

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

MAY 2014

Volume 40, Number 5

Del. Krupicka to address residents at May 14 FCA meeting

FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, May 14, 7 pm
FCC
3308 S. Stafford St.

Fairlington Diners

Wednesday, May 7, 6:30 pm
Peking Gourmet Inn, 6029 Leesburg Pike
Falls Church

Guided Nature Walk

Saturday, May 10, 10 am
Fairlington Villages Management Office
3001 S. Abingdon St.

MOMS Club

Wednesday, May 14, 4:30 pm
FCC

King Street development meeting

Thursday, May 15, 7 pm
FCC

Fairlington Day

Saturday, May 17, 11 – 2 pm
FCC

Fairlington Diners

Thursday, May 22, 6:30 pm
Lost Dog Cafe, 2920 Columbia Pike
Arlington

Book Group

Tuesday, May 27, 7:30 pm
FCC

See Neighborhood News on page 21 and related articles for details about calendar events.

Virginia State Delegate Rob Krupicka will be the guest speaker at the FCA meeting on Wednesday, May 14, at the Fairlington Community Center. He will update Fairlington on the 2014 legislative session and respond to constituents' questions and concerns.

"This legislative session has not been incredibly controversial other than Medicaid expansion," Krupicka reported while in Richmond for a special legislative session. Under the Affordable Care Act, the federal government promises additional funding to states to expand Medicaid coverage for low-income residents, but the Supreme Court declared that states had the right to choose whether to expand their Medicaid programs.

The debate in Richmond over whether to expand Virginia's Medicaid program to an additional 400,000 low-income residents is very heated, and Krupicka points out that Medicaid is a big part of the state's budget. Legislators already had to return to Richmond for one special session in March and April to attempt to pass a budget. Krupicka says the "budget won't be done yet" when he comes to Fairlington in May. If the budget battle is not resolved by July 1, the beginning of the new fiscal year, the state government could shut down.

Outside of the Medicaid and budget debate, Krupicka has co-sponsored a bill to help underground more power lines. He sees this as an issue of importance to Fairlington given the power outages we and other Northern Virginia communities have faced in recent years due to severe storms.

Krupicka is also keeping an eye on the implementation of the 2013 transportation bill that overhauled the tax scheme that funds roads, highways, and mass transit. He wants to prevent the state from focusing on funding roads at the expense of mass transit, biking, pedestrian, and non-car focused transportation infrastructure.

Krupicka also looks forward to hearing Fairlingtonians' suggestions for the 2015 legislative session. Now is the time that he and his staff have to start researching and drafting legislation for next year.

—Michelle Woolley



Va. State Delegate Rob Krupicka.

Coming up ...

The FCA Board invites all Fairlington residents to attend its meetings, which occur on the second Wednesday of the month at the Fairlington Community Center (3308 S. Stafford St.) unless otherwise noted. If you would like to discuss a neighborhood issue at the meeting, please e-mail president@fca-fairlington.org or leave a voice-mail message at 571-403-1943 by the Sunday before the meeting.

May 14 preliminary agenda:

Special presentation: Delegate Rob Krupicka will discuss the 2014 session of the Virginia General Assembly.

Abingdon School renovation forum: Residents will receive a brief update on the Abingdon School capital improvement program and then offer their comments on the proposal.

Regular Board business:

- Approval of April minutes
- Officer reports
- Committee reports
- Unfinished business
 - Fairlington 5K
 - Fairlington Day
- New business
 - Election of new Board member
 - Abingdon capital improvement program
 - July 4th parade

Online resources:

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



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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/Environmental	
Services/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm	
Helicopter Noise Complaints	Bob Laser (FAA) bob.laser@faa.gov

Fairlington Citizens Association

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All Fairlington Bulletin

Published monthly by the FCA
Circulation: 3,449 households

Editor: Janis Johnston

Assistant Editor: Christine Chirichella

Advertising Manager: Beth Andrews

Distribution Manager: Noemi Rivera

Writers: Amy Schardt, Nicole Van Hoey,
Dan Branch, Jessica Marvin, Kate Barton,
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Abingdon expansion. Residents are encouraged to share their views on a proposal to include an expansion and renovation of Abingdon Elementary School on the school board's priority list for this year's capital improvement program. The FCA Board will provide a comment period at its May 14 meeting.

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Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As the umbrella organization for all of Fairlington, the FCA speaks for the community on policy issues that have a direct impact on Fairlington. FCA maintains strong ties with elected officials and facilitates policy discussions with our residents. We also convey to officials and their staffs formal positions on topics that have a particular impact on Fairlington.

A quick review suggests the variety of things FCA is working on.

- On May 14, we are hosting Del. Rob Krupicka, who represents Fairlington in the Virginia House of Delegates in Richmond. He will discuss this year's legislative session and respond to questions from Fairlingtonians. Although most of his district lies in Alexandria and Fairfax County, Del. Krupicka periodically checks in with Fairlington residents, and the FCA is pleased to sponsor a conversation between Del. Krupicka and Fairlingtonians.
- At our May meeting we will consider a recommendation to the Arlington School Board to make Abingdon Elementary School a priority in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) that the school board is developing for this fall's bond proposal. Faced with potential overcrowding and deteriorating infrastructure at Abingdon, concerned parents are working to ensure that improvements at Abingdon make the short list of projects to be funded by the CIP and have asked for FCA's endorsement. The FCA Board solicits your views on this proposal, and we will provide a comment period for residents at our May meeting.
- FCA representatives are discussing the Park Shirlington redevelopment proposal with county staff and expect soon to begin participating in the county's Site Plan Review Committee deliberations on the proposal. Key concerns will be traffic and parking, as well as securing potential improvements along 31st St.
- I joined the co-chairs of the Fairlington Farmers Market working group in a late March meeting with County Board members Walter Tejada and Mary Hynes to underscore the broad support the farmers market proposal enjoys, while indicating our willingness to work with the county to minimize any adverse impacts on residents who live in the immediate vicinity of the Fairlington Community Center.
- Later this year we will be inviting other key leaders to speak at our monthly meetings, such as County Manager Barbara Donnellan and School Board member Noah Simon.

Our goal is to keep local officials connected with the views of Fairlington residents and provide an effective voice for you on decisions that affect our community.

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



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FCA starts conversation on blending generations

In March, the FCA held its first community-wide meeting on blending Fairlington's generations where nearly 70 Fairlington residents came out to learn about how they might be able to grow old in the place they now call home.

The majority of those in attendance were in the 55 and older demographic; many were original owners who have lived in Fairlington for more than 40 years. "The community they bought into 30 to 40 years ago was dramatically different from now," says Guy Land, FCA President. At the time of the conversion in the 1970s, Land says, almost nobody was over 50 and there were few strollers.

According to the 2010 census, more than 20 percent of Fairlington residents are over the age of 55; however, the community also includes a large number of young families and residents in the middle age brackets. Fairlingtonians need to look at ways to manage this demographic change in the community and respond to the needs of this aging population, he said.

"This is not an FCA issue," Land says. "It's a Fairlington issue." There is an appetite by our residents for information about how to get help as they age in their homes, he says. However, Land made it clear that the FCA was not in the business of providing senior services; rather, it will help define the structure that works best for meeting the needs of Fairlington's residents.

In response, the FCA formed the Steering Committee on Intergenerational Strategies whose charge is to help work through this issue by conducting research, holding a series of community briefings and forums, and conducting online surveys. Many of those at the meeting indicated that they had already signed up to participate on the steering committee, which held its first meeting in March.

To kick off the community inquiry, the FCA invited representatives from Arlington Neighborhood Villages (ANV) to present the program they launched in April in Arlington County. ANV is one of more than 30 aging in place programs in the Washington Metropolitan area and one of approximately 120 throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Their model matches members ages 55 and older with volunteers from their local neighborhoods who provide services, such as performing light home maintenance and yard work, providing technology support, and arranging for transportation to shopping and medical appointments. ANV provides access to social programs such as walking and exercise groups, workshops, vol-



"We live in Fairlington and don't want to move" say Carol and Phillip Rosen, residents of North Fairlington. Photo by Janis Johnston.

unteering opportunities, and cultural activities. It also offers referral services to a variety of vendors and other nonprofits.

ANV is based on a hub and spoke model, with cohesive neighborhoods acting as local villages and the ANV's central office as the single source of contact for all operations. According to Carol Paquette, President of ANV, all volunteers are fully vetted and given thorough background checks. Members are served by volunteers directly from their neighborhood, "so it's neighbors helping neighbors," says Paquette.

ANV's program is just one of many aging in place options available to Fairlington, and this meeting was the first opportunity for residents to explore what kind of aging in place program would work best for this community. Questions about how Fairlington's neighborhood village would be managed and staffed and exactly what services it would offer are still larger questions to be addressed. Further investigation into this issue may include panel discussions with neighborhood villages from Capitol Hill and Mt. Vernon.

Fairlington residents can join ANV now as individual members while Fairlington decides what direction it wants to go with its aging in place program. Membership in ANV is \$500 a year. For more information about ANV and its services, visit www.arlnvil.org or email info@arlnvil.org. For more information on how to get involved with the Steering Committee on Intergenerational Strategies, email fairlingtongenerations@gmail.com.

—Janis Johnston



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Abingdon parents seek backing for constuction project

At April's FCA meeting, representatives from a coalition of concerned Abingdon parents briefed the FCA Board about the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) feasibility study option for Abingdon Elementary School, which calls for a \$30 million addition and renovation to the building.

By 2018, Abingdon Elementary School is projected to be the second most overcrowded school in Arlington County and the school's current infrastructure is in need of major repairs. Arlington Public Schools (APS) is developing its 10-year capital improvement plan to address the county's significant ongoing increase in enrollment, and over the next month the school board will begin deciding which options are priorities for the county.

Jennifer Davies and Traci Gravelle, both Abingdon parents and residents of North Fairlington, brought their campaign to the April FCA meeting seeking the Board's endorsement and support from the community. "The community is a huge stakeholder in this and the school board wants to hear from us," says Davies.

The FCA should consider how an up-to-date and renovated Abingdon, prepared to meet the capacity challenges ahead, can make Fairlington a more attractive place for young families to stay, notes Davies and Gravelle. Conversely, a school that is clearly showing signs of aging and overcrowding might make the choice to stay more difficult.



Traci Gravelle, left, and Jennifer Davies address the FCA Board at the April meeting. Photo by Guy Land.

Starting in May, APS will begin to narrow down the list of schools being considered for CIP and develop a short list of priority options. This list then goes to the school board in June for a final selection, after which the Arlington County Board

must then adopt CIP and Bond referenda language for a county-wide vote on the November ballot.

The FCA Board will hold a community forum on Abingdon's construction plans at the May 14 meeting and later will vote on a resolution calling on the Arlington School Board to include Abingdon as a priority project for this year's CIP program. The FCA wants to hear from you. Let us know how you feel about placing Abingdon high on

the list of recommended CIP projects. Attend the forum or email your comments and questions to president@fca-fairlington.org. For more information on APS' CIP process, go to www.apsva.us/moreseats.

—Janis Johnston

Developer to outline proposal for major King Street project

Representatives of Adamson Properties, the developer of the property at 4600 King St. (near the intersection of King St. and Beauregard St.) will brief the community on the development proposal at a special FCA-hosted meeting on Thursday, May 15, at 7 pm in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St.



Photo by Guy Land.

Adamson has filed a redevelopment concept with the City of Alexandria for a mixed use development that includes a hotel, apartments, a grocery store, retail shops, and office space.

At the May 15 meeting, the developer and his architect will lay out the plans for the development, which sits on the site of the old Jefferson Hospital. Staff from the Alexandria Department of Planning and Zoning are also expected to attend and discuss the process by which Alexandria will consider the application.

The project is called "The Gateway at King and Beauregard." The developer sees it as the gateway to Alexandria's West End, at the point where Arlington, Fairfax County, and the City of Alexandria come together.

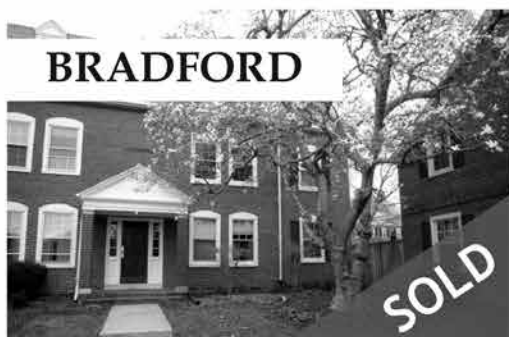
Adamson expects the project to have a strong affordable housing component. Danny Abramson, who with his brother owns Abramson Properties, chairs Alexandria's non-profit affordable housing corporation.

Danny Abramson has said that he hopes to make the site "a transit-oriented project." He expects frequent transit service to connect the development with the Shirlington transit station, Mark Center, the King Street Metro station, and the new bus rapid transit system that will run along Route 1 from Braddock Road to Pentagon City.

—Guy Land

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Fairlington Day festivities planned for May 17

If you're feeling like you just spent the last six months in hibernation, Fairlington Day is your opportunity to bask in the sun, reconnect with your neighbors, and enjoy some family-friendly activities. Come by the Fairlington Community Center (FCC) on Saturday, May 17 from 11 am to 2 pm to take part in Fairlington's version of a neighborhood block party.

Fairlington Day is a bi-annual community-wide event sponsored in part by the FCA. This year's festivities will include free hotdogs and drinks, free cotton candy, and, new this year, free Ben & Jerry's ice cream.

Family friendly activities include an inflatable moon bounce with a slide and basketball hoops, an inflatable obstacle course, and activities for kids sponsored by the 4-H.

Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) will be sponsoring a number of events that day including the following: a celebration of their 100th Anniversary; a horticulture, agriculture, natural resources open house at the VCE Horticulture Help Desk inside the FCC; tours and demonstrations in the "World Teaching Garden;" and a guided tree walk of the Fairlington grounds held at 11 am and 1 pm. In addition, the Family Consumer Science program will showcase the nutrition, financial, and energy conservation education work they are doing.

Representatives from a variety of community business and county services will be there to answer questions and provide information. You can also buy a Fairlington T-shirt, find out more about the Fairlington Farmers Market, or get more information about the local real estate market.

And don't miss the No Kid Hungry Bake Sale that benefits Share Our Strength, the nonprofit organization dedicated to eliminating childhood hunger in America.



Information tables at Fairlington Day are a great way to find out what's happening in your neighborhood and around the county. Photo by Gretchen Fallon.



Moon bounces, pictured here at Fairlington Day 2012, are always a perennial favorite with families. Photo by Gretchen Fallon.

Bring your home baked cookies wrapped for sale to their table starting at 11 am. Purchase treats, help them sell, or just come lend support. For more information on the bake sale, contact Cathy Malin at cmalin@verizon.net.

As a non-profit, non-dues collecting association, the FCA can't afford to put this party on all by itself. The FCA is grateful to the following sponsors who are helping to make this event possible: Midland Companies; Marion Cloud; Jennifir Birtwhistle; and Federal Realty Trust.

Sponsors are still needed to underwrite some of the past-years' most popular events, such as pony rides and the petting zoo, and volunteers are still needed to work the grill and chaperone the moon bounces. If you are interested in volunteering or sponsoring an event, please email fairlingtonday@fca-fairlington.org.

Get your Fairlington T-shirt at Fairlington Day

- 100% cotton
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Come by the FCA information table May 17 at the Fairlington Community Center to purchase your T-shirt. For more information, email president@fca-fairlington.org; or call the FCA at 571-403-1943 to leave your name and phone number. Visit www.fca-fairlington.org for additional details.



← **Featured Kitchen**

Island kitchen in a Dominion model; Espresso cabinets with glass tile backsplash; big pantry; extra storage facing dining room with an expanded island, plus breakfast bar!

Special Feature: the niche at right of photo; here it has a mini wine frig with glass shelves above; can also be a home office nook with room for a laptop; or floor to shelving cabinetry & shelving. A great multi-purpose space!

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Featured Bathroom ↑

This is the downstairs bath in a Clarendon model; To the right is a full size walk-in shower, and in the foreground a tall linen closet not shown in the photo. The full size vanity/sink/mirror is where the washer & dryer used to be – those migrated to the adjacent small room which became a utility and storage room.

LOTS of photos at: www.DelongHomeImprovement.com

County meeting held on Fairlington Farmers Market

Arlington County hosted the first of two meetings at the Fairlington Community Center (FCC) on April 21 to gauge the interest in and need for a farmers market in Fairlington. If you were unable to attend the meeting, you can voice your opinion about having a farmers market in Fairlington or complete the survey on Open Arlington's website at <http://www.peakdemocracy.com/p/105>. The survey and comments are open through Monday, May 5.



The county will return to the FCC on Tuesday, May 13 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm for a second community meeting to discuss major themes, share their assessment, and discuss next steps. All interested residents are invited to attend.

These community meetings are separate from the community planning activities to date. They are part of a new countywide process, managed by Arlington County, to assess the community support for a farmers market at a county-owned location and determine the impact it would have on the current use of the FCC.

After the meetings, the county will then decide if it

New FCA director sought

The FCA Board is seeking to fill a vacancy on the nine-member board. Director Bill Russell resigned last month, citing the substantial time demands of other outside commitments and his professional work.

If you want to help improve the quality of life in Fairlington, have a few hours each month to devote to this work, and would like to be part of a community leadership organization, let us hear from you.

The bylaws authorize the Board to fill vacancies that occur during the year. At the May 14 meeting, the Board will select the new director to serve until the election at the annual meeting in December.

If you are interested or would like more information, contact any FCA Board member or email president@fca-fairlington.org.

—Guy Land

wants to proceed with an open bidding and special permit review process. The county anticipates the earliest the process would be completed is this September or October, delaying the opening of the market until the spring of 2015.

If you would like to volunteer or be included in the email update list for the market, please contact the committee at fairlingtonfarmersmarket@gmail.com. The Fairlington Farmers Market committee will also participate in Fairlington Day on Saturday, May 17 at the FCC. We welcome you to stop by our table to learn more, ask questions, and participate in a fun activity!

—Lane Erwin and Melissa Beene, Co-chairs, FFM Planning Committee

Park Shirlington redevelopment application begins formal review

Arlington County's Planning Commission has announced that meetings of the Site Plan Review Committee will likely begin in May for the Park Shirlington redevelopment application. The Park Shirlington Redevelopment Advisory Committee has begun reviewing the application and will attend meetings of the Site Plan Review Committee and begin making recommendations to the FCA Executive Board.

The county has created a web page for the Park Shirlington redevelopment project which includes the application submitted by Home Properties, along with other information about the review process. Visit the site at <http://projects.arlingtonva.us/projects/park-shirlington>.

A public briefing and comment session for the Fairlington community is scheduled for Tuesday, June 24 at 7 pm at the Fairlington Villages Community Center. Details will be provided in the June *All Fairlington Bulletin* and on the FCA website. Scheduled working meetings of the advisory committee, generally monthly, are also posted on the website and are open to observers. A community survey is planned following the briefing session in June, and additional briefings may be scheduled as appropriate.

Questions and comments for the committee may be submitted to ParkShirlingtonAC@fca-fairlington.org. Check the FCA website for committee meeting notices and updates, www.fca-fairlington.org.

—Carol Bell

Fairlington 5K: A true neighborhood triumph

The 5K gods smiled down on Fairlington April 5 as the sun shone on the more than 800 runners and scores of volunteers who came out to make the Fairlington 5K a huge success. By 8 am, Abingdon Elementary School's grounds were filled with runners, walkers, children in strollers, dogs on leashes, volunteers, and members of the community cheering on the crowds.

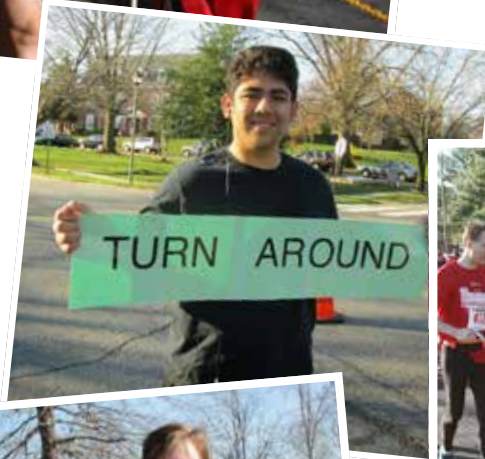
According to Joe Reed, Abingdon physical education instructor and principal race organizer, the race, which was jointly sponsored by the FCA and Abingdon Elementary, took in more than \$21,000—far exceeding his original goal. After covering race expenses, proceeds will be donated to Abingdon's literacy and athletics programs, and A Cure for Ellie, the foundation for Ellie McGinn, Abingdon kindergarten student profiled in April's *Bulletin*.

To make this event happen, Reed mobilized a team of more than 60 volunteers who came from groups around the community to handle registration tables, hand out water, hold up signs, and direct runners along the race route. See page 15 for the list of volunteer organizations that helped out with the 5K. Reed is particularly grateful to the Abingdon PTA for the part they played in the success of this event. "I want to make sure that the PTA gets some credit for this race," Reed says. "They supported this 100 percent and I think they get overlooked a lot."

As if there wasn't enough excitement that morning, two runners ended the race with a very public marriage proposal at the finish line. And, as the sign read, "She said Yes!"

—Janis Johnston





Photos by Guy Land, Janis Johnston, and Vickie Spindler. To see these photos in color, visit the FCA website, www.fca-fairlington.org.



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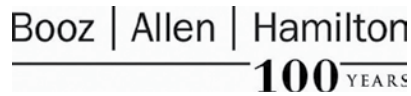
Fairlington 5K Sponsors

The FCA and Abingdon thank the following sponsors for their support of the Fairlington 5K in April.

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Hilton Garden Inn Shirlington
Guy Land, FCA President

The Pisano Family
Denise Taylor, Abingdon 1st Grade Teacher

Silver Level

All Paws On Deck
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Martha Fishbein
The Food Sherpa
Demetrios Karoutsos

Khary Stockton Programs
Massage Heights
Halcyon Mathis
Orange Line Sports
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Reunions
Keith Steury
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Bronze Level and Friends of Ellie/Abingdon Elementary

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My Thrive Pilates
One, Two, Kangaroo!
David Remick
Robcyns

Samuel Beckett's
Vickie Spindler
Jay Stapf
Unwined
Nicole Van Hoey

For more information on the Fairlington 5K, visit www.fairlington5k.com.

And many thanks go out to the more than 60 volunteers who came out the morning of the race to lend a helping hand and make this event a success. Volunteer groups include the following:

Abingdon PTA	Fairlington Citizens Association	Wakefield High School Super Fans
Abingdon staff and families	Fairlington Runners Club	Washington-Lee High School
Animal Welfare League of Arlington	Fairlington Social Club	Do-Gooders Club
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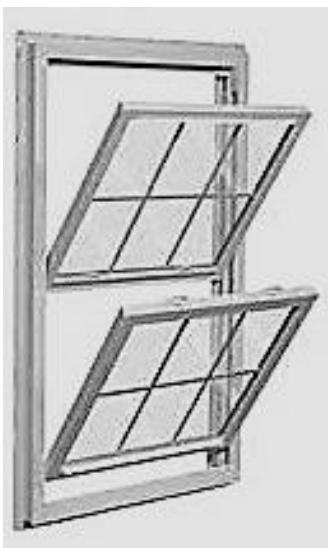
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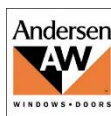
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FINS registration begins May 15



Build your child's confidence and comfort in the water while reviewing some basic water safety and stroke skills with FINS (Fairlingtonians Interested in Neighborhood Swimming). The FINS program is a regular summer fixture

in Fairlington and is a fun way for neighborhood kids to strengthen swim skills and encourage camaraderie and good sportsmanship.

FINS runs for three weeks from July 7 to 25 and consists of four 40-minute lessons Monday through Thursday and one fun group swim meet each Friday. The program rotates weekly between three different condominium association pools in South Fairlington. Lessons are meant to supplement, not replace, swimming instruction programs; lifeguard-certified instructors encourage young kids to enjoy swimming, take turns in lap lanes, and play water games safely. Important pool safety and capability concepts, like treading water, front and back floating, lap lane protocols, straight-leg kicking, and swimming with faces submerged are taught; proper stroke techniques are introduced to stronger and older swimmers.

The cost for the three-week summer session and end-of-season party is \$60 per child and is open to children five to ten years of age (rising kindergarten through graduating fifth grade). To request a registration form for the July 2014 program or to ask additional questions, email fairlingtonfins.swim@gmail.com. Registration is May 15 through May 30. If the number of registrations exceeds open slots, participants will be selected by a random lottery in June.

—Nicole Van Hoey

Air bags stolen from North Fairlington autos

In the early hours of Tuesday, April 8, nine North Fairlington vehicles were vandalized and the cars' airbags stolen. According to police reports, the thefts took place in the 3000 block of S. Columbus St. The thief or thieves were able to pop the car's hood, disable the battery, smash a side window, and remove the air bag from the steering wheel. No other property was reported missing

from the vehicles. "These guys obviously know what they're doing," says Captain Brett Butler, 3rd District Commander, Arlington County Police.

Captain Butler said it's likely that the stolen air bags will be sold on the black market to 'fly-by-night' auto repair shops. This type of crime isn't preventable, but Butler recommends residents keep their car doors locked and get a car alarm. "You can't keep someone from breaking your window," Butler says. Most of the vehicles targeted were Honda Accords, Nissans, and Acuras.

Since the beginning of the year, police have reported similar crimes in Prince William County, Fairfax County, and Alexandria. Police have no suspects in this crime at this time.

In related news, Arlington County Police continue their investigation into the string of vandalism and property destruction that occurred this fall in South Fairlington. The rocks that were thrown through the condo windows and taken as evidence came back from DNA testing with nothing on them, Butler reported. "We think we know who did it," he says, "but there's no clear evidence."

"Right now we're in a holding pattern," says Butler. The only way to confirm the suspect is to wait until another incident happens and catch him in the act.

—Janis Johnston



*Vandals broke side windows to gain entry into the vehicles.
Photo by Melissa Beene.*

Composting for home gardeners

Learn how to start composting at home, Thursday, May 22, 7 to 8:30 pm at the FCC. Sponsored by the Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE), this clinic will help you find out what to put in a compost pile, how to maintain it so the materials break down properly, and how to make good use of finished compost. Plant clinics are staffed by VCE Master Gardeners who answer general gardening questions as well as questions about pests and diseases and plant identification. To register, call 703-228-6414 or e-mail mgarlalex@gmail.com.

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Dear Fairlington Friends and Neighbors:

Many thanks to those who turned out to vote for John Vihstadt in the special election on April 8. John won by a wide margin in Arlington: 57% to Alan's 41%. He did even better in Fairlington precinct winning two to one. Turnout was relatively high as usual for Fairlington. This helps make us a community that is noticed.

I appreciate the time many of you took to learn about John when I came to your doors. It's great having John with me on the County Board. I hope that those who did not vote for John will observe him closely over the next 9 months, casting your November vote based on what you see.

Again, thank you. Libby

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Abingdon students told the story of America's founding in this rousing musical performance. Photo by Dan Branch.

Abingdon stars perform "American Dreams!"

Students with Abingdon's Musical and Drama Club performed the musical "American Dreams!" on April 3 as part of Abingdon's Project GIFT Showcase. Students did a phenomenal job blending acting, dancing, and singing without a single hitch. Within just a few months, these elementary students transformed themselves into professional singers, dancers, speakers, actors, directors, and performers. Parents and fellow classmates had a blast watching the show. Simply put, the show was a hit!

Gunston Middle School 6th grader and former Abingdon student Julia Sonn returned to help out as assistant director and drama coach. A special thanks goes to neighborhood Abingdon parent Deb Staren-Doby for her hand-made costumes and props to accommodate all 75 student performers.

The after-school Musical and Drama Club at Abingdon Elementary is open to students grades 3 to 5 and is an excellent opportunity for children to study drama, music, and dance. The club meets twice a week from November to April and is under the direction of Abingdon's communication's teacher, Kerry Abbott. The club offers students the opportunity to build confidence in their own acting ability, take risks, and bring out the best in each other in a safe and fun environment.

Bike and Walk to School Day is here

Abingdon's Bike and Walk to School Day is Wednesday, May 7. Why walk or bike to school? It's fun, it's healthy, and it's great for the environment! For more information, visit the official website at www.walkbiketoschool.org. All participants will receive a pencil, a sticker, fresh air, sunshine, and an invigo-

rating start to their day. Bikes can be left at school during the day—either outside with a lock or inside the front hallway.

This is a special day for neighborhood Abingdon families because it celebrates one of the most authentic aspects of living in Fairlington and having our little ones attend Abingdon Elementary. We hope to see you for Abingdon's Bike and Walk to School Day!

Special education teachers receive mini-grants

Two Abingdon Special Education teachers were among 11 Arlington Public School educators who recently received mini-grants from the Arlington County Special Education PTA (SEPTA). Pre-K Special Education teacher Bianca Collins received a mini-grant for Signing Time sign language DVDs and lesson plans. Carolyn Warren, who teaches a Multi-Intervention Program for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (MIP-A), received a mini-grant to take her class on a field trip to Pump It Up, an indoor play space with giant inflatable play structures.

The field trip was a great sensory experience for children who have autism, said Abingdon parent and SEPTA liaison Krista Singleton-Cambridge. It was fun to see them move their bodies and engage their minds in a different way.

For more information on Arlington SEPTA, visit www.arlingtonsepta.org.

—Dan Branch

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neighborhood news

Book group

Join the Fairlington Book Group in May to discuss *Orphan Train*, a novel by Christina Baker Kline.

Between 1854 and 1929, about 250,000 orphaned, abandoned, and homeless children in New York and other east coast cities were sent on “orphan trains” to adoptive families in other parts of the country. Kline tells the story of one of these orphans, Vivian, a young Irish immigrant taken to a new life in Depression-era Minnesota.

The Book Group will meet on Tuesday, May 27, at 7:30 pm in room 104 of the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St., in South Fairlington. We hope you'll join us there.

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 for details.

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 April, we had a delightful evening around a window table at Clyde's at Mark Center, enjoying the late daylight while catching up on all that happened over the long winter.

Here's what's planned for May:

Wednesday, May 7, 6:30 pm, Peking Gourmet Inn, 6029 Leesburg Pike (Culmore Shopping Center), Falls Church, 703-671-8088, www.pekinggourmet.com. This is a local favorite nearby, with easy parking. Join us for some of the best Chinese food in Northern Virginia.

Thursday, May 22, 6:30 pm, Lost Dog Cafe, 2920 Columbia Pike, Arlington, 703-553-7770, www.lostdogcafe.com. As an alternate to our usual burger night, let's try this popular local eatery. An amazing array of sand-

wiches and other dishes is available; each can be customized. Free parking under the building after 6 pm.

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

Fairlington Babysitting Co-op

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

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

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

MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington

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

Parents and parents-to-be are welcome to join us for our next general meeting on Wednesday, May 14, at 4:30 pm in the Fairlington Community Center. Children are always welcome. For more information about the club, the meeting, or membership, contact our Membership VP at fairlightonmomsclub@gmail.com or visit www.fairlingtonmomsclub.com. Annual dues of \$25 support our club activities and charitable projects.



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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



Flowering trees decorate Fairlington in the spring

I've lived in Northern Virginia for 50 years and never have attended the National Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, DC.

Having lived and worked in Fairlington since 1974, I've seen no reason to venture downtown since so many cherry trees bloom in our neighborhood. Below, I talk about the cherry and other colorful flowers in spring.

Cherry – It's the second tree to bloom (serviceberry being the first). The flower petals can be whitish, light pink, or flushed pink, and blooms can be singular or double. The bark has lenticels (or pores) on the main trunk in concentric circles around the trunk. Two 'Yoshino' Cherry trees (12 feet tall with a 20-foot spread) frame the entrance at 4504 S. 36th St. My favorite place to see these is on the median strip of S. 33rd St. just off Quaker Ln.

Serviceberry – Whitish-pink petals show in mid-March on this delicate tree (up to 18 feet tall with a 10-foot spread). The purple berries in the fall attract birds as well as pie makers. As I've written here before, the tree is so named since funeral burials proceed up north when this tree blooms, signaling spring and a thawing of the ground. You will find a few of these past the playground at the Fairlington Community Center.

Crab Apple – It is fatter than the cherry and somewhat shorter in height. Its blooms are a mix of red and white, giving the flower pet-

als a dark pink color from afar. The bark on this tree is knobby and plate-like. Sometimes, it can be a bit contorted in shape. The crab follows the bloom of the cherry. From S. Abingdon St., turn right (to descend the hill toward the 7-11) and look to the left. A few crab apple trees are planted on this grassy slope.

Bradford Pear – Vivid white flowers appear in mid-March (usually) on a tree habit narrow and vertical. They reach 25 feet tall and have tight crotches (branching off the main trunk), making them susceptible to damage from heavy winds. The bark on the pear is black, providing a contrast to its white flowers in spring. Come fall, look for its scarlet leaves and buff-colored fruit hanging from two-inch stems.

Redbud – Neon pinkish-purple flowers are stemless and seem to 'stick' to the branches like illuminated beads. This tree is squat-like, reaching just 10 to 12-feet tall with double the spread. The first court on the left of S. Utah St. (coming from S. 34th St.) is filled with them. Its dark beige fruit pods (three inches long) dangle from the branches in autumn.

Saucer Magnolia – It's also called the 'tulip tree' since the blooms sit upright on grayish branches like a giant tulip. The base is a dark mauve with veinage upward on the ivory, cup-like petals. As it opens, each flower flattens (thus the saucer reference). Oftentimes, this tree's flowers bloom the first few days of March



Star magnolia on 35th St. Photo by Guy Land.

but turn brown when cold weather reappears. This spring, its flowers opened the last week of March since the entire month was cold and snowy. There are two dwarfs on S. Woodrow St. (to the right as you enter the dead-end circle).

Star Magnolia – Pure white flowers open about a week later than the saucer magnolia. The flower has 'daisy-like' florets that resemble a starburst. Each petal is like your pinky finger. On S. Wakefield St. (coming from S. 36th St., look to the right in the second court—the deep one—and you will see a pair). There is another at the corner of S. Stafford St. and S. 33rd St. near the stone bench.

—Bill Sullivan
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Guided nature walk planned for North Fairlington

Following the very successful nature walk in Fairlington Villages this fall, Master Naturalists and Master Gardeners will offer a spring walk on May 10 from 10 to 11:30 am, meeting in front of the Fairlington Villages Management Office at 3001 S. Abingdon St. The FCA-sponsored walk is open to both North and South Fairlington residents.

The walk will offer participants the opportunity to learn more about flora and fauna throughout the property and the steps being taken to more fully integrate best practices for a sustainable environment. All are welcomed for all or any part of the walk. Wear comfortable clothes that are weather appropriate. The walk will not be strenuous.

In other nature news, Fairlington Villages has applied to the Audubon At Home program in an effort to be certified as a wildlife sanctuary. Representatives from the Audubon At Home program toured the property in late April with members of the Master Naturalists and Master Gardeners group, and the condo association should be notified about entrance into the program by mid-May.

To be certified, a property has to demonstrate that at least 10 species of birds, butterflies, and other beneficial wildlife are present and that the property is a supportive environment for them. The May nature walk will include attention to some of the habitat already preserved for this purpose, including the establishment of several rain gardens, integrating more native plants among the renovational plantings, removal of invasive plants, and maintenance of dead trees that do not present a safety hazard so that they can serve as additional wildlife habitat.

—Anne Wilson

Call for volunteer gardeners

If you are looking for an opportunity to dig in the dirt and pull some weeds, look no further than the Abingdon Elementary School Garden. “We need a volunteer army, especially in the summer,” says Mathew Tosiello, Abingdon’s new science teacher.

The biggest problem the garden has, he notes, is the weeds. Tosiello is looking for input from the com-

munity for ways to get rid of the weed problem without using pesticides. While the long winter has set back any firm plans for the garden this spring, he needs help to get the soil ready and to manage the weeds for future plantings.

Tosiello recently inherited the garden from Anne Sywilok, who retired last year after 31 years as Abingdon’s Queen of Science. Tosiello started a school garden at Randolph Elementary School, where he last taught, and is an avid backyard gardener at his own home in Fairlington.

One of his goals with this garden is to forge new ties with the community and to engage the community in more year-round maintenance. For more information about volunteering, email matthew.tosiello@apsva.us or call 703-228-6650.

—Janis Johnston



Matthew Tosiello at the Abingdon garden. Photo by Janis Johnston.

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Local invasive plant removal project wins support

A five-year project to remove invasive plants and restore native vegetation along Four Mile Run and Lucky Run won a strong endorsement from community leaders in April. The project is part of the updated Fairlington-Shirlington Neighborhood Conservation Plan, which the Arlington County Board approved last spring.

The money would come from bond issue funds that are dedicated to conservation plan activities. Estimated total cost for the multi-year project is \$359,000.

The project includes the removal of invasive plants along the section of Lucky Run on the west side of Walter Reed Dr. from Wakefield St. to Arlington Mill Dr., and along the Four Mile Run stream from west of Walter Reed to Shirlington Rd. Landscaping, screening trees and shrubs, and informational signage will be installed once the removal has been completed.

FCA hosted a presentation on the proposal at its April meeting, which included representatives of Windgate I, Nauck, Shirlington Village Condominiums, and the North Fairlington Grounds Committee, as well as all FCA Board members.

The proposal will go before the county's Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee (NCAC) in June and then to the County Board. Work would begin in the fall.

FCA Treasurer Ed Hilz is Fairlington's representative to the NCAC. Edie Wilson of Shirlington Village Condominiums is the alternate.

—Guy Land



Invasive English Ivy. Photo courtesy Arlington County.

Letters to the Editor

As a 12-year resident of Fairlington, and the parent of one current and one future Abingdon Elementary School student, I would like to voice my support for the Arlington Public Schools (APS) feasibility study for Abingdon, under the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). The study calls for much needed renovations and additions to the building.

When my husband and I moved to Fairlington in 2002, Abingdon's reputation led me to believe that if we eventually had children, we'd be choosing an alternate elementary school for them. This, despite living essentially next door to the school on Woodrow St. But we were thrilled to be witnesses to the amazing transformation Abingdon has made since that time.

However, by 2018, Abingdon is projected to be the second most overcrowded elementary school in the county. On the plus side, the school's popularity is soaring! Parents in the neighborhood are favoring Abingdon over other choice school options at an unprecedentedly high rate. On the negative side, we expect to grow by over 50 students next year and have six kindergarten classes.

Compounding our inevitable capacity challenges is the existing and long-overdue need for improvements to the building. Over the past couple of years, Abingdon's aging infrastructure has resulted in several class and

program disruptions. It has been reassuring during the last few months to hear both APS Board members and facilities/maintenance staff acknowledge that Abingdon is overdue to have its need for improvements met.

Whether or not you have children at this school, it is an issue that affects our entire community. We cannot discount the fact that a highly-desired local elementary school within close proximity to your home is a very positive thing with regard to the future value of your home. In short: we all benefit!

The FCA Board can help Abingdon flourish by supporting the CIP feasibility study option for Abingdon Elementary, which calls for renovations and additions to meet projected capacity growth, and to address aging infrastructure.

Diana Funk

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

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A color version of this newsletter is available online at www.fca-fairlington.org.

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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

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MINI-AD FORM

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

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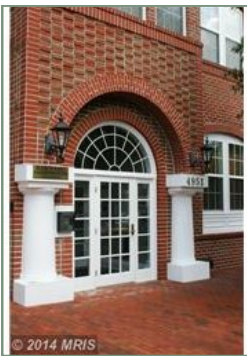


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Arl/Fairlington-Updated 1BR w/ HDWDs & attic storage in great location. \$285,000 Call Juliet Flory



Arl/Fairlington—Updated 2BR/2BA end Clarendon TH. Granite c-tops, SS appliances, HDWDs, Newer heat pump, & huge floored attic. \$449,900 Call Rob Allen



Alex/Old Town Greens-Spacious & sunny 2BR/2BA w/garage & new HVAC. \$485,000 Call Kristin Usaitis



Alex/Kenwood Towers-Renovated 3BR \$425,000 Call Joanne Ritchick

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