

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

MAY 2013

Volume 39, Number 5

Libby Garvey to speak, answer questions

FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, May 8, 7 pm
FCC
3308 S. Stafford St.

Fairlington Villages yard sale

Saturday, May 4, 8 am – noon
NFCC parking lot

MOMS Club

Wednesday, May 8, 4:30 pm
FCC

Fairlington Diners

Thursday, May 9, 6:30 pm
Ted's Montana Grill
Crystal City

FHS Home & Garden tour

Saturday, May 11, 11 am – 3 pm
Fairlington

Tree Canopy Fund workshop

Saturday, May 11, 1 – 3 pm
FCC

Wakefield's 60th anniversary

Saturday, May 18, 10 am – 3 pm
Wakefield High School

Farmers market meeting

Monday, May 20, 7:30 pm
FCC

Fairlington Diners

Monday, May 20, 6:30 pm
Ramparts half-price burger night
Alexandria

When Arlington County Board member Libby Garvey comes to speak at the FCA meeting on Wednesday, May 8, she won't have far to travel. Garvey is our neighbor—a Fairlington resident for more than 30 years, one of the original homeowners after the 1970s condo conversion, and, following a familiar neighborhood pattern, the owner of a second Fairlington unit bought in the 80s.

When her children were young, Garvey served as president of the Abingdon PTA, and she went on to serve for 15 years on the Arlington County School Board. After decades of civic work and her election last year to the county board, Garvey is well-placed to answer residents' questions about county government. In fact, that's what she most enjoys, answering questions and developing a productive give-and-take with an audience. "After brief remarks, I want to hear what's on people's minds," she says. "This is what I look forward to—engaging in a conversation with my neighbors."

From her many professional years working with budget choices and constraints, Garvey brings a renewed sense of fiscal responsibility to the county board. That sense of stewardship over spending taxpayer dollars is reflected in her publicly stated words of caution about the county's proposal to build a streetcar system along Columbia Pike. "I'm afraid it will just eat money and provide no real benefit," she says, noting that the cost is her major concern about the project and the fact that a true cost benefit analysis has never been done. In fact, in her first year on the county board, Garvey has developed something of a reputation as an independent voice among the five elected officials. "I do vote with the majority much of the time," says Garvey. But if something seems questionable, she will raise questions. "Sometimes I have a different perspective—and that's a good thing," she says.

Today, Garvey lives in a three-generational household, including her youngest daughter and two grandchildren. "Plus a dog and a cat," she adds. Garvey's reflections on the neighborhood can be found in an archived program for NPR radio station WAMU 88.5 FM. For "Metro Connection," in a Door-to-Door segment from September 2012, Garvey was interviewed by producer Rebecca Sheir.



*Libby Garvey. Photo, courtesy
Washington Post.*

Continued on page 3

Coming up ...

The FCA Board invites all Fairlington residents to attend its meetings, which occur on the second Wednesday of the month at the Fairlington Community Center (3308 S. Stafford St.) unless otherwise noted. If you would like to discuss a neighborhood issue at the meeting, please e-mail president@fca-fairlington.org or leave a voice-mail message at 703-243-1735 by the Sunday before the meeting.

May 8 agenda:

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

Speaker: Arlington County Board member and long-time Fairlington resident Libby Garvey will briefly discuss county government initiatives and budget choices, and then she will welcome as much time as possible to answer residents' questions.

Regular business meeting:

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

Online resources:

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



Find us on Facebook at Fairlington Appreciation Society.

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

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Metrobus Complaints	703-228-7929
Miss Utility	811
Pothole Patrol Hotline	703-228-6485
Shirlington Library	703-228-6545
Street Light Hotline	703-228-6511
www.arlingtonva.us/departments/EnvironmentalServices/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm	
Helicopter Noise Complaints	Bob Laser (FAA) bob.laser@faa.gov

Fairlington Citizens Association

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Calendar, cont.

Memorial Day
Monday, May 27

Book Group
Tuesday, May 28, 7:30 pm
North Fairlington CC

See Neighborhood News on page 25 and related articles for details about calendar events.



Home & Garden tour, May 11. Photo, Guy Land.

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Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the recognized voice of Fairlington on Arlington County government matters, FCA maintains a productive relationship with County Board members and staff. From parking issues to real estate development to neighborhood improvements, FCA provides guidance on how county decisions will impact Fairlington.

FCA routinely invites county board members and staff to our meetings, sharing with county leaders the concerns of Fairlington residents and facilitating the ability of county officials to communicate their views to our community.

To that end, our May meeting features Arlington County Board member Libby Garvey. A long-time resident of south Fairlington, Libby previously served as Chair of the Arlington School Board. She was elected to a full term on the county board in November.

Libby is not the only board member who is familiar with Fairlington and FCA. Board Chair Walter Tejada has attended two public events in Fairlington so far this year. Mary Hynes once lived in Fairlington and often returns for our July 4th parade. Jay Fisette spoke at an FCA meeting several years ago, and Chris Zimmerman visited with Fairlington residents during a walking town hall meeting here a few years back. FCA builds on these relationships to better represent you.

One of Fairlington's strengths is its active engagement in county affairs. Fairlington residents turn out to vote in strong numbers, they run for public office, they provide citizen leadership on key county committees, they speak out on major policy issues, they guide non-profits. This gives us a voice that is disproportionate to our size.

For example, Fairlington is home to Arlington County Clerk of Court Paul Ferguson, a former Chair of the County Board. FCA treasurer Ed Hilz sits on the Arlington Urban Forestry Commission and the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee. Long-time north Fairlington resident Holly Bray chairs the Arlington Housing Commission. Former FCA president Nancy Hunt served two years as Chair of the Arlington Planning Commission.

That's a lot of county-wide clout for a community of 8,000 people. And that doesn't count the leadership our residents provide in other county-related activities, ranging from the Abingdon PTA to the Tree Stewards to the Arlington Hunger Project.

Fairlingtonians demonstrate civic engagement at its best—shaping public policy, strengthening community institutions, and fostering an enhanced quality of life. I encourage you to find your niche and add your voice to the Fairlington chorus of community service. All of us benefit from that commitment.

Guy Land
FCA President

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Neighborhood Conservation Plan nears final step in approval process

The Fairlington-Shirlington Neighborhood Conservation plan, shepherded to completion by FCA treasurer Ed Hilz and presented for review by FCA president Guy Land, is nearing its final step in the review process—consideration by the Arlington County Board. It is expected that the board will consider the FSNC plan for approval at a meeting at the end of April. (It is one of three plans up for approval this year.) The plan was approved and recommended by the Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee in February and by the Arlington County Planning Commission in March.

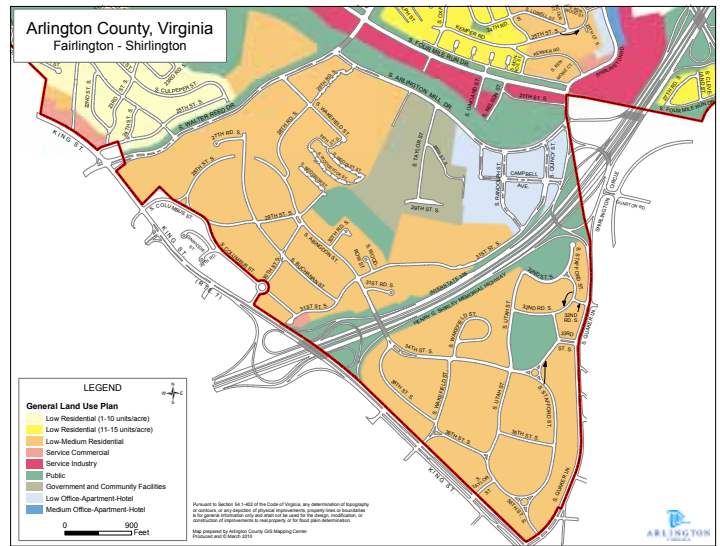
The slide show presentation, which summarizes the underlying 80-page document, highlights issues that are of concern to neighborhood residents. Maintaining the neighborhood's quality of life is paramount: Fairlington is a rare oasis of calm and greenery inside the Beltway—we enjoy a small-town feeling in an urban setting, with garden-style homes, mature trees, an extensive and heavily-used network of sidewalks, where neighbors walk, run, bike, push strollers, and walk the dog. Shirlington provides a nearby vibrant mix of office buildings, small stores, and hospitality amenities.

Fairlington's clearly defined borders help underscore its pastoral setting and enclave-like sense of community. And they inform the goals that underlie the FSNC plan, in three key areas of interest that the neighbors have identified for the county's consideration:

- Land use and zoning: We support the existing GLUP (county General Land Use Plan) and current zoning, and request to be consulted when changes to the plan are considered.
- Transportation and traffic: We register ongoing concern for issues dealing with transportation and traffic management. Due to Fairlington's unique geography abutting Alexandria, many traffic issues involve the city (B/K/Q, BRAC-133, Beauregard/Walter Reed), and we support the county's continued cooperation and coordination with the city.
- Urban forestry: We recognize the importance of and support the maintenance of the tree canopy in Fairlington, and we commend the county's efforts to renew/replace damaged street trees.

After the FSNC plan successfully completed the first two steps in the review process in February and March, Guy Land made the following observations:

"It was encouraging to note how engaged in learning about our neighborhood the reviewers were, both on the



The FSNC area in the GLUP, the county's General Land Use Plan.

committee and the commission. Most had read the plan closely and were impressed by the effort that went in to developing it, all were familiar with its key points, and the members paid close attention to the presentation and asked informed questions afterward. They take the process seriously, as we do. And throughout the process, the county staff have been just terrific—encouraging, informed, substantively helpful, and very responsive. Overall, the Neighborhood Conservation Program is an excellent one. It is the very sort of collaborative engagement that is the hallmark of the Arlington Way."



The Arlington County Civic Federation's 97th annual banquet and awards ceremony was held in April, with David Foster, president of the Virginia Board of Education, as the featured speaker. In attendance were (left to right) Adrian Hilz, FCA board member Joe Hartman and his wife Melanie, FCA treasurer Ed Hilz, and Virginia state Senator Barbara Favola. Photo, Guy Land.

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Farmers market meeting, May 20



Photo, Gretchen Fallon.

All residents interested in bringing a farmers market to Fairlington are invited to attend an informational meeting at the Fairlington Community Center on Monday, May 20, 7:30 pm, in Room 118.

The FCA's market working group, Carrie Street, Jacob Gelbaum, and Melissa Beene, have pursued the market plan this year by visiting local markets, conferring with organizers, gathering support from nearby neighborhoods like Parkfairfax, researching and documenting requirements, and attending a board meeting of Field to Table, the Westover market's sponsoring organization—and they're prepared to share what they've learned with Fairlington neighbors.

For example, market logistics research indicates that Fairlington is well situated to host a market. There is a nearby market on Columbia Pike that operates on Sunday; thus, Saturday seems to be the preferred day for a Fairlington market. Additionally, one of the original challenges for the Westover farmers market was its proximity to local merchants, which is much less of an issue for a site inside Fairlington. In fact, the Shirlington area was explored as a possible market location, but a non-compete clause (with Harris Teeter) is in force there—which makes Fairlington all the more attractive as a market site.

Through the FCA's online activities survey, Fairlington residents expressed great interest in the possibility of a Fairlington farmers market. Come hear about next steps at the meeting on May 20. For more information, send e-mail to FCA board member Carrie Street, cstreet2@aol.com.

FINS enrollment opens May 6



Photo, Dana Andy.

Friends Interested in Neighborhood Swimming, or FINS, has been a Fairlington fixture for 15 summers. Through FINS, children build confidence and comfort in the water while reviewing some basic water safety and stroke skills. FINS also encourages camaraderie and good sportsmanship. FINS enrollment for new swimmers opens May 6. (Families previously enrolled will have applications mailed to them the first week in May.)

The three-week program starts after the July 4th holiday and consists of four lessons and one fun group swim meet each week at three different condominium association pools in south Fairlington. Lessons are meant to supplement, not replace, local swimming instruction programs; lifeguard-certified instructors and volunteer aides encourage young kids to enjoy swimming, take turns in lap lanes, and play water games safely. Important pool safety and capability concepts are covered, such as treading water, front and back floating, lap lane protocols, straight-leg kicking, and swimming with faces submerged. Proper stroke techniques are introduced to stronger and older swimmers.

The FINS July 2013 program, for children ages 5 to 9, costs \$45. To request a form or ask questions, send e-mail to fairlingtonfins.swim@gmail.com. Application deadline is May 24. If applications exceed openings, families will be selected by random lottery at the end of May.

Wakefield's 60th anniversary, May 18

At a free anniversary celebration, reunion for all ages, and public viewing, the old and new Wakefield High School(s) will be on side-by-side display, Saturday, May 18, 10 am to 3 pm. Visit both buildings, located at 4901 S. Chesterfield Road. For more information, go online to wakefieldalumni.org.

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Take a virtual tour of Fairlington's notable trees



Arlington County Forester Vincent Verweij has developed a tree map, using the county's GIS (Geographic Information System), which allows you to take a virtual tour of Champion, Significant, and Notable trees in Arlington. Included, of course, are Fairlington's seven Notable trees and its Champion specimen, the Blackjack oak on the grounds of the FCC.

Go online to <http://gis.arlingtonva.us/gallery/map.html?webmap=1d99654323714f9799dbcf166dc47a51>. Type in your address, and the map image will readjust to bring up our neighborhood. Zoom in and then "grab"/click the map to move around the familiar streets of Fairlington. Click on any tree icon and you'll open an inset frame with a photo of the noted tree and salient details. The Blackjack oak, for example, is also known as *Quercus marilandica* and stands 54 feet tall.

ConnectArlington to begin construction here this month:

ConnectArlington, Arlington's fiber optic network, currently being installed around the county, will become more obvious to Fairlington residents this month as construction begins at two public-land locations in the neighborhood. Barring weather delays or a change in schedule, neighbors will see excavations at Fire Station 7 on S. Abingdon Street in early May and continuing through the month. Construction will begin at the Fairlington Community Center at the end of May and is scheduled to run through June.

Tree Canopy Fund's tree guidelines workshop, May 11

Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment is now accepting registrations from neighborhood associations, homeowner associations, and other groups interested in applying to the Tree Canopy Fund program. The Tree Canopy Fund gives grants to community groups to plant and maintain trees on private property. The fund is administered by ACE and the county Urban Forestry Commission. Proposals for the 2013 grant cycle are due Friday, June 21, and all groups must register online before submitting a proposal.

An information session about the application process was held at the end of April. There will be a workshop on tree selection guidelines, conducted by Virginia Cooperative Extension, on Saturday, May 11, 1 to 3 pm at the Fairlington Community Center. Register to attend by calling the Master Gardeners Help Desk, 703-228-6414, or send e-mail to mgarlalex@gmail.com. The workshop will take place, rain or shine. For more information, go online to <http://arlingtonenvironment.org/community-action/trees> or to www.arlingtonva.us and search Tree Canopy Fund.

Bug fest—the cicadas are coming



It's time for the 17-year cicada, Brood II, to emerge from the ground, from Connecticut to North Carolina, and party hard for four to six weeks this summer. Giant fly-like insects with bulging orange eyes, the cicadas may be ugly, but they do not sting or bite and they're not harmful to people or pets (although some dogs love them as crunchy canapés). Cicadas will make themselves known around the Washington metro area, although the projected coverage is spotty, and some counties will see them in more vexing numbers than others.



Short, weird spring: The unseasonable wet snow at the end of March left behind a heavy coating of slush to bend tree branches and the stems of flowering bulbs. Ten days later, the temperature hit a record-breaking 90 degrees.



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— Fairlington at 70 —

The old school

Many people may walk by the Fairlington Community Center and think, “Odd. It looks like an old-timey school.” Of course, they correctly identify the origins of the building that now houses county offices, meeting rooms, and a fitness center.



Photo, Gretchen Fallon.

As part of Fairlington’s construction in the 1940s, the Fairlington Elementary School was built for all the children, in grades one through six, who lived in what was then the largest rental complex in the country. The then-owner of Fairlington, Defense Homes Corporation, conveyed an eight-acre site to the Arlington School Board “for the consideration of ten dollars,” as it is recounted in Catherine Fellows’ history of Fairlington, *Fairlington at 50* (60th anniversary reprint edition, 2003).

The Fellows history describes a Mayberry-esque era, when the school served to bond the community and mothers sent their kids to school with brown-bag lunches. One mother’s account from 1943 reports that they sold only ice cream in the days before the school had a cafeteria. And then it was decided to have “one day a week when the children would eat a real meal. So

we had a hot dog day...we cooked them and took them around...and they ate them in the rooms. [There were] big jars of mustard in each room, and one day one little boy asked for mustard on his ice cream. I don’t think the teacher gave it to him.”

As elementary-age enrollment declined county-wide in the 1970s, the school was deemed excess

to requirements; it was eventually closed in 1979. The county agreed to hold on to the building and maintain it as a community center. When there were proposals to raze it and replace it with a Soviet-style building of glass and concrete, a horrified clamor arose among Fairlington neighbors. The FCA succeeded in saving the old school building—by then, a Fairlington landmark.

The modern FCC, still anchored in its original school building, was rehabbed, enlarged, and made more usable as a community center in 2008, blending an historic building with state-of-the-art equipment, infrastructure, and amenities. In the FCC’s lobby, look up—you’ll see the Tiffany stained glass panel that serves as the skylight base in the building’s cupola.

Fairlington homes on parade: FHS Home and Garden Tour, May 11

The 2013 Fairlington Home and Garden Tour, sponsored by the Fairlington Historical Society, will be held on Saturday, May 11, from 11 am to 3 pm.

Please plan to attend this enjoyable event. In addition to showcasing the community’s architecture, grounds, and the unique character of each of our neighborhoods, this year’s tour will feature a wonderful group of homes with renovated kitchens and bathrooms, tasteful interior decoration, and beautiful gardens.

If you’ve returned the ticket order form from last month’s *Bulletin*, you can pick up reserved tickets, or purchase additional tickets, at the yard sale on May 4

at the North Fairlington Community Center (3005 S. Abingdon St.). Tickets may also be picked up or purchased on Friday, May 3, 6 to 8 pm, at the Fairlington Community Center (3308 S. Stafford Street) and on the morning of the tour at 10 am at the North Fairlington Community Center.

If you’d like to help with the tour, it’s not too late to get involved. We’re still seeking a few more home sitters to guide participants through featured homes. Shifts last just 2 ½ hours, so home sitters can tour the other homes. If you are interested in helping with the tour, send e-mail to FHGShow2013@gmail.com.

Update: FCA board reviews development news

At the April association meeting, FCA board members provided updates to residents on a variety of real estate developments and projects near Fairlington. FCA president Guy Land explained the board's view that, even if there had been no forward movement on a project and there were no "new" news to be reported, Fairlingtonians still appreciated hearing just those facts. The meeting was, of course, open to the public, but no developer representatives or county planning staff were invited to speak at the meeting. FCA will invite those speakers when a project advances to public disclosure of new information or proposals.

Safeway: Carrie Street reported her successful contact with Craig Muckle, the Safeway company's public affairs representative, who said that the company was "wrapping up" their approvals for redevelopment with the city of Alexandria, but that he could not provide a date for the King Street store's closing. All other information remained current: the old store would be torn down and reconstructed on the same site as a "lifestyle" Safeway, probably this year. During the projected year of construction, the Safeway pharmacy would be housed nearby in the now-in-place trailer on Marlee Way.



Carrie Street. Photos, Gretchen Fallon.

The Battery at Fairlington: Joe Hartman researched, and reported to Guy Land for presentation, what is known about the proposed redevelopment of the commercial property next to the fire station on S. Abingdon Street. The original plans, discussed with the community more than a year ago, call for a tear-down and



Frosty's vacated its long-time location.

re-build to create a commercial condominium (office and retail spaces) with underground garages. It appears that the plan has not changed but is not actively moving forward at this time, perhaps because the economy remains soft. Frosty's, a long-time tenant, has moved out, and the property owner is negotiating a new lease for that space with parties unknown. The project's Web site currently displays a design rendering showing some street-front, street-level retail, and possible businesses mentioned for the project include medical offices, bank, bakery, coffee shop, restaurant/café, and cleaners. The property is subject to a restrictive covenant that calls for architecture in the Williamsburg style, to conform to its surroundings, and no high-volume retail.

B/K/Q: Ed Hilz reported that the Alexandria intersection of Braddock Road, King Street, and Quaker Lane has been under consideration for redesign and improvement for several years, and the redesign, based on past studies, currently stands at the 30% design phase. The redesign would consist primarily of improved signage to reduce confusion. In addition, the city is considering installation of a traffic light to regulate access to the Bradlee Shopping Center; the traffic light proposal will move forward in tandem with the redevelopment of the nearby Safeway to gauge any change in current traffic that the Safeway redevelopment may have. It is expected that B/K/Q plans will reach the 60% design phase by spring 2014, at which time public meetings will be held to discuss the plan.

In addition, the city has agreed to consider possible improvements to the nearby intersection of King Street, Dearing Street, and the shopping center access road. That study will occur after B/K/Q improvements are in place and the city has a chance to assess their effects.

BRAC-133/Mark Center:

Mark Jones reported that construction of the U.S. Army Headquarters building at the Mark Center on Seminary Road at I-395 had not resulted, so far, in the traffic gridlock that was originally projected. The building's 6,100 occupants had now completed the phased move-in; any anticipated traffic and parking issues were thought to



Mark Jones.

have now achieved whatever impact they were going to have. Construction of a rush-hour reversible ramp from I-395 to provide dedicated access to the Mark Center was scheduled to begin construction in 2014, with completion projected for 2015.

Shirlington, Landmark Mall: Carol Dabbs reported no change to Shirlington parking spaces, garages, or availability. County parking staff said they maintained an ongoing discussion about acquiring some kind of electronic signboard to let drivers know which garages might have available parking at any given time; however, the discussion has not advanced far since it involves different property owners. In addition, three new restaurants are planned to open soon: Copperwood Tavern will take the place of Bistro Bistro; La Tagliatella will replace Extra Virgin; and Peet's Coffee will replace Caribou Coffee.

Dabbs also summarized a report that Landmark Mall in Alexandria continues in years-old discussions about redevelopment. Currently the mall has three owners: Sears on the west end, Macy's on the east end, and Howard Hughes Corporation owns all the space in between. Hughes representatives recently presented plans to redevelop Landmark's middle section into an open-air promenade with new buildings housing a mix of retail and residential. No agreement has yet been reached among the three owners.

Quaker Lane parking:

Kent Duffy reviewed the status of the Quaker Lane parking restrictions (along the west or south-bound side adjacent to Fairlington). Currently, the status quo remains—no overnight parking permitted. The county is open to discussing a re-evaluation of the restrictions, perhaps lifting or adjusting them; however, since the restrictions were put in place at Fairlington's request about 10 years ago, county staff would first like to hear the community's preferences and suggestions for changes. The original, pre-restrictions concern was that the curb along Quaker at Fairlington's boundary had become a de facto parking lot or warehouse space for commercial vehicles, trucks, trailers, and boats. In the meantime, the county code concerning residential area parking has been amended, and pressure on parking in Fairlington has increased. County staff continues to work the issue with



Kent Duffy.

residents, seeking to be responsive to residents' needs.

Park Shirlington apartments redevelopment:

Guy Land, who spearheads FCA's monitoring of the Park Shirlington redevelopment discussion, reported that not much had changed in plans or public documents since the FCA hosted Home Properties, the owners of Park Shirlington, at an informational meeting in September last year.



Guy Land.

The Park Shirlington proposal, as outlined in its preliminary, first-draft presentation, calls for increased density, which will bring the project into the county's site plan review process. It is expected, unofficially, that the process will be engaged sometime this summer, when Home Properties formally files its redevelopment plan application with the county. The review process will entail public meetings for interested residents to more closely question elements of the project based on publicly filed documents. In addition, under the review process, the county solicits the views of affected neighborhoods through civic associations; thus, FCA automatically has standing to comment on the Park Shirlington proposal during the review process.

FCA is now forming a Park Shirlington Advisory Committee to monitor steps in the review process, sort through issues that arise, and advise FCA on appropriate responses to various aspects of the Home Properties proposal when it comes before the Site Plan Review Committee, the Planning Commission, and the Arlington County Board. In addition, FCA expects to again host Home Properties at an association meeting later this year, after their formal proposal has been filed with the county, so that the developers can review the official proposal for Fairlingtonians and answer questions.

Land pointed out that there is not currently a monolithic Fairlington response, neither opposition nor support, for the Park Shirlington redevelopment. Some neighbors have voiced concerns about increased traffic on S. 31st Street and Fairlington streets and the perceived loss of affordable housing. Others have voiced approval for up-scale apartments that would compete with those in Shirlington and potentially raise property values. Going forward, the FCA's primary goal is to keep the neighbors informed about the Park Shirlington redevelopment proposal and its status as the review process advances.

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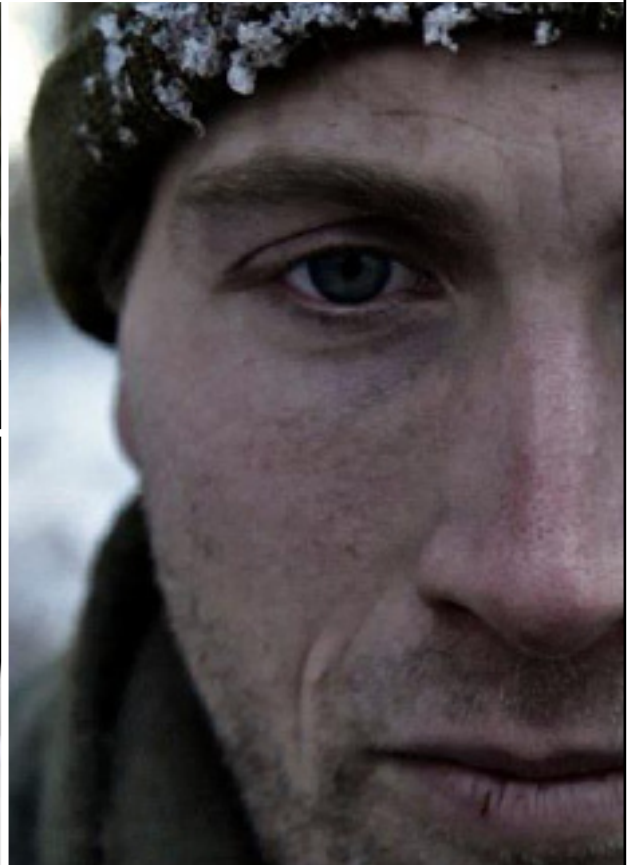
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ACPD trail safety tips for bikers, runners, walkers

In the wake of two robberies of bikers on county trails earlier this spring, ACPD 3rd District Commander, Captain Brett Butler injected a healthy dose of common sense and no-nonsense, straight-talk caution into the safety discussion for bikers, walkers, and joggers who use Arlington's trails and streets.

Don't go at night. One of the victimized bikers on the Custis Trail was there after dark. In fact, the county parks and trails are closed at night; official operating hours are sunrise to sunset. Fifty yards in from a trail head, Butler points out, it's pitch black. Not only is that where the bad actors hide, but also it's where you're likely to hit an animal or stumble over a bit of uneven pavement. "If you take a header into bushes, you might not be found until the next day," he says.

Don't go alone. Whenever possible, bike, run, or walk with a buddy. Two people present a less inviting target for crime or misadventure than a single individual alone.

Carry a cell phone. Sometimes there's a medical emergency, and the need to call for help is urgent. Butler says police sometimes get reports of crime or suspicious activity on the trails a half-hour "late"—because the walker or jogger had to go back to his house to use a phone or spend precious time trying to find another trail user with a phone. For runners who won't carry anything in their sweaty hands, Butler recommends an arm band holder or a clip-on protective sleeve that can hold an MP3 player or smart phone. (Finding a place to stash your phone is, admittedly, less a problem in winter, when exercisers wear jackets with zippered pockets.)

Bail out if you're uncomfortable. If you see something on the trail that seems suspicious or makes you uneasy—even just a little—turn around and head back the other way. It may disrupt your bike commute or inconvenience your point-to-point run. But "it's always better to be safe than sorry," Butler reminds us. And call the police to let them know what you saw, heard, sensed. "Don't worry about making something out of nothing or causing inconvenience—we'll sort it out."

Don't bet your life against a car. Whether you're biking, jogging, or walking along Arlington streets, don't



Photo, Gretchen Fallon.

insist on the right of way when the offender is a 4,000 pound vehicle. Don't step out into an intersection, even with a zebra crosswalk, if the car traffic is clearly heavy and fast. Biking or walking, catch the eye of an approaching driver before proceeding across a car's path. If you're doing anything else—"It's just not worth the risk."

Obey the traffic laws and all other rules and regulations. Butler shakes his head at the recklessness of bikers who, for example, barrel down S. 28th Street and shoot out

onto Wakefield in front of the 7-11—they are known to the police as hazards to themselves and the safety of others. "Whether you're on a bike or on foot, you have to obey the traffic laws," says Butler. Follow traffic signals and come to a full stop at stop signs.

Just because you can, doesn't mean you should. Overall, Butler argues for exercising common sense when you're out on the roads and trails. He says, to bikers in particular, that densely populated, heavily paved, and sometimes hilly Arlington is not the place to do a Lance Armstrong-wannabe performance. Keep yourself safe and don't endanger the safety of others.

CaBi coming to Fairlington soon



Capital BikeShare continues to expand to more Arlington locations, and you can look for Fairlington stations to appear soon (it routinely takes only a day to install a station). In mid-April, the Fairlington locations were still in the approval process, but

Arlington's CaBi program manager Paul DiMaio said he expected the approvals soon—"I look forward to a spring installation of Fairlington and Shirlington stations." The proposed locations in Fairlington are on the grass at the Fairlington Community Center and at the intersection of S. 34th and S. 36th Streets near the south end of the bridge.

Here's a "Sneak Peak"...2013 Home Tour!



Clarendon

From a "Shabby Chic" Clarendon to an "Ultra Modern" Mt. Vernon, our remodeling projects selected for the **upcoming 2013 Home & Garden Tour** are a study in contrasts. Both are "whole house" remodels, and both reflect the meticulous planning and vastly different design aesthetics of the two very happy homeowners.

Here is a sneak peak of the two kitchens, and there is A LOT MORE to see throughout each home. You will be amazed at the clever ideas you'll pick up, from storage solutions to WOW factors. Bob says every remodel has a story, and these homes have plenty to say! Take it all in and Enjoy!

2013 Fairlington Home & Garden Tour ! Saturday - May 11th from 11:00am - 3:00pm

DeLong Home Improvement is proud to take part in the Fairlington Home & Garden Tour, presented every other Year by the Fairlington Historical Society, and we're honored that our remodeling projects were selected for the 2009, 2011 and 2013 tours.

Bob and Anne will be around on Tour day, and always love to share stories and chat about ideas for your home. Enjoy the day, and when you're ready to remodel....

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Mt. Vernon Model

Poggenpohl cabinets

Photo Credit: Jenny Yang

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www.DelongHomeImprovement.com

Digging in the garden? Call Miss Utility at 811

As the warm weather gardening season gets underway, Miss Utility offers a word of advice: Call before you dig. If you're planning to do any planting or landscaping, you can stay on the safe side, protecting yourself from injury and the neighborhood's underground utility lines from damage, by calling Miss Utility's national number, 811. It's a free call and a free service to locate underground lines and mark their location on the surface.

Miss Utility's ten-digit number (800-552-7001) is still current, says Blair Stewart, a Fairlington resident and the non-profit company's northern Virginia representative, but it's used primarily by out-of-state contractors and excavators. By law, he says, professionals must call before digging; for individual homeowners, calling 811 before digging is the smart thing to do.

When you call 811, Miss Utility coordinates the work of utility locators (for gas, electric, telephone, cable, potable water, and sewer), who will come out to your house, within about 48 hours of the call, to mark the ground, top-side, where utilities are located below. The markings are color coded (with paint, flags, or stakes), red for electric, orange for communications, green for sewer, Stewart explains—which takes the mystery out of those spray-painted dotted-lines Fairlington neighbors often see on the grass.

Professional demolition crews and excavators routinely



Photo, Gretchen Fallon.

dig deeper than backyard gardeners, so you'd think that they pose the bigger problem. Not so, says Stewart. "Homeowners are the number one culprit for dangerous digging," for the simple reason that they're the ones who don't call. He cites the unhappy example of a homeowner in Springfield who simply removed a bush from his front garden bed. The man hit a gas line, which ultimately exploded his own house and destroyed the two houses on either side.

For Fairlington homeowners, most of our utilities come in through the backs of the buildings, but because of the age of the infrastructure and periodic

remodeling over the decades, it's not possible to make blanket statements about where and how the lines enter. With some assurance, Stewart can say that electric, water, and sewer lines tend to be sufficiently deep that they're not at risk, while telephone and cable lines are more shallow—but electric lines at point of entry may be shallower, too. In addition, he points out that corners, edges, and sides can be problematic, because that's where utility lines rise closer to the surface. And he urges extreme caution for anyone digging outside their patio fence—that's precisely where utilities tend to be most congested.

"No one plans on an accident," says Stewart. "But it happens every day."

What you said—FCA survey results

After the FCA's March online survey was held open last month, the number of respondents nearly doubled, while the most popular activities held their primary positions. The survey, coordinated by FCA webmaster Christine Chirichella, sought to gauge interest in proposed neighborhood activities and to assess the neighbors' willingness to help out with the planning and execution of the desired events.

The proposed Fairlington farmers market remained overwhelmingly in first place, with almost 90% saying they were "very interested." About 40% of respondents expressed strong interest in the 5k run/walk—and with an additional third indicating moderate interest, the 5k garnered support from more than two-thirds of respondents. Similarly, about one third of respondents said they were "very interested" in environmental initiatives

and in electronic recycling/paper shredding; for both activities, an additional third of respondents indicated some to moderate interest.

In addition, a handful of survey-takers offered these suggested activities: An event to spotlight traffic flow, speeding, and parking issues; pick-up sports (soccer, basketball, ultimate Frisbee); musical jam sessions or singing groups; board game or card game nights; a composting workshop; a yard sale; a pet fair; and continuing support for Fairlington traditions like the July 4th parade, Neighborhood Day, and the firehouse Santa ride. If you would like to help make the surveyed events happen or make suggestions, send e-mail to president@fca-fairlington.org or leave a voice-mail message with contact information at 703-243-1735.

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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



Design your garden with these features in mind

If you've just moved to Fairlington and don't know where to begin with garden design or if you've lived here since the conversion in 1970s and are ready for a make-over, there are important design elements to consider when planning the patio landscape. It will be easier to narrow down the thousands of plant choices by first taking stock of your patio's strengths and deficits.

Sun or shade: Does your patio get full sun, filtered sun, total shade, or partial shade? This is vital, since every plant has a "culture" (climate) it prefers in order to grow vigorously. And do you get morning or afternoon sun? The high temperature on April 10 was a record-breaking 90 degrees, and that occurred at 5:30 in the afternoon.

Drought-tolerance: If your patio gets blistered by all-day sun, if you travel often, or if you just don't like to hold the hose after a day's work, you need plants with minimal watering needs. Juniper, barberry, hibiscus, crape myrtle, lilac, falsecypress are very sun-friendly. Another name for drought-tolerant specimens is "low maintenance."

Fragrance: Do you want a pleasant odor in your patio? If so, fragrance comes in many plant forms. Trees: Snowbell, magnolia 'Little Gem,' and lilac. Perennials: Daphne odora, salvia, lily of the valley, and sweet box and sweet woodruff. Shrubs: Cherry laurel, gardenia, and pieris. Annuals: Sweet alyssum. Vines: Star jasmine, honeysuckle, and wisteria.



Azalea.

Vertical interest: For Fairlington patios, consider these modest-sized trees: Magnolia 'Little Gem,' dwarf crape myrtle, Japanese snowbell, juniper 'Skyrocket,' arborvitae 'Emerald Green,' or a dwarf/pendulous Japanese maple. Another favorite of mine is the juniper 'Hollywood,' which has vivid, dark green foliage on twisting branches—see one planted in the 3400 block of South Stafford Street in the Meadows.

Ground cover: Plenty of evergreen ground covers come with flowers and/or fragrance. Sweet box has a white fragrant flower, as does lily of the valley. Periwinkle has a shiny, oval leaf with a bluish-lavender flower in spring and summer. Pachysandra has a lime-green, scalloped-edged leaf with a fragrant, ivory flower in late spring and summer. And, although it's a tender peren-

nial, ajuga flourishes in sun or part shade, with its shiny maroon and deep olive-colored leaves and a blue flower in spring.

Espalier effect: You can have this with either a vine or a specimen that grows like your hand (open palm). Camellia displays like the latter, since its branches grow straight up. It has large, shiny evergreen leaves and flowers either in the fall or winter/spring (November into April). The flowers come in red, pink, white, or a combination of pastels. Vines usually need sun, and the ones you'll find at the nursery are honeysuckle (combinations of mauve, white, and yellow), trumpet (orange), Carolina jessamine (yellow), star jasmine (fragrant white flower), wisteria (lavender), and clematis (white, purple, or maroon flower). They are perennials, so just trim back any brittle winter die-back in March before new foliage emerges.

Shrubs: Some can get tall, others fat. Try these to suit your patio: Azalea 'Encore' blooms in the spring and the fall. Cherry laurel has white fragrant flower in spring and summer. Rhododendron has softball-sized blooms in April-May (after the azaleas have flowered and faded). Pieris has white, fragrant, bell-shaped flowers that hang in clumps from March to May. If you like maroon foliage, try a barberry 'Crimson Pygmy.'

— Bill Sullivan,
www.sullivanlandscaping.net

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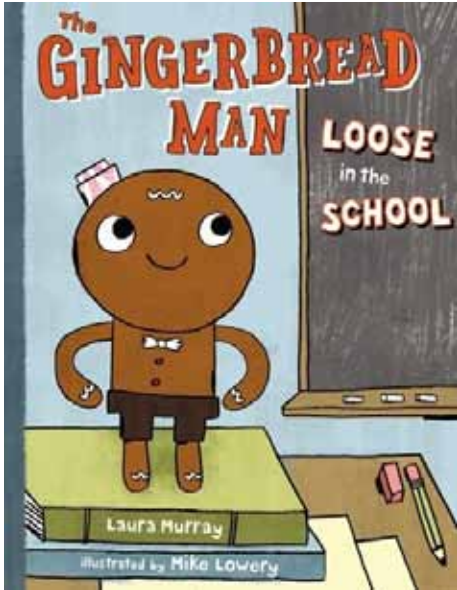
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Children's author Laura Murray visits Abingdon



Children's author Laura Murray will share her enthusiasm for reading and writing during two fun, interactive presentations for Abingdon's Kindergarten and first grade students on Thursday, May 9.

Ms. Murray, who writes picture books and middle-grade novels, celebrates reading and writing by engaging the students in an interactive book reading and presentation, plus a "Sweet Treats Quiz Show." During the presentations, she will share tips on the writing process, and give a behind-the-scenes peek at being an author and making a book.

Her picture book, *The Gingerbread Man Loose in the School*, published by G.P. Putnam's Sons, was chosen as a Junior Library Guild Selection, received a starred ALA Booklist review, and is a nominee for the Virginia Reader's Choice Award, as well as seven other state Children's Choice awards. More information on Ms. Murray can be found at www.LauraMurrayBooks.com.



Abingdon Elementary School. Photo, Gretchen Fallon.

[LauraMurrayBooks.com](http://www.LauraMurrayBooks.com). The author's visit is funded by proceeds from the Abingdon Book Fair held in March.

Two Abingdon teachers awarded MapStory fellowships

The MapStory Foundation recently announced its inaugural class of Teaching Fellows. Only eight educators from across the United States were selected to help co-design, develop, and implement MapStory's innovative classroom-based MapStorytelling projects. Two of the recipients are Abingdon teachers, Emily Mitarai (2nd grade) and Sarah Radice (4th grade).

MapStory is an infrastructure for enabling "MapStorytelling" as a means of communicating important issues to a global audience. The goal is to enable any student, teacher, or practitioner around the world to tap into the power of this new mode of conveying stories about global change. MapStorytellers of all kinds come together to publish their expressions and to critique each

others' MapStories, leading to an ever-accumulating and constantly improving body of knowledge about global dynamics all over the world and throughout the course of history.

Teaching Fellows' projects span K-12 grade levels and emphasize students' content knowledge in history, social studies, science and English/language arts, as well as their ability to conduct research, communicate, collaborate, and be creative. For example, Emily Mitarai will use MapStory to help her students make comparisons between ancient civilizations in Egypt and China and, perhaps, even task them with constructing MapStories about the cultural heritage of their own families. Sarah Radice will immerse her students in the Civil War and Reconstruction period and experiment with MapStories to learn about slavery in Virginia, the rise of industrialization and the growth of cities, as well as westward migration.

MapStory launched the Fellows program based on their belief that

Continued, page 23



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Animal Talk

Hot weather tips for pets

For most Fairlingtonians, summer-time means more time outside. For many of us, it means more time outside with our pets. To help keep your pets safe and healthy this summer, keep these tips in mind:

1. Make sure your pet has seen the vet recently and is protected against fleas and ticks.
2. Never leave your pet in a parked car—temperatures can rise to dangerous levels quickly. When the temperature is over 70 degrees, leave your pet at home. (A dog left in a hot car can reach respiratory distress in 10 minutes and die in as little as 20 minutes.)
3. Avoid exercising outdoors with your pet during the peak heat of the day—stick to morning or evening hours. Never force your pet to exercise if it shows signs of being too hot or tired.
4. Be careful of hot asphalt and



pavement that can burn your pet's paws.

5. Make sure your pet has plenty of water and keep it in the shade.
6. Brush or trim your pet's coat to thin it out, but be careful not to shave it too close, which can lead to sunburn.
7. Avoid pesticides and fertilizers applied to the grass. Wipe your pet's paws once inside to avoid ingestion of toxic materials.
8. Take extra care with older pets,

as they are particularly sensitive to the heat.

Both cats and dogs can get heatstroke, which can be deadly. Signs of heatstroke include restlessness, excessive thirst, heavy panting, lethargy, lack of appetite, dark tongue, rapid heartbeat, fever, vomiting, or lack of coordination. If your pet displays these signs, get it into the shade immediately and call your vet. Lower your pet's body temperature gradually by giving it water; applying a cold towel or ice pack to the head, neck, and chest; or immersing it in lukewarm (not cold) water.

Hopefully these tips will help you and your pet take good care out there and enjoy the summer!

—Christine M. Chirichella,
Assistant editor

School, continued from page 21

new ideas in education are often developed separately from educators themselves, treating them as customers rather than experts. "Instead, we're getting educators involved at the front-end," said *MapStory* founder and CEO, Dr. Christopher Tucker. To learn more, visit mapstory.org.

Abingdon celebrates Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week, May 6-10

Parents and students will continue their annual tradition of honoring Abingdon staff for National Teacher

& Staff Appreciation Week, May 6-10. The Abingdon PTA coordinates many exciting events for the week-long celebration, including treating the staff to breakfast on Monday morning and setting up a fully-catered lunch on Wednesday. Parents donate desserts to accompany the catered lunch.

Teachers and staff are randomly selected to win daily raffle prizes, which are announced on the school's morning news show, The Cardinal News Network. At least five staff members win prizes each day of the week. Everyone loves winning Target and iTunes gift cards as well as restaurant gift cer-

tificates and movie tickets! Additionally, all staff receive daily treats in their mailboxes. The Abingdon PTA solicits cash and prize donations from parents and local businesses to pay for the week-long activities.

Parents can encourage their children to write notes or send in hand-made gifts to teachers throughout the week. If you (or your business) are interested in making a donation, please contact abingdonelementarypta@gmail.com.

—Dan Branch, PTA co-president



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neighborhood news

Book Group

The son of a Comanche warrior and a Scots-Irish woman, Quanah Parker became the last and greatest chief of the Comanches. In *Empire of the Summer Moon: Quanah Parker and the Rise and Fall of the Comanches, the Most Powerful Indian Tribe in American History*, S.C. Gwynne tells the remarkable stories of both tribe and man. Join us to discuss the book on Tuesday, May 28, at 7:30 p.m. in the North Fairlington Community Center, 3005 S. Abingdon St. For more information, contact Terry Gough at tjgough@verizon.net.

Fairlington Diners

Fairlington Diners is a group of Fairlington and non-Fairlington friends who gather for relaxed dinners nearby. We focus on having a good meal and an opportunity to chat with neighbors. Once again, we'll vary a little from our usual schedule (ethnic dinners on the second Thursday of the month and burger night at Ramparts on the fourth Monday of the month) to avoid the Memorial Day holiday.

Thursday, May 9, 6:30 pm, Ted's Montana Grill, 2200 Crystal Drive, Suite A, Arlington 22202, 703-416-8337, www.tedsmontanagrill.com. While one of the few restaurants that serves bison (buffalo), there is a wide variety of foods and preparations available at this comfortable restaurant. Remember that the public garages in Crystal City are all free after 5 pm on weekdays (and all day on weekends). If you want to carpool, let Carol know when you sign up to attend, and we'll try to make it happen.

Monday, May 20, 6:30 pm, Ramparts Restaurant, 1700 Fern St, Alexandria, 703-998-6616, www.rampartstavern.com. This is a local favorite that we usually visit monthly. On Mondays, they offer half-price burgers with the purchase of a beverage, and the rest of the menu is also available.

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

MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington

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

Parents and parents-to-be are welcome to join us for our next general meeting on Wednesday, May 8, at 4:30 pm at the Fairlington Community Center. Children are always welcome. For more information about the club, the meeting, or membership, contact our Membership VP at fairlingtonmomsclub@gmail.com or visit www.fairlingtonmomsclub.com. Annual dues of \$25 support our club activities and charitable projects.

Card players welcome

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

Fairlington Babysitting Co-op

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

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

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



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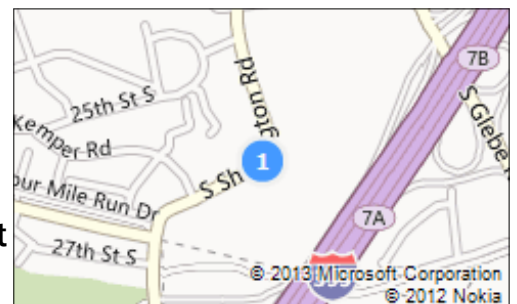
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Due Date for All Ads: 6 pm on 10th of the preceding month (May 10th for June issue)

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")

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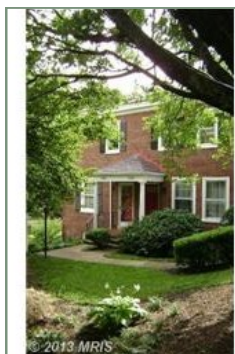


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Arl/Alta Vista.—Penthouse Condo. 2BR/3.5BA w/stunning views. \$699,900 Call Kristin Usaitis



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