in March to discuss *The Nine: Inside the Secret World of the Supreme Court,* by Jeffrey Toobin.

According to *Publishers Weekly*, Toobin "surveys the Court from the Reagan administration onward, as the justices wrestled with abortion, affirmative action, the death penalty, gay rights and church-state separation. Despite a Court dominated by Republican appointees, Toobin paints not a conservative revolution but a period of intractable moderation." *The Nine*, which was published in 2007, describes a Court still largely intact today. Justices Souter and Stevens have retired, and Justices Sotomayor and Kagan have joined the Court since its publication.

The Book Group will meet on Tuesday, March 24, at 7:30 pm in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. We hope you'll join us.

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 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.

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

Card players welcome

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

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The MOMS Club meets monthly for general meetings. Please contact fairlingtonmomsclub@gmail.com for meeting and membership information. Parents and parents-to-be are welcome to join us, and children are always welcome. For more information about the club, visit www.fairlingtonmomsclub.com. Annual dues of \$25 support our club activities and charitable projects.



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

PAINTING. Painting and wallpapering. Clean, neat, reliable. 25 years experience. Liscensed, bonded, insured. Free estimates. References available. Call Steve Chute. 571-216-9338 or 703-912-1450. chute285@aol.com

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

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 703-501-9007. Call 703-801-9151. 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

PAINTING & WALLPAPERING. 25 years experience. Excellent references in Fairlington and all areas. Interior and exterior. Faux finish. Call Ricardo for free estimate 703-501-9007. rrhomeimprove. com.

House Cleaning

MICHELE'S MAIDS. Reliable, honest, affordable. BACKGROUND CHECK ON EVERY EMPLOYEE. Window cleaning now available. LICENSED, BONDED INSURED. 15 years in Fairlington. Fairlington references available. No Machines to talk to. 703-820-1808 Visit our website at www.michelesmaids.net

HOUSEKEEPER. My housekeeper is looking for houses or apartments to clean. Cleaning since 2000. Weekly, biweekly, monthly. Move in/out. Good references. 703-313-0454.

FAIRLINGTON MAID SERVICE.

703-820-8635. We are family owned and operated. Call for a free estimate. Our service is detail oriented and thorough. Scheduling appointments if flexible. Your neighbor is our best reference. Educator, civil servant, and military rates apply. Serving Fairlington since 1978.

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.

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 703-501-9007.

HOUSE CLEANING SERVICES. 20 Years of experience, references available. We provide supplies and equipment. Affordable prices. We are family owned. Please call us for a free estimate. Johanna & Mauricio. (202)591-9104 orjdmontecino@gmail.com.

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.

HOME ALONE FELINES. Professional in-home cat sitting and adoption services homealonefelines@gmail.com; 703-671-5504 www.homealone.petfinder.com

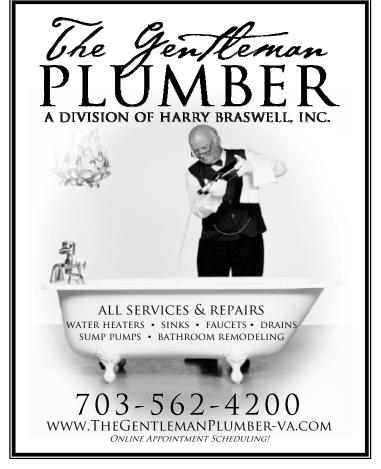
FELINE CARE. Longtime fairlington resident. Lifelong, experienced cat lover and owner, would love to care for your kitty! Call Barbara at 703-307-7749 or email atbramsey937@hotmail.com.

PET LOVERS. Serving Fairlington since 1998. Loving and responsible care for your dogs and cats. Reasonable rates, bonded and insured. Excellent references. Call 703-941-6113.

For sale: Cozy Fairlington t-shirts

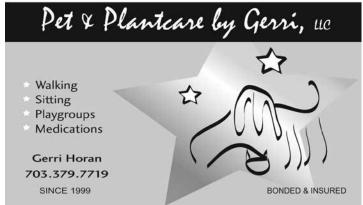


Show your neighborhood pride with a Fairlington t-shirt. T-shirts are \$15 and available in white or hunter green in 100% cotton. Sizes S, M, L, and X-L. Child sizes are also available. To order, send an e-mail to president@fca-fairlington.org or contact any FCA board member. Call the FCA at 571-403-1943 to leave your name and number.





Please include the following information with all ads:



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

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. The FCC is closed Sunday. Open 8 am – 9 pm M – F, and 8 am – 5 pm Saturday.

MINI-AD FORM

Mini-ad copy can be e-mailed to admanager@fca-fairlington.org and then submit your payment by mail to FCA AFB, PO Box 6182, Arlington, VA 22206-0182 or drop off ads and checks to the drop-off box in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford Street. E-mailed ad text will not be processed until payment is received. Write key words from your ad on the check for reference. (Example: "Yard Sale" or "Lost Camera") Cost is 50 cents per word (e.g., "998-0000" and "stove" are each one word; "interior/exterior" are two words).

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Name:	Phone (h):
Address:	Phone (w):
City, State, Zip:	E-mail:
Category (see newsletter for options):	
Mini-Ad Text (please print clearly):	

LONG AND FOSTER

🌣 ARLINGTON/ALEXANDRIA 🤄

OFFICE

ArlingtonAlexandriaSales.Lnfre.com

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

January **TOP PRODUCERS**



Kristin Usaitis Top Producer



Pat Shannon Top Listing Agent



Fairfax-Spacious and sunny....3br/ 2fb, top floor, unique floor plan! Hardwood floors! \$297,000 Call Kristin Usaitis Usaitis



Arlington-449.5- Mint condition, 2bd, 2ba townhome w/ new windows...it shines!! call Pat Shannon



Arlington-Great 1 bedroom recently painted, hardwoods, granite etc! Call Julie Flory



Arlington— Spacious 3 level condo awaits your arrival. Plenty of room to make it your own. 399k Call Rob Allen to view



Alexandria-Great single family, bright, open and lots up upgradesd bath and kitchen Call Joanne Ritchick



Oakton-Wonderful single family with Brazilian hrdwds, tall cabinets, granite counters...excellent. Call the office, FX8548735

SERVING FAIRLINGTON

