

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

MAY 2016

Volume 42, Number 5

Opening Day May 1 for Fairlington Farmers Market

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The countdown to opening day for the Fairlington Farmers Market has begun! Please join us on Sunday, May 1, as we kick off the 2016 season with a terrific mix of fresh produce, meats, fresh eggs, flowers, baked goods, honey, jams, and coffee.

We are excited to welcome many returning vendors back this year, along with some great new ones—which means you have even more options to buy delicious and nutritious food from local farmers and producers right in your neighborhood! And, in response to your feedback, we have added vendors to provide more food options for feasting on site.

Now you can have your pick from Bonaparte Bakery and Margaret's Soul Food Café in addition to Atwater's, Café Los Suenos Coffee, Kiwi Kuisine, Mama's Bites, as well as fresh fruit from Kuhn Orchards, Pleitez Produce, and Spring Valley Farm and Orchard.

The market is open every Sunday, rain or shine, from May 1 through November 20, 9 am to 1 pm, at the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St.

What You'll Find at the Market

To help you plan your shopping list, here's a quick look at who you will find at the market and a link to each vendor's website.

ACME Pies (NEW): An Arlington wholesale bakery producing handmade pies from crust to fillings, using local ingredients. acmepieco.com.

Atwater's Bakery: A Catonsville-based baker of naturally leavened breads and other traditional foods. atwaters.biz.

Bonaparte Bread (NEW): A French-style bakery specializing in artisan breads, croissants, pastries, quiches, and savory tarts. bonapartebread.com.



Fresh vegetables can be had by the bushel when the Fairlington Farmers Market opens its second season on Sunday, May 1. Photo by Guy Land.

Continued on page 29

Coming up ...

The FCA Board invites all Fairlington residents to attend its meetings, which occur on the second Wednesday of the month at the Fairlington Community Center (3308 S. Stafford St.) unless otherwise noted. Before the beginning of each monthly Executive Board meeting, FCA members may address the board on matters affecting the community, limited to three minutes per member.

FCA monthly meeting May 11

Special presentation: A demonstration on composting in Fairlington.

Regular board business:

- Approval of April minutes
- Office reports
- Committee reports
- Unfinished business
- New business

Online resources:

Find more information on the FCA website, 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 website the week before hard copies hit doorsteps.

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

Sign up for updates

Visit www.fca-fairlington.org to sign up for neighborhood news delivered right to your inbox.

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Dominion (power outages)	888-667-3000
Fairlington Community Center	703-228-6588
Metrobus Complaints	703-228-7929
Miss Utility	811
Pothole Patrol Hotline	703-228-6485
Shirlington Library	703-228-6545
Street Light Hotline	703-228-6511
www.arlingtonva.us/departments/Environmental Services/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm	
Helicopter Noise Complaints	Mike Lucier (VA 8th Dist.) 202-225-4376

Fairlington Citizens Association

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All Fairlington Bulletin

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

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E-mail editorial announcements to:

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

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Fairlington is a National Register and Virginia Landmark Historic District

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Calendar

Fairlington Diners

Tuesday, May 10, 6:30 pm
Idlywood Grill
2190 Pimmit Dr., Falls Church

FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, May 11, 7 pm
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Spring Stroll

Saturday, May 14, 10 am
S.T.E.M Preschool
3120 S. Abingdon St.

Fairlington Diners

Monday, May 23, 6:30 pm
Beckett's
2800 S. Randolph St., Arlington

Book Club

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

Memorial Day

Monday, May 30

Track stars



Dad and son take a lap around the track in Fairlington Park, the area just behind the Fairlington Community Center. Arlington County is in the process of evaluating possible improvements and changes to the park. Photo by Guy Land.

Contributors this month: Lynne Blasi, Bob Bradley, Rebecca Carpenter, Christine Chirichella, Jennifer Davies, Guy Land, Doug Matties, Christen Snow, Bill Sullivan, Anne Wilson

Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Over the next five years, Fairlington will see important changes to the main highways and streets that serve our community.

The most prominent will be the addition of a third express lane on I-395 and the conversion of the HOV lanes to High Occupancy Toll (HOT). Unlike the proposal several years ago, the current plan does not call for major changes affecting the Shirlington Circle. The new lane will be added within the existing express-lane footprint. The HOT lanes will be toll at all times.

This project is on a relatively fast timeline. Environmental engineering studies (primarily pollution and noise congestion) will be conducted this summer, with preliminary findings available for comment this fall. VDOT hopes to negotiate the financial package with the private contractor who will build and operate the road by January. Construction is slated to begin next spring, with HOT lanes opening in summer 2019. Most of the construction will be done at night.

While VDOT is focusing on Shirley Highway, the City of Alexandria will be slating projects along King St. The largest of these will see improvements at the intersection of King St., Beauregard St., and Walter Reed Drive. The work will be a major overhaul of the intersection, with an additional turn lane in both directions on King, a new median on King going east from the intersection, and improved sidewalks and crosswalks.

Initial work is scheduled to begin this spring, to be followed later this year by utility relocation, and then the full-scale reconstruction of the intersection.

Alexandria is also planning to resurface the portion of King St. between Janneys Lane and Radford St. (just east of Quaker Lane) this summer. As part of that project, the street is being evaluated for multimodal improvements, making it a "complete streets" project. In April the city hosted its third public meeting to get community feedback about this corridor and begin refining the proposed design.

Finally, the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission is considering a bus rapid transit system from Mark Center in Alexandria to Tyson's Corner. Most of the route would run along King St. This is still in the early stages of planning, but later on it could yield an important transit option for people wanting to avoid the traffic going to Tysons.

So prepare to see lots of construction cones on your way in and out of Fairlington in the coming years.

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

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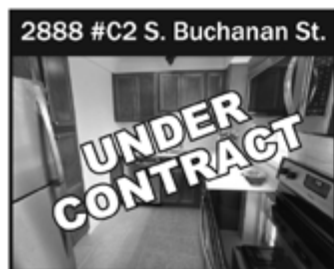
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May 11 FCA meeting: Exploring composting/food waste recycling options for Fairlington

According to the USDA, food waste comprises 30 to 40 percent of all landfill space in the United States. Arlington County reports a slightly better percentage: Approximately 27 percent of landfill waste is food waste. Ultimately, that means that approximately one-third of all the trash collected and delivered to landfills could be diverted for positive, environmental, and community-friendly purposes. This is the reality that has motivated the Fairlington Compost/FWR (food waste recycling) Working Group over the past nine months to research and explore this issue.

On Wednesday, May 11, at the FCA monthly meeting, members of the working group will present the results of that research, providing recommendations and suggestions to find sustainable ways to bring composting to the Fairlington community on a larger scale. Thus far, more than 15 vendor options have been explored, with a variety of cost implications. Ultimately, the working group has identified four possible options for bringing composting and food waste recycling to Fairlington:

1. Backyard composting for Fairlington residents
2. County sponsored drop-off locations for food waste recycling and/or composting
3. A centrally identified drop-off location for each association and/or court within Fairlington
4. Residential door-to-door FWR service.



What a compost bin can do.

Each of the above options has challenges and benefits specific to that option. As with any community initiative, the purpose of the group's research and information gathering process recognizes that Fairlington is a community of seven associations, each with a separate budget and different priorities annually. The group is hopeful that in sharing the results of this work on a broader level, residents will be empowered and motivated to pursue a community composting initiative that fits within the unique framework, resources, and constraints of their home and community association.

Some common questions/concerns about composting include: Does it smell? Doesn't it attract rodents/vermin? What's the difference between food decomposing in a landfill or decomposing in your backyard—isn't it the same process? Isn't it expensive and complicated? Don't you need to have your own land to compost? Why bother—landfills are out of sight and out of mind! What's in it for me and my family?

These questions and many others will be answered at the FCA meeting on Wednesday, May 11. Please come out to learn more and consider volunteering your time to this initiative! We look forward to seeing you then!

—Christen Snow

Composting: A neighborly invitation to get involved

About six months ago, Christen Snow, a fellow Fairlington resident, wrote an article for the *All Fairlington Bulletin* that laid out what composting is all about and explained the creation of a volunteer working group to investigate options for composting in Fairlington. Being involved in the working group, I wanted to give my personal perspective on composting and why I hope we can bring it to Fairlington.

My first exposure to composting was just a couple of years ago when my sister moved into a new home in Washington, D.C., and immediately signed up for composting for her home. I was a bit puzzled at her insistence as she had so many other pressing details in

setting up her new home. She simply asked me, "Why throw food scraps and spoiled food into the trash when they can be turned into something useful?"

She was thinking about making an immediate impact on her footprint, having previously lived in a one-bedroom condo with no garden. Granted, she lives in a single family home with ample space for gardening, but it got me to thinking about what I could do to send less trash to the landfill and get something back in return. Now I'm no green thumb. In fact, the plants on my back patio are about as low maintenance as

Continued on page 19



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Verizon FiOS in Fairlington closer to reality

More Fairlington condo associations are getting on board with the plan to have Verizon FiOS high-speed fiber optic technology installed throughout the neighborhood.

Fairlington Arbor and Mews had already agreed to Verizon's Premise Access License agreement (PAL), which initiated an engineering survey of the properties. In early April, Fairlington Villages' board of directors agreed to sign the PAL, and said it would soon schedule the survey.

Each association must come to its own agreement with Verizon.

Verizon reviewed and does not see a positive benefit-cost for including the 240 units in the Alexandria portion of Fairlington Villages in the deployment. (The Villages and Verizon are working this separately.)

The Mews and Arbor have had several meetings with Verizon's technical staff to explore how FiOS can be installed in those associations.

The Commons has been negotiating the PAL with Verizon. Commons President Bernie Weaver said the Commons was down to one objectionable paragraph to be resolved. The Commons went back to Verizon with its attorney's suggested language to resolve that issue. Assuming Verizon accepts that language, Weaver said hopefully the Commons can approve the PAL at its next board meeting on April 19.

The original PAL assumes that the association owns both the currently installed telecommunications infrastructure and electrical power. Not so, Weaver said, as the items are owned by the individual subscribing co-owners, not the association. The Commons, he said, finds it difficult to agree to allow Verizon to connect to or otherwise use resources that they do not own or control.

The Glen had its monthly board meeting on Tuesday, April 12, and the PAL was to be discussed then, while Fairlington Court is moving ahead with further talks with Verizon.

The Mews met with FiOS engineers three times in one week. The association agreed on a plan for installation for



Fairlington Villages President Terry Placek, Arbor Vice President Bill Gillespie, and Lee Henry of the Glen at the March 22 meeting. Photo by Guy Land.

the different unit types and is now waiting for Verizon to show them a design to approve before they move forward.

Fairlington Citizens Association board member Kent Duffy organized a meeting on March 22 with the association representatives and Verizon. "My overall sense is that the meeting answered a lot of the various questions that we all had about FiOS deployment," Duffy said. "And there was a greater sense of comfort in signing the PALs and at least exploring design options."

Among the highlights of the March 22 meeting was discussion of the actual deployment of the technology. To aid the discussion, Verizon brought one of their technical people, as well as example equipment, conduits, and more.

The internet fiber optics will come out of Verizon's main hub near the Taco Bell on Route 7. The main line will come down Route 7 and then branch into Fairlington, using existing easements, and the existing copper wiring and pedestals would remain in place/use for the foreseeable future. A combination of outside hubs/pedestals and level-with-ground equipment (one per eight units) would distribute the network.

A red brick colored conduit to hide the wire running on the outside of the buildings was shown at the meeting, and the group seemed to agree it would blend well with the Fairlington brick color. The conduit would normally be set up to deliver a line to the living room of each unit.

During construction, the main actions are to deploy the fiber core along existing easements and establish conduits for each unit. This is the intent of the agreement with Arlington County. Installation inside the individual unit is only done once a resident orders the service.

Verizon said it has opted to give the deployment to one contractor, rather than multiple, in the interest of consistency within Fairlington.

There could be an option for a mock-up building to be done in Fairlington so everyone can see what the final deployment looks like with the conduits and hubs.

—Bob Bradley

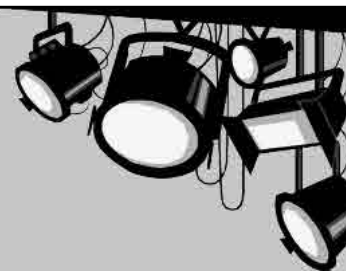


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County board's Dorsey meets with the FCA

Arlington County Board member Christian Dorsey provided an update on several issues in front of the board, making his comments at the monthly meeting of the Fairlington Citizens Association on April 13.

Dorsey, who was elected to the board in November 2015, touched on subjects such as taxes, as well as several projects which will likely affect Fairlington, such as the Abingdon Elementary School addition and the I-395 HOT Lanes proposal.

On the subject of Abingdon, Dorsey heard from residents concerned about the loss of trees on the property and what can be done to mitigate potential storm water runoff. Dorsey said he and Arlington Public Schools takes those concerns seriously.

"The county has no interest in seeing people's homes destroyed by something the county is doing," he said. "You have to trust that the county has your best interests at heart. Our first duty is to make sure that promises made are promises kept."



Arlington County Board member Christian Dorsey addresses the monthly meeting of the Fairlington Citizens Association on April 13. Photo by Bob Bradley.



Christian Dorsey poses alongside FCA President Guy Land, Villages President Terry Placek, and FCA Vice President Jonathan Ansley. Photo by Bob Bradley.

all," he said. "I'm a realist and I realize where the authority lies and that's with the governor."

But he also expressed assurance that the county would be heavily involved in the process of the 395 project, making sure all procedures, such as public hearings, are followed.

Dorsey also talked briefly about the county's budget, and the fact that tax rates will not be going up for county residents this year. He also

indicated that projects such as complete streets and street trees are funded, but at the moment, understaffed.

—Bob Bradley

FCA board vacancy creates service opportunity


Looking for a way to become more engaged in the life of our community? Have some ideas about how to enhance the value of living in Fairlington? Then consider joining the FCA board.

Board member Vernola Schlegel resigned in April, creating a vacancy on the nine-member body. Under the by-laws, the board fills any vacancies that occur prior to December's annual meeting. The person appointed to fill the vacancy will serve until that meeting.

While board service includes routine things like attendance at monthly meetings, the real fun comes in helping the group create, plan, and execute activities that will enrich life in Fairlington. Some good examples include the highly successful home remodeling showcase in March, last month's 5K run/walk, and the Fairlington Farmers Market. All of these were initiated by FCA board members, aided by a group of dedicated volunteers.

Think about this opportunity to help promote your community. If you are interested or have questions, contact any board member or shoot an email to president@fca-fairlington.org.

—Guy Land



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Abingdon Elementary construction briefing to occur in May

With visible changes on the Abingdon Elementary School property indicating that actual construction on the expansion project is not far away, Arlington Public Schools (APS) staff plan to brief the Fairlington community on the work in late May. Tentative dates are May 19 or May 26 at Abingdon School. Check the FCA website for updates.

In late March, the first of up to 18 portable classrooms (“relocatables”) arrived onsite, with the remainder to be installed by the end of the school year in June. Utility work for the relocatables will likely start later this month.

Relocatables, temporary parking, and contractor trailers will occupy much of the playing field, though APS hopes to keep a portion of the field available for public use.

Preparing the site for the construction work required the removal of a number of trees, including the row of trees along S. 29th St. and those separating the current parking lot from the playing field. Once the new parking lots are built, a new row of “community” trees will be planted between the main parking lot and the playing field, as well as between the playing field and the new parking lot along S. 29th St.

Additional trees were removed on the northwestern side of the property to facilitate the construction of the new gymnasium. According to APS, all tree removal has been completed, subject to final discussions with the county’s urban forester.

APS plans call for the removal of 146 trees, 18 of which were dead, with 147 replacement trees to be planted, yielding no net loss of trees on the property.

The stumps that currently remain near the playing field will be removed once the general contractor begins work in July. A number of the stumps on the northwestern side of the site will remain after construction, allowing for their natural decay. Some tree protection fencing is likely to go up near the relocatables to protect the trees during construction.

As part of the pre-construction work, APS agreed to



Workers for J.L. Tree, the county's contractor, remove pine trees at the edge of the Abingdon playing field in preparation for construction work. Photo by Guy Land.

monitor roughly 80 residences in Fairlington Villages and Courtbridge I and II in order to determine whether the construction work results in any adverse impacts to the building foundations. The pre-construction monitoring is scheduled to be completed by May 15.

Construction bids for the Abingdon project were due to APS by April 25, with school board approval of the construction contract expected in early May. Construction work is slated to begin on July 1.

—Guy Land

395 HOT lanes could have noise barriers

Some Fairlington residents may be able to vote on whether the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) should install noise barriers (sound walls) in the Fairlington area as part of the 395 HOT lanes project.

According to Amanda Baxter, VDOT Special Projects Development Manager, residents who live within 500 feet of the VDOT right of way along Shirley Highway and who are “impacted and benefitted” by potential sounds walls would vote on whether they want those barriers installed for noise abatement.

Baxter briefed Fairlington residents on March 14 and participated in a larger presentation to the public on April 11.

This summer, VDOT will conduct an engineering study to determine whether the noise associated with the 395 HOT lanes is sufficient to justify sound barriers. Baxter noted that studies along 395 in 2008 indicated noise levels that were already sufficient to justify the installation of sound barriers for noise mitigation, and she implied that this summer’s study will likely find that noise barriers are “reasonable and feasible” along portions of 395.

Baxter explained that the purpose of the study and barriers is to help ensure that “you don’t have to yell in your back yard.”

Continued on page 29

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Complete Streets includes King St. project

For the past several months, Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, among other municipalities throughout the Commonwealth, have been discussing the implementation of a Complete Streets program.

Complete Streets is designed and operated to enable safe access for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities. Complete Streets make it easy to cross the street, walk to shops, and bicycle to work. They allow buses to run on time and make it safe for people to walk to and from train stations.

Concerning Fairlington is the portion of King St. between Janneys Lane and Radford St. in Alexandria, which is scheduled to be resurfaced this summer. As part of the project, the street is being evaluated for multimodal improvements. The city has hosted two public meetings to solicit feedback from the community about this corridor, the most recent on April 21 at TC Williams High School.

The city asked for input on the roadway to get a better understanding of what types of improvements the community would like to see. These include concerns about pedestrian safety and adequate time to cross at the lights, high vehicle speeds, and lack of safety for bicyclists.

The main goals of the project are to improve the safety and convenience for all street users, provide facilities for people who walk, bike, ride-transit, or drive cars, and to

implement City Council adopted plans and policies.

Officials state that there is no singular design prescription for Complete Streets; each one is unique and responds to its community context. A complete street may include sidewalks, bike lanes (or wide paved shoulders), special bus lanes, comfortable and accessible public transportation stops, frequent and safe crossing opportunities, median islands, accessible pedestrian signals, curb extensions, narrower travel lanes, roundabouts, and more.

Incomplete streets—those designed with only cars in mind—limit transportation choices by making walking, bicycling, and taking public transportation inconvenient, unattractive, and, too often, dangerous, officials say.

Changing policy to routinely include the needs of people on foot, public transportation, and bicycles would make walking, riding bikes, riding buses and trains safer and easier. People of all ages and abilities would have more options when traveling to work, to school, to the grocery store, and to visit family.

—Bob Bradley

Quaker Lane speed limit reduced to 25 mph

The speed limit on Quaker Ln. between Duke St. and Braddock Rd. has been reduced from 35 mph to 25 mph, effective March 25.

As recommended by the Alexandria Traffic and Parking Board in February, City Manager Mark Jinks approved the change.

The change was initiated after neighbors raised concerns about pedestrian and vehicular safety. The city conducted a study and concluded vehicles on both Seminary Rd. and N. Quaker Ln. routinely travel in excess of 45 mph and each street has experienced more than 60 crashes over a five-year period. More than 250 residents signed a petition in support of the speed limit changes. Staff will perform a follow-up study this fall to evaluate compliance and the impact the reduction has made.

The speed limit change will be accompanied by increased enforcement. Variable message boards alerting drivers of the change have been placed on both Seminary Rd. and Quaker Ln. Speed indicator signs will also be installed along these corridors this spring.

—Bob Bradley

County civic federation gala



FCA members participated in the 100th anniversary banquet of the Arlington County Civic Federation, the umbrella organization for the civic associations in Arlington. From left, Adrian Hilz, FCA Treasurer Ed Hilz, FCA Secretary Lindsay Willmann, Matt Willman, FCA President Guy Land, FCA Vice President Jonathan Ansley, Heather Ansley. Photo by Peter Olivere.

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Letter to the Editor

We knew this day was coming, but I was literally brought to tears as I watched trees at Abingdon School come down the morning of March 26. Listening to the buzz saws and watching the trees become totem poles; branchless and denuded when just yesterday they were bursting forth with new life as spring came.

I attended several of the meetings with the Arlington County School Board and the Planning Commission. I always asked about the trees. I was told that only dead trees would be removed, along with other trees that posed a "safety issue" to students. How many students at Abingdon School were ever injured or hurt by a wayward branch from a tree on school grounds?

Trees that have been part of the hillside adjacent to the school that have been there for 40 or 50 or 60 years or more are gone. Trees that I saw yesterday from my kitchen window that spread their branches over Fairlington's rooftops aren't there anymore. This was an opportunity for the county and the school board to show how green Arlington really is, but it was lost to "progress."

I attended a listening session at Abingdon School for the Court Bridge residents. Many there were shocked by the recent tree removal. The number of trees that were "saved" from the original proposal was six. I asked if more trees would be removed and through a very non-committal answer from the rep there, it looks like the trees that border the walkway from South Abingdon St. to the school are next.

Several of those trees are quite mature and provide a leafy canopy over the walk that is slated to be expanded by six feet to accommodate the extra 136 students that may or may not need to walk there to get to school. If there was already some kind of overcrowding I could kind of maybe sort of understand some kind of expansion. But I see this as a waste of money and trees. I expect I will spend the next several months making sure Fairlington residents, and the residents who live adjacent to the walk way and trees are fully aware these are next to go. I think we can change that. Or at least provide a compromise.

I'm all for improved schools and education for our kids, but I really wish someone could explain the trees to me. I don't get how spending thousands of dollars to remove trees (the original count was over 150) helps anyone learn anything or makes for a better school or a better community. Please Fairlington residents, don't let them take away any more of your trees.

Sincerely,
Barbara Berti

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. AFB reserves the right to edit for length or clarity, and AFB may decline to print letters deemed inappropriate for a community newsletter.

Fairlington Spring Stroll on May 14

Put on your comfy walking shoes and join us on Saturday, May 14, from 10 to 11:30 am as we explore our "urban forest" and learn more about why it is so important.

We will meet in the S.T.E.M. preschool parking lot next to the Fairlington Fire Station on S. Abingdon St. and walk across the bridge to the Fairlington Community Center (FCC) grounds on S. Stafford St.

Along the way we will take a look at some examples of water conservation, native plants, trees, and shrubs that enhance our environmental sustainability, and highlight some of the features that contributed to Fairlington Villages obtaining certification as an Audubon Wildlife Sanctuary.

On the FCC grounds we will also share some of the landscaping changes the county is planning in the near future. Last month Fairlington residents were invited to participate in an online survey to help shape the improvements to the Fairlington Park.

Potential improvements include expansion of the current stormwater retention area and creation of additional landscape and stormwater management enhancements at the other end of the park.

The walk will be led by Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists. Adults and children are welcomed.

—Anne Wilson



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Fairlington Resident

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— Rick Micker, Former Fairlington Condo VP

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— Denice McCullough, Fairlington Resident

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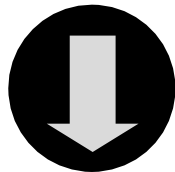
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LOCATION

We're on the back patio of the Fairlington Community Center located at 3308 S. Stafford Street, Arlington, VA.



PETS

Only certified service animals are allowed at the market; pets must be secured outside the market perimeter.

The Fairlington Farmer

What to do now for a summer full of veggies

In the last Fairlington Farmer, we talked about post-winter veggie garden preparation. Now we're ready to plant! Follow these simple tips and you'll have a bountiful harvest all summer:

1. **WHEN:** Plants are seasonal—early-season (e.g., spinach, peas), main-season (e.g., tomatoes, peppers), and late-season (e.g., pumpkins, yams)—so a few simple tools help us know when to plant during the season: Mother Earth News' Garden Planner lists planting and harvesting dates, and the USDA Plant Hardiness Map shows climate zones across the country. (FYI, Fairlington is in Zone 7b). Our last frost date was late March, so now is the time to plant those main-season veggies!

2. **WHAT:** Rather than telling you what to plant, I'd ask: What do you like to eat? Love peppers? Plant them! Hate beans? Don't plant them! It's that simple. A few other considerations: Do you want a continual harvest (e.g., tomatoes, squash), or a single harvest (e.g., carrots, garlic)? Have space to grow vertically? Choose vining plants (e.g., beans, cucumbers). No in-ground space? Choose container plants (e.g., cherry tomatoes, herbs). Read plant descriptions for specifics and choose what's right for your space.



3. **WHERE:** Our gardening space is limited in Fairlington, but our capacity for growth is limited only by our imaginations, so I tuck veggies in wherever I can. (The formal name for this is "intensive gardening.") Because our soil is dense with clay, containers and raised beds are great options. Containers are mobile, inexpensive, and easy—you just need good soil (I use organic Gardener's Gold Potting Soil), and a good container (at least 18" diameter & depth, with drainage holes). Raised beds work well as borders to our patios, because the fences provide wind and erosion protection as well as support for trellises. I recommend either Cedar or stone to build raised beds, and they can be installed in a weekend. Just be sure your space gets a minimum of six hours of direct sunlight if you want a bountiful harvest.



The "salad bowl bed" in our little Fairlington farm provides a continuous harvest of six types of leafy greens for our salads all season. Photo by Rebecca Carpenter.

4. **HOW:** Amend the soil by tilling with a cultivator or hoe, and mix in compost and soil builder. This is an important step, because organic matter creates a more nutrient-rich and appropriately-textured soil. (I use organic Bumper Crop Soil Builder and Lobster Compost.) Place your seeds or seedlings into small holes according to the label instructions, then fill in the holes and give a good watering. Your plants may wilt at first, but this is normal—they they'll perk up with some water. Install any trellises or support they'll need later. Stagger your planting over the course of a month—this succession planting will extend your harvest so you're not inundated with 100 tomatoes on a single day!



Now your hard work is done! Just monitor the rain, and supplement with morning watering (veggies need about an inch of water per week). And keep a garden record—it will help you repeat the successes (and hopefully avoid the mistakes) from season to season. Spend time in your garden, watch your veggies grow, and enjoy the process.

Happy farming!



—Rebecca Carpenter
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you can get. I wouldn't need any amount of mulch that would come from composting, but knowing that someone else could put reclaimed soil to good use would be more than enough of a reason for me.

When I heard of the composting working group, I joined to see what I could do to help. Most of the detailed research had already been done and it's great to see that there are a number of companies that provide composting and food waste recycling services in this area.

We're now moving into the next phase of getting composting off the ground in Fairlington.

While some individual residents have been composting, no association has endorsed composting as an option for all of its homeowners. The working group has met with

some associations to discuss the research and will be making a presentation to the FCA on Wednesday, May 11, during its monthly meeting. Our goal is to help the FCA and the individual owner associations consider the available options and to what end they can make composting a viable service to residents.

We're always looking for new people to get involved—community engagement is essential to the success of this initiative! Caring for our community and being good stewards of the environment is rewarding in itself, and this is a great way to meet like-minded neighbors. If you're interested in joining this working group and being a champion and advocate for composting in our neighborhood, please email Christen Snow to get involved: kocherpuffs@gmail.com. And we hope to see you at the FCA meeting in May!

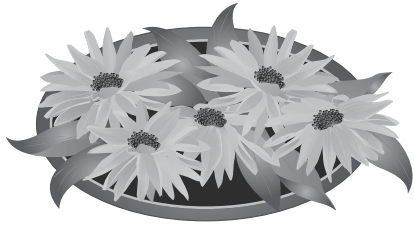
—Doug Matties

Fairlington 5K silent auction

Fierce bidding at April 15's silent auction raised roughly \$13,000 for this year's Fairlington 5K Run/Walk. Proceeds benefit Abingdon Elementary and A Cure for Ellie. The June issue of the *Bulletin* will have a summary of the race and a list of sponsors. Photos by Guy Land.



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Animal Talk

Outdoor options for cats



Photo by Lisa Pulaski.

have adopted cats, many shelters and rescue groups have made keeping cats indoors a requirement of adoption for these very reasons.

- Outdoor cats are more apt to pick up diseases and parasites.
- They are at risk of getting into encounters with dogs, other cats, or wild animals.
- There is a high risk of them getting hit by cars or buses.
- Harsh weather conditions can be dangerous.
- Outdoor cats can get into common toxins like anti-freeze or ground pesticides.

To help your cat enjoy the outdoors safely, make sure it always wears identification, keep it confined to your patio or yard, or consider leash training. There are several cats in North Fairlington that walk on-leash like a dog. Look online for guidance on how to train your cat to accept a leash.

Hopefully this article might inspire cat owners to find a way to let their feline friends get the “outdoor fix” they need without the risks and dangers.

—Christine Chirichella

Work to begin at King and Beauregard intersection

Work on phase 1 of the intersection improvements at King and Beauregard Streets is expected to begin this spring. This phase consists of grading, curb and gutter work, and the installation of retaining walls along King St. The design for the work has been completed. This part

of the intersection project should take about six months.

Once phase 1 construction is completed, existing utilities will be relocated. The City of Alexandria expects the utility relocation to take 10 to 12 months and be completed in summer 2017.

Phase 2 improvements include an additional turn lane in each direction on King St.; medians, sidewalk improvements, enhanced stormwater management, and crosswalk upgrades. Phase 2 is tentatively slated to begin in summer 2017 and be completed in late 2018.

The City of Alexandria is also working closely with the developer of the Alexandria Gateway project to ensure that the intersection improvements are coordinated with the site preparation and construction work for the new development.

—Guy Land

Cub Scout information night May 11

Is your son interested in scouting? Cub Scout Pack 350 will host a fun-filled Scout Information Night on Wednesday, May 11, from 7 to 8 pm at Fairlington United Methodist Church, 3900 King St., Alexandria.

Boys in grades one through five may join Cub Scouts, and families with kindergarteners are welcome to come to the information night. Those interested may also join in Pack 350's summer activities. More information about Pack 350 is available online at pack350.mypack.us and on Facebook at [facebook.com/CubScouts350](https://www.facebook.com/CubScouts350).

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Abingdon Wins Regional Architecture Competition



Photo by David McDavitt.

Back in November, the *Bulletin* featured an article on an Abingdon fifth-grade class competing in the SchoolsNEXT design challenge to build a school of the future.

The annual contest tasked student teams to design learning environments to enhance learning, conserve the environment, and engage the surrounding community. Adopting the roles of professional architects, competing “firms” planned, designed, and constructed computer and 3D models. The students were mentored by architects from the firm Hord, Coplan, Macht, led by Andrea Swiatocha (the company works on the school’s actual renovation and expansion project).

In April, Abingdon’s fifth-grade “firms” gave presentations to a panel of architect judges. Students were thrilled to learn that one group beat out all middle schools to win first place in the Northern Virginia regional division.

Architecture teacher David McDavitt (a Fairlington resident) couldn’t have been more proud.

“Architecture as education is a powerful instrument to inspire curiosity, understanding, and a love of learning by reuniting academic disciplines with the real-world contexts for which they were invented,” he said. “Creative design and construction also promotes higher-order thinking skills, collaboration skills, and exposure to possible future vocations.”

Fifth-graders Olivia Van Hoey and Sitota Mesfin would agree.

“Overall, we think that this was a fantastic learning experience and every person in our group benefited from it. We all learned a lot of important lessons about teamwork and architectural work. If we had just been writing a paper about a future school, we definitely wouldn’t have learned so much valuable information that we gained from this project.” The group now has its sights set on the state level competition in Virginia Beach.

Congratulations to Abingdon Gifted Resources Teacher, Jackie Firster

The PBS LearningMedia Digital Innovators program recognizes educators nationwide who are incorporating digital media in classrooms and serving as leaders in educational technology. Over the course of the 2016–2017 school year, PBS LearningMedia Digital Innovators has been part of a robust professional learning community that fosters new ways of thinking, while leading the way in using technology to drive student achievement. Ms. Firster, a Fairlington resident,

was designated as Lead PBS LearningMedia Digital Innovators to represent the state of Virginia. “I am very proud to be selected as the Lead PBS LearningMedia Digital. This recognition will provide me with the opportunity to meet and collaborate with leaders in technology integration across the country and at PBS. I will be receiving a year’s worth of amazing professional development opportunities that I can then share with our staff here at Abingdon.”

Seeking Abingdon book buddy volunteers!

Book Buddies is a University of Virginia developed program that focuses on improving the performance of struggling readers through individualized lesson plans and one on one tutoring. The site coordinator provides initial training and continual volunteer support throughout the school year, and creates student lesson plans for the week. Lesson plans include:

- Rereading familiar books at the student’s current reading level
- Playing games and activities to help the students see patterns in words
- Writing
- Introducing new books

Volunteers are truly the heart of the book buddies program. Please consider donating 45 minutes once or twice a week and share your love of reading with a child in your community. Please contact Emily Ulliman for opportunities at 703-969-4914 or eau9qc@virginia.edu .

—Jennifer Davies

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KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

Welcome to the Spring Market. Now is the time to prepare your home for the coming months. Please contact me, 703.629.8624 to learn about some simple things you can do to improve the value of your home, and make sure it stands out in the busy spring Real Estate market.



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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



Pay attention to Fairlington's family of trees

North and South Fairlington have many natural landmarks, but few are marked by plaques. Some date back to the early 1940s, when the buildings were constructed to provide housing for military officers and enlisted personnel when the Pentagon also was newly built.

Whether you're walking, running, driving, or pushing a stroller, take this guide with you to locate these signature trees.

Willow Oak: On either side of South Stafford St. (between S. 36th St. and S. 35th St.) are hulking specimens whose branches form a canopy over the street. In the fall, their finger-like leaves blanket the landscape in a golden yellow. The tree has no serious diseases—proof that this tree can live for decades. But it isn't immune to nature's forces, especially wind. During the June 2012 Derecho (inland hurricane) storm, one giant Willow Oak was toppled on S. Stafford St. On one end was a wash of branches. On the other was its "flying-saucer-shaped" root ball, which had yanked slabs of sidewalk out of the ground.

Chinese Elm: Its leaf resembles that of the American elm only in that the margin is serrated. But the Chinese Elm leaf is smaller (two-inch long) and turns copper in autumn. The leaf of the American elm can be six inches in length. The trunk of the Chinese Elm is fat (16 inches wide), gray, and mottled, but identifiable by its orange splotches. Sometimes, the



Be on the lookout throughout Fairlington for linden trees. Photo courtesy of victorennns.ca.

Chinese Elm resembles the American elm in its wide, spreading habit. We see many Chinese Elms because they were resistant to the Dutch elm disease plague. The disease (a fungus spread by a beetle) was first identified in the early 1920s and manifested in North America from 1950 to 1980. The Chinese Elm is similar to the Zelkova tree, but the latter is more upright with a thinner spread and also has lenticels (concentric circles with pores around the trunk as does the Prunus (Cherry) tree. You will see a stand of Chinese Elms on S. 31st St. between S. Buchanan St and S. Abingdon St.

Linden Tree: You will notice them on S. 36th St. (between S. Wakefield St. and S. Utah St.). The leaf is like a miniature Cottonwood tree leaf but more heart-shaped rather than flat at the base. The Linden leaf also resembles the Aspen Tree leaf but has more defined leaf margin serrations. Usually a large-growing specimen (up to 80-feet tall), the ones planted along the sidewalks of S. 36th St. are dwarfs and may be of the 'Lincoln' cultivar. Its fall leaf color is yellow. Before they fall to the ground, the rich green leaf has a pale green or silvery underside.

Sycamore (or American Planetree) Tree: You will see one on the median where S. 36th St. meets S. Wakefield St.—75 yards off Route 7 (King St.). The leaf resembles that of the maple tree but has just three terminal points, not five like the maple. Its bark is an artistic mosaic of creamy white, gray, and olive, depending on where you look on the main trunk. In winter, many sycamores turn white, almost resembling a birch tree. A nickname of this tree is Buttonball Tree, so named because the fruit is a fuzzy ball (size of a quarter) and hangs individually on 4-inch-long stems. This distinguishes it from the London Planetree, which has a similar habit to the sycamore but has fruit that hang in pairs. Both trees belong to the same genus, *platanus*.

—Bill Sullivan
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neighborhood news

Fairlington Diners

The Fairlington Diners gather a couple of times a month for relaxed dinners nearby. We focus on having a good meal and an opportunity to chat with neighbors. In April, we enjoyed returning to two favorites—Ramparts for burger night and Tempo for a more elegant meal.

Here's what's planned for May:

Tuesday, May 10, 6:30 pm, Idlywood Grill, in Idlywood Plaza, 2190 Pimmit Dr., Falls Church, VA 22043; 703-992-0915. This hidden gem, just off Route 7, is a little further away than some of our favorites, but is highly praised by those who've eaten there. It is described as a neighborhood spot featuring Mediterranean-American food with an unpretentious but stylish décor. See the menu at urbanspoon.com

Monday, May 23, 6:30 pm, Beckett's, 2800 S. Randolph St., Arlington, 703-379-0122. This is an alternate burger night for us in Shirlington, which we've enjoyed at previous visits. There is a special burger menu on Mondays, and the rest of the menu is also available.

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

Book Group

Join the Fairlington Book Group in May to discuss *Our Souls at Night: A Novel* by Kent Haruf.

According to Amazon.com, Haruf's book is a "spare yet eloquent, bittersweet yet inspiring story of a man and a woman who, in advanced age, come together to wrestle with the events of their lives and their hopes for the imminent future."

The Book Group welcomes first-time visitors and drop-ins. No commitment required! We are meeting on Tuesday, May 24, at 7:30 pm in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. We hope you'll join us.

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, join the Fairlington Babysitting Co-op. For more than 30 years, Fairlington families have been exchanging free babysitting services using a card system. It's perfect for parents who would like to know dependable adults to watch their children and meet other families in the community.

Email the coordinators, Yulia Tuinstra and Anne Viser, at fairlington.babysitting@gmail.com to request more information and an application.

Spring yard sale, May 7, 8 am – noon

The always popular Fairlington Villages spring yard sale will be held on Saturday, May 7, from 8 am to noon in the FV community center parking lot, 3005 S. Abingdon St. Both north and south Fairlington residents are encouraged to participate as buyers or sellers.

No reservations are taken. Sale areas (one car parking slot) are available on a first-come, first-served basis for \$10 per space. Residents should set up between 7 and 8 am; everything must be cleared out by 1 pm. A member of the Activities Committee will collect your fee once you are set up.

Spring plants will be available for sale by the Grounds Committee. Coffee, other beverages, and food also will be available for sale, with the proceeds going to support community activities.

—Christine Chirichella

Move in before summer!

3 New Listings COMING SOON



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Café Los Suenos Coffee (NEW): A Washington, D.C.-based specialty coffee roaster with a social mission. cafelossuenos.com.

Compost Crew: A subscription service that collects compostable items like food scraps, eggshells, napkins, etc. compostcrew.com.

Fresh Crunch Pickles: Flavored pickles handcrafted in small batches. freshcrunchpickles.com.

Kiwi Kuisine: Traditional, hand-held, New Zealand-style savory pies, and fresh veggie and juice blends. kiwikuisine.com.

Kuhn Orchards: Apples, peaches, nectarines, pears, grapes, strawberries, asparagus, red raspberries, tomatoes, blueberries, blackberries, rhubarb, apricots, plums, cherries, cut flowers, and various vegetables. kuhnorchards.com.

Margaret's Soul Food Truck (NEW): Savory breakfast items and a variety of Southern comfort foods. margarets-catering.net/contact.htm.

Mama's Donut Bites: Mini donuts, made hot and fresh to order. mamasdonutbites.com.

Pleitez Produce: A variety of non-GMO fruits and vegetables. facebook.com/Pleitez-Produce-265402633530687/.

Sandy Bottom Acres: Hormone-, steroid-, antibiotic and growth implant-free meats. facebook.com/Sandy-Bottom-Acres-536555626356072/.

Spriggs Delight Farm: Plain and flavored chevre, feta, camembert, and valencay cheese. spriggsdelightfarm.com.

Spring Valley Farm and Orchard: Salad greens, strawberries, cherries, peaches, haricots verts, potatoes, summer squash, field tomatoes, jams, and more. facebook.com/SpringValleyFarmandOrchard.

Walnut Hill (NEW): Meat and poultry with no added hormones, growth enhancements, or antibiotics. walnuthillfarmva.com.

Thank You to our sponsors

Special thanks to the following businesses for their generous financial support of the market: Fairlington Citizens Association, Dr. Michael Rogers—Fairlington Dental, Fairlington Presbyterian Church, GMG Services, and Jennifir Birtwhistle. Additional information on

FFM's sponsors and contact information can be found on www.fairlingtonfarmersmarket.org, under "About Us." Please support them as they have supported us!

We need your help

There are lots of ways to get involved in the market—we need help with set up and staffing on Sundays, special events, social media, and more. You can sign up for market shifts at fairlingtonfarmersmarket.org/get-involved.html or tell us what you're interested by contacting us at fairlingtonfarmersmarket.org/contact.html. You can also help by telling your friends about the market, or better yet—bring them with you!

For more information, visit fairlingtonfarmersmarket.org or check out Fairlington Farmers Market on Facebook and @FairlingtonMkt on Twitter.

See you at the market!

—Lynne Blasi

395 HOT lanes, continued from page 11

As part of the engineering study, VDOT will identify individual units that are eligible to vote. Those units will be mailed surveys. Fifty percent of the respondents are required to favor the noise abatement in order for VDOT to move forward with the barriers.

Baxter noted that the residents in one area near Seminary Road voted against sound barriers as part of the improvements along 395 for the new Seminary Road exit.

Baxter stressed that the people who get to vote are the residents and owners of the units that are individually identified in the noise study. Condo associations and civic associations do not have a vote in the process.

VDOT expects to complete the noise engineering study by the end of August, with a September public hearing likely. VDOT will then prepare sound barrier designs that are appropriate to the highway corridor. The survey of affected residents will likely occur next spring.

—Guy Land



FCA board member Hugh Baumgardner and Molly Baumgardner examine maps of the proposed 395 HOT lanes project at the VDOT briefing in April. Photo by Guy Land.

Mini-ads

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

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COMPUTER HELP. Fairlington resident will troubleshoot problems with computers and other electronic equipment. Jim (703) 820-8767.

Gardening/ Landscaping

SULLIVAN'S LANDSCAPING. For patio clean-ups and redecorating with flowers and plants, call Bill Sullivan for a free estimate. I've been beautifying Fairlington patios for nearly 30 years. E-mail or call. Billsullivan41@gmail.com 571.213.9567.



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GROW YOUR OWN VEGGIES WITH SPROUT! Do you wish you could have your own vegetable garden, but not sure where to start, or don't have the time or energy? Sprout can help! Our team of Master Gardeners & Growers will create your very own organic vegetable garden, right in your Fairlington patio or balcony. Now is the time to get started for spring gardens, so contact us for free consultations in May (Rebecca@SproutKitchenGardens.com). Learn more at SproutKitchenGardens.com, or follow us on Facebook for garden-to-kitchen recipes and gardening tips.

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Mini-ads

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

For sale: Fairlington T-shirts

Show your neighborhood pride with a Fairlington T-shirt. T-shirts are \$15 and available in white or hunter green in 100% cotton. Sizes S, M, L, and X-L. Child sizes are also available.

To place your order: email president@fca-fairlington.org or contact any FCA board member.

MINI-ADS INSTRUCTIONS

Due date for ads and payment: 6 pm on the 10th of the preceding month (May 10 for June issue).

- Checks payable to "Fairlington Citizens Association."
- Send mini-ad copy via email, regular mail, or drop off at FCA drop box.
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E-mail: admanager@fca-fairlington.org

Mailing Address: FCA-AFB, PO Box 6182, Arlington, VA 22206-0182.

Drop Box Location: Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. (Hours: 8 am – 9 pm, M-F, 8 am – 5 pm, Saturday; closed Sunday.)

Cost: 50 cents per word. Examples: "998-0000" and "stove" = one word; "interior/exterior" = two words.

Include with ad copy: Name, address, phone #, email address, and ad category (see Mini-ads for options).

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4711 30th St., S #A2 – Listed for \$410,700 2BR/2BA Mt. Vernon
Call **Rob Chamberlain** 202-486-5930 for more details.



2911 Dinwiddie St #B-2 – Listed for \$307,000 2BR/1BA Richmond
Call **Barbara Kirkland** 703-405-5920 for more details.



2911 Dinwiddie St., S #A-2 – Listed for \$375,000 1BR/2BA Hermitage
Call **Bill Groom** 703-283-2596 for more details.

Under Contract in Fairlington



3362 Wakefield St, S #A Clarendon model.
Listed for \$469,900 by **Dayna Wagner** and under contract in **19 days**.



Multiple Offers

4520 36th St., S #A-1 Barcroft model.
Listed for \$359,995 by **Marian Stifle** and under contract in **9 days**.



Multiple Offers

4826 28th St., S Clarendon II model. Listed for \$439,900 by **Julie Flory & Joanne Ritchick** and under contract in **4 days**.

Looking for more space? Check out these listings.



Kingstowne

5260 Ballycastle Circle, Alexandria,
Listed for \$534,900 by **Pat Shannon**
Call her for more details 571-237-4767



Grist Mill Woods

5421 Grist Mill Woods Way, Alexandria
Listed for \$874,500 by **Kristin Usaitis**
Call her for more details 703-863-0367



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6512 Lakeview Dr., Falls Church
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