

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

NOVEMBER 2010

Volume 36, Number 11

Helos sometimes fly off-route and too low

—Excerpted from Arlington County press releases, the Sun Gazette Newspapers, TBD.com, and ARLnow.com

Calendar

FCA Monthly Meeting

Wednesday, November 10, 7 p.m.

Note: No speaker/presentation in November.

Fairlington Diners

Monday, November 1, 7:30 p.m.

Ramparts Restaurant
Alexandria

Election Day

Tuesday, November 2, 6 a.m. – 7 p.m.

Polling places

Fair Golds business meeting

Thursday, November 4, noon

FCC

Daylight saving time ends

Sunday, November 7, 2 a.m.

MOMS Club meeting

Wednesday, November 10

FCC

Veterans Day

Thursday, November 11

Red Cross blood drive

Saturday, November 13, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

FCC

On September 22, Arlington County board member Mary Hynes led a panel discussion about helicopters and local helicopter regulations. Hynes, who chairs the Aviation Policy Committee for the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, reported a noticeable uptick in complaints about helicopter noise in the past couple of years. The forum was designed to explain to county residents the rules that govern helicopter flights in the national capital region, as well as lead to development of a better system for handling citizen complaints about helicopters—especially military helicopters, which are the ones most often seen over Arlington. Hynes said the goal was to “have a good conversation about the impacts of the helicopter traffic on the residents, and see if there’s some way we can work with the military to lessen that impact.”



Military helicopters usually fly defined routes from the Pentagon to other military installations. The flight paths are typically major highways like I-395 or waterways like the Potomac River. But military aircraft are not required to adhere to established routes when safety and mission accomplishment are priorities; possible noise pollution is a concern, too, but a lesser one. And even if helicopters stick to prescribed paths, they sometimes fly lower than they’re supposed to. Flyovers and low-flying aircraft can impact Arlington neighbors down below, who complain about shifting structural foundations, rattling china, skittish pets, and difficulty holding a conversation. Homeland Security and local law enforcement flights are also fairly common around Arlington. (News helicopters typically don’t fly over Arlington because the county is within a no-fly zone around Reagan National Airport, which was put in place after 9/11.)

FCA treasurer Ed Hilz voiced the concerns of Fairlington residents at the forum. Since 2007, he reported, he has filed 350 helicopter noise complaints with the Federal Aviation Administration, but there hasn’t been any marked

Continued on page 3

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Coming up ...

The FCA Board invites all Fairlington residents to attend its meetings, which occur on the second Wednesday of the month unless otherwise noted. If you would like to discuss a neighborhood issue at the meeting, please e-mail president@fca-fairlington.org or leave a voice-mail message at 703-243-1735 by the Sunday before the meeting. You can find more information on the FCA Web site, www.fca-fairlington.org, and by logging on to Facebook and joining "Fairlington Appreciation Society."

Preliminary agenda:

7 p.m. Special program: There is no scheduled speaker for the November FCA board meeting.

7:05 p.m. Regular business meeting

- Approval of October minutes
- Treasurer's report
- Old business
- New business
- Officer and committee reports

Sign up for updates

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

AFB on the Web

The AFB is posted online at www.fca-fairlington.org a week earlier than the hard copy hits your front stoop.

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

USEFUL CONTACTS

Police, Alexandria (non-emergency)	703-838-4444
Police, Arlington (non-emergency)	703-558-2222
Animal Warden	703-931-9241
Dominion (power outages)	888-667-3000
Fairlington Community Center	703-228-6588
Metrobus Complaints	703-228-7929
Miss Utility	800-552-7001
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	Colonel Steward Remaly Jeryl.Ludowese@jfhqncr.northcom.mil

Fairlington Citizens Association

PO Box 6182 • Arlington, VA 22206-0182
703-243-1735 • president@fca-fairlington.org

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All Fairlington Bulletin

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— DEADLINE —

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

Send material on disk with paper proof to:

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E-mail editorial announcements to:

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E-mail commercial and mini ads to:

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

COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING RATES

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 703-243-1735 #1.

Ad Size	Height	Width	Rate
1/8 page	2 3/16 in.	3 5/8 in.	\$47
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Calendar, cont.

Fair Golds Thanksgiving luncheon

Thursday, November 18, noon
Location TBD

Thirty Somethings happy hour

Thursday, November 18, 7:15 p.m.
Busboys & Poets
Shirlington

Fairlington Diners

Sunday, November 21, 1 p.m.
Cedar Knoll Inn
Alexandria

See Neighborhood News on pages 25 – 26 and related articles for details about calendar events.

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Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

One year shy of three-quarters of a century ago, President Franklin D. Roosevelt said that democracy is not perfect, but that our form of self-government, like many other things, gets better with experience: "People do not become good citizens by mandate,"

he continued. "They become good citizens by the exercise of their citizenship, and by the discussions, the reading, and the campaign give-and-take which help them make up their minds how to exercise that citizenship...." Decades have gone by since Roosevelt last campaigned for office, but the idea he outlined in a radio speech in 1936 is just as current today as it was then.

At this year's General Election on Tuesday, November 2, we have the opportunity to exercise our citizenship. Together with other Arlington voters we will go to the polls and make up our minds as we make choices for the offices of House of Representatives (8th District), County Board, and School Board. The ballot this year will also include state and local questions and bond issues.

Election Day implies a simple right—but also an immensely important one. Election Day confers on us the opportunity to exercise that right, to choose whom we want to represent us in the Congress and in local government and to choose how we want our tax dollars to be spent. Election Day always serves as a reminder to me of the importance of civic literacy, and of how an individual's choice to participate in the process can affect our everyday lives.

I encourage you to vote on November 2. And I encourage you to look ahead to December 8, when the Fairlington Citizens Association will hold its annual elections. Many Fairlington residents, and most who stand for office on the board of the FCA, will probably share with me belief in a few platform "planks." They are:

Engage the residents in discussion. Learn about residents' concerns. Improve communication between residents and the FCA.

Keep residents informed, through monthly meetings, the newsletter, the Web site, and more.

Invite speakers to discuss topics of interest to the community.

Monitor local, regional, and state legislative issues and determine how they affect Fairlington.

Enhance and support community outreach efforts.

Working together, we can ensure that this remains a safe and enjoyable place in which to live.

I remain, Faithfully,

Sam Anthony

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Recovering from the storm on Wednesday, August 5

At the October FCA meeting, Dinesh Tiwari, director of Arlington's Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources, and Caroline Temmermand, division chief of Parks & Natural Resources, discussed the county's response to what they characterized as the "violent" thunderstorm of August 5. Because county offices were left without power, the staff relocated to continue doing business: They activated the Emergency Operations Center, sent "spotters" into communities, and organized damage-

assessment teams. The response effort pooled resources from the Departments of Environmental Services and Transportation, the Solid Waste Bureau, the Water, Sewer, and Street division, as well as county police. Damage was limited mostly to trees and power lines; luckily, there were no significant structural damages.

Dispatched crews worked 24/7 from Wednesday night through the weekend. Initial priorities were to ensure public safety, mitigate threats to people or public property, assess damages, work with Dominion Virginia Power to begin restoration, safeguard areas with live power lines, clear blocked streets to avoid collisions, identify and report non-functioning traffic signals, and remove trees from cars. The county is responsible for protecting public streets, sidewalks, and rights-of-way (the areas between sidewalks and streets). It is not responsible for private property (condo association or owner responsibility) or for damage to personal property (handled through personal insurance).

That first weekend, the county picked up 60,000 pounds of tree limbs in just one day. The county received a total of 121 tree calls through Sunday night, but found for every call there were three problems to deal with at the scene. By the end, there were a total of 170 to 180 tree calls. At Fort Reynolds Park, downed lines and poles presented a hazard and knocked out power in parts of Fairlington and along South 31st Street down to Shirlington, but all power lines were picked up and power restored by Saturday.

The county still has street trees to remove (see page 16), and the goal is to complete the work by November 1.



Park & Natural Resources division chief Caroline Temmermand, FCA president Sam Anthony, and PRCR director Dinesh Tiwari. Photograph by Rosiland Jordan.

After that, tree stumps will need to be ground down, tree roots removed, and new trees planted, hopefully by late fall. The goal is for a one-to-one replacement, depending on budget considerations and availability of appropriate trees. Arborists and urban foresters will identify potential spaces for new trees and decide what to plant. Fairlington lost a lot of mature shade trees—some as old as 60 years—but the optimal replacement tree would have a

1-1/2 to 2 inch caliper (diameter of the tree trunk) and stand about seven to eight feet tall. Larger trees sometimes have a greater mortality rate and are more susceptible to disease and pests. Fast-growing trees might seem like a good idea, but they're often weak and can fall over, while failing to provide much shade.

The county will focus on replacing damaged trees with non-invasive, locally-grown varieties with local genetics. Residents are asked to help water new trees, often designated by green Gatorbags® around the trunk. Pouring water into the bags helps the new trees to establish roots. If you spot a tree in the right-of-way that poses a hazard, you can call the Arlington County tree hotline at 703-228-6525.

—By Christine Chirichella

FCA to elect officers, directors for 2011 board

The election for 2011 FCA officers and board members will be held at the FCA meeting on December 8. The term of office for board members is one year, and the board meets monthly on the second Wednesday of the month, except in August when there is no meeting. Duties are outlined in the FCA bylaws, which are posted on the FCA Web site. If you are interested in serving on the FCA board, contact FCA president Sam Anthony: Send an e-mail to president@fca-fairlington.org or leave a voice-mail message at 703-243-1735.



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Letters to the editor

Dear Editor:

Fairlington is a great place to live and visit but the parking can be abysmal. Even before the county removed several feet of parking last year, it was a challenge to park in our community. I have noticed consistently that some residents take up more space for their vehicles than is necessary—specifically, the space before and after the no parking zone signs. If you are the first car on the block, there is no reason to park four feet or more behind the no parking sign. Similarly, if you are the last car on a block there is no reason to park four feet or more in front of the sign. This may seem innocuous at 2 p.m. on weekdays, but the waste of space becomes irksome when the streets fill up at 5 p.m. and the haphazardly parked cars prevent others from finding a spot.

I believe we can all play a part in improving the situation and be good neighbors at the same time. Let's take up only the space that is necessary. (I assume there is no penalty for pulling even with the signs.)

Spencer Chambers
Fairlington Arbor

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.

Boy Scouts conduct food drive, November 13

On Saturday, November 6, boys from Cub Scout Pack 350 (students at Abingdon, Drew, Claremont, and Patrick Henry) will distribute bags in south Fairlington for donations to the annual Scouting for Food Drive, to



Scouts from Pack 350, this summer.
Photograph by Susan Snare.

benefit the Arlington Food Assistance Center. All non-perishable food items are welcome, but AFAC notes a particular need for low-sugar cereal and canned proteins, like tuna or salmon. The boys will be back in south Fairlington beginning around 9 a.m. on Saturday, November 13 to pick up donations for delivery to AFAC.

Because the Pack's territory had to be declared early, the distribution of bags is limited to south Fairlington, but donations from north Fairlington residents are welcome, and Scouting organizers can make arrangements to pick up your donations. If you do not receive a bag in south Fairlington but would like to contribute on Saturday, November 13, please place your items outside on your porch by 9 a.m. in a plastic bag marked "Scouting for Food." If you would like to contribute in north Fairlington, or if your bag in south Fairlington is not picked up by 2 p.m. on November 13, or if you have any questions about how to participate, please contact Susan Snare at 703-969-4868 or jssnare@comcast.net.

Open doors at Fairlington firehouse

At the Fire Department open house on Saturday, October 9, Fairlington's Station 7 offered a variety of fun activities, including a moon bounce and face-painting for the kids, sno-cones and snacks for everyone, junior fire helmets, and your choice of decals and fire prevention and safety awareness brochures. But the real crowd pleasers, as always, were the blue-clad Arlington County firefighters and the big, shiny red truck (a Pierce XT pumper). At midday, tones sounded and visitors to the firehouse watched as Engine 107 responded to a call—lights and sirens!

You can "friend" the Fairlington firehouse on Facebook; check out their page, ACFD Fire Station 7.



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FCC features healthy snacks, fitness options

Arlington County staff and visitors to the Fairlington Community Center celebrated the completion of the FCC's outdoor construction with a helping of healthy snacks on October 2. The county's initiative to install healthy vending machines in community and rec centers means that all pre-packaged snack foods now are low in calories and trans-fats: Out are candy bars and 20-ounce sodas; in are power bars, baked, low-fat potato chips, water, and fruit and vegetable juices. To underscore the healthy lifestyles message, county manager Barbara Donnellan cut the red ribbon spanning the new outdoor basketball court. On hand to mark the reopening of the FCC's freshly renovated grounds and playing fields were Arlington County board members Barbara Favola, Mary Hynes, and Chris Zimmerman, as well as Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources chief Dinesh Tiwari.



Above, County Manager Barbara Donnellan, County Board members Barbara Favola, Chris Zimmerman, and Mary Hynes; center, left, PRCR director Dinesh Tiwari with FCA treasurer Ed Hilz; below, FCC manager Patrick Mallon at vending machine. Photographs by Gretchen Fallon.



Master Gardeners hold open house for 2011 training program, November 16

For gardeners who are interested in learning more about the 2011 Master Gardeners volunteer training program, there will be an introductory open house on Tuesday, November 16, from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Fairlington Community Center. The classes, sponsored by Virginia Cooperative Extension and Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, train participants in research-based gardening and landscaping techniques that preserve, protect, and beautify the environment. You are advised to act quickly by reserving a place in the 2011 training program.

Classes begin January 11 and run through April 15, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. at the FCC. After about 70 hours of training, candidates complete a 60-hour internship focusing on community service in VCE-sponsored educational gardening programs and events, and then they become certified VCE Master Gardeners. The training program enrollment is limited to 40. Residents of Alexandria and Arlington receive preference, but others in the Washington area may also enroll on a space-available basis. Tuition, which covers the cost of study materials and instructor fees, is \$200 for residents of Arlington and Alexandria and \$250 for others. Need-based scholarships are available to cover some of the tuition costs.

For more information and an enrollment form, contact the VCE office at the FCC, 703-228-6414, or send an e-mail to ex013mg@vt.edu. VCE's local Web site is <http://offices.ext.vt.edu/arlington>.

Red Cross blood drive at the FCC, November 13

Stop by the Fairlington Community Center, Room 100, to give blood on Saturday, November 13 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. All blood types are needed, especially O negative. (Remember to bring your ID.) According to the American Red Cross, the need is constant and the gratification is instant. As a volunteer donor, you'll be joining a very select group—currently only three out of every 100 people in America donate blood. For more information about blood donation, including eligibility criteria and tips for first-time donors, go online to www.redcrossblood.org.

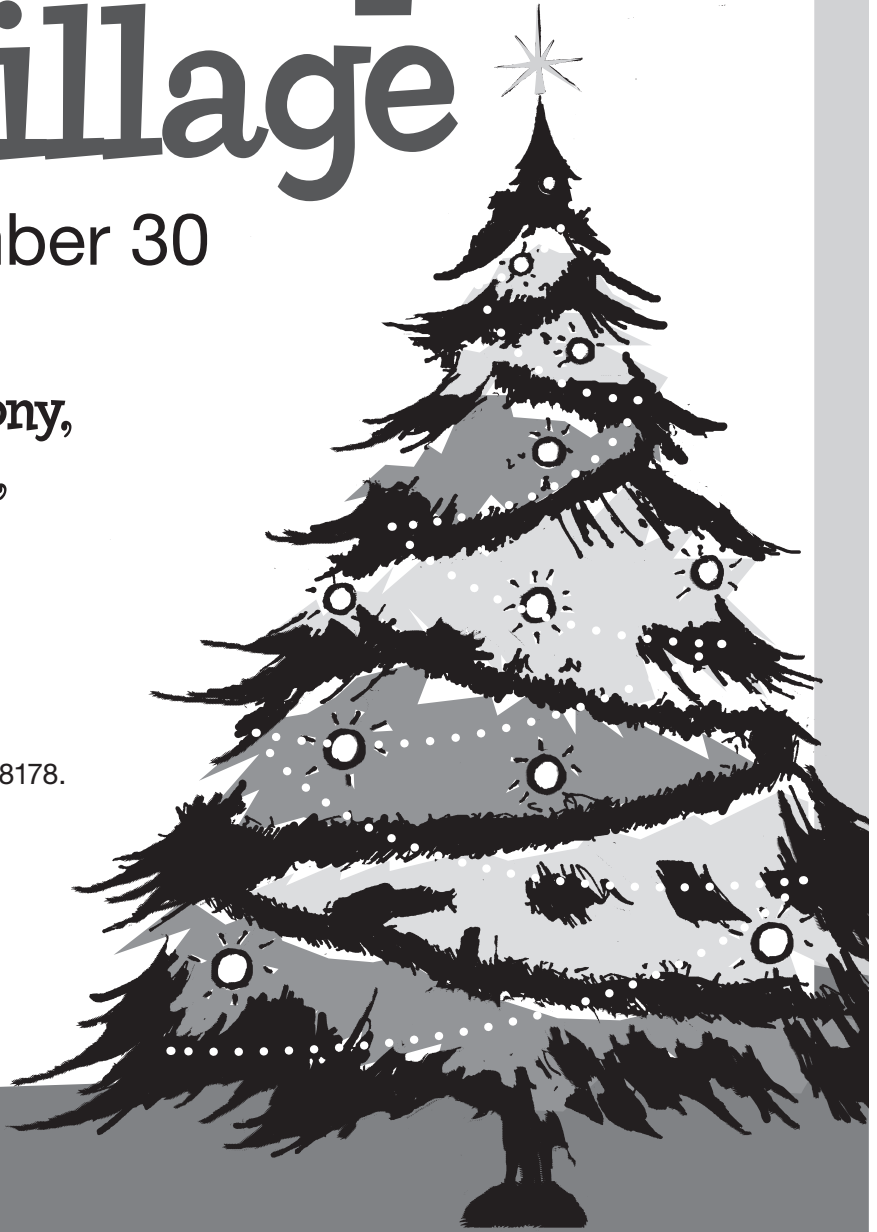
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An Arlington County news release in September reported plans to change the way the county lights its streets in order to save taxpayer dollars and help the environment. The county will use \$500,000 in federal stimulus funds to launch a large-scale conversion of its streetlights to the more energy efficient light-emitting-diodes, or LEDs. The plan is to replace about 40 percent of Arlington's older,

county-owned streetlights by next spring—nearly 1,800 lights—and to achieve complete conversion to LEDs within six years, installing 500 new streetlights every year. (Recently, the county completed the replacement of all red, yellow, and green traffic signal lamps with LEDs.) A 100 percent conversion of streetlights (based on current Dominion Virginia Power electrical rates and dependent on continued funding) could save the county more than \$1 million a year.

At the same time, as reported in the *Sun Gazette Newspapers*, about 70 percent of Arlington's total streetlights are owned not by the county but by Dominion Virginia Power. Dominion has expressed interest in the more efficient models but has not yet announced conversion plans. Currently Dominion is conducting pilot programs in ten Virginia localities to test the LED technology, while the energy company works on new contracts with localities (including Arlington) to determine how much local governments would pay for streetlight power and how the costs of installing new streetlight equipment would be shared. The Arlington County Civic Federation, which is studying the issue, says the total cost to replace all streetlights in Arlington is about \$16 million.

For more information, go online to the county Web site, www.arlingtonva.us and click Newsroom.

Shirlington Library news: For complete program descriptions, go online to the library Web site at www.arlingtonva.us/departments/Libraries/LibrariesEvents.aspx.

Police warn about ATM skimming

Police officials around the region warn about a significant increase over the past year in the number of credit card fraud cases involving ATM skimming devices. In September, Alexandria police investigated a case involving a skimming device affixed to an ATM machine at a SunTrust branch bank on Beauregard Street.

An ATM skimming device works by reading and saving all the account information stored electronically on the magnetic strip of your debit or credit card when you slide it into the machine. Depending on the device's sophistication,

it can also capture your personal identification number (PIN) either with a small camera hidden on the machine or with a keypad overlay that can be removed later. Using blank plastic card stock, the thieves create new cards, which are then used to gain access to victims' accounts. All such skimming devices are designed to blend in well with real ATM hardware and they can be hard to detect. But there are several ways you can protect yourself against these devices:



1. Use only ATMs located in well-lit, well-traveled areas that have security cameras installed. An ATM outside a financial institution with a camera is much harder to retrofit than one in a poorly-lit area with minimal foot traffic.
2. Pay attention to your surroundings and stay alert. Don't talk on the phone while you are at the ATM. Before you use the ATM, check the machine and everything around it. Some possible signs of skimmers include:
 - Parts that seem crooked
 - Decals or stickers that are partially covered
 - A reader that's a different color from the rest of the machine
 - Lights missing around the ATM slot—if the usual lighting is not visible, it could mean a skimming device has been attached.
3. Protect yourself by covering your hand when entering your PIN when you use an ATM.
4. Contact the police if you notice anything suspicious at an ATM or fear you may have been a victim of credit card fraud.



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Got stink bugs? Ugh.

Around the middle of September, you may have noticed the arrival in your house of stink bugs—last year, perhaps one, or two, or three; this year, three, four, or five a day for several days in a row. Apparently, 2010 was the year of noticeable home infestation up and down the East coast as cooling temperatures sent the brown marmorated stink bugs (*Halyomorpha halys*) out of farm fields and orchards into houses and office buildings. The *Washington Post* ran a front-page story on the stink bug phenomenon on September 25. Primarily a threat to fruit and vegetable crops, these eerily-armored, shield-shaped bugs do not bite, sting, carry disease, or cause household damage—they are essentially harmless to people and pets. Nevertheless, the pesky bugs give off an offensive odor when squashed, and they have become an increasing nuisance since their first sighting in North America in 1996.

University entomologists in New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Maryland offer the following advice. The best way to battle stink bugs is to prevent them from getting inside: Caulk and seal windows, screens, vents, cracks, crevices, and openings around pipes. For more information, go online to www.usda.gov.

Departed county manager predicted more hard budget choices ahead

—From an Arlington County press release, October 2010

The week before his abrupt departure in October, former Arlington County Manager Michael Brown reported in a presentation to the County Board that additional tax hikes and budget cuts were likely in fiscal year 2012. Brown's preliminary forecast anticipated a \$25 to \$35 million shortfall for the combined county government and school system. Despite an anticipated slight increase in real estate assessments and in tax and fee collections, Brown said expenses continue to rise due to increasing student enrollment, new school facilities, and high county personnel costs. "Current revenue projections could require program cuts and revenue increases," Brown said. "We must continue to be extremely cautious fiscally."

Continued from page 1

reduction in the frequency of helicopter trips or the height at which they fly over the Fairlington neighborhood. The helicopters often veer off prescribed routes, and there are times when the helicopters are just 150 to 200 feet above homes. Even more annoying is the fact that Hilz never received a response to any of his complaints.

Military service members on the panel assured the forum that they did, indeed, try to lessen the noise/vibration impact of helicopters. In turn, Hynes assured the panel's military representatives and FAA staff that Arlington residents "get it," when it comes to the need for helicopter trips overhead. But she added, "We're eager to explore whether modest adjustments could be made with little to no impact to mission accomplishment." At the same time, a larger problem was identified: When complaints come in to the military or the FAA, the actual helicopter in question could be related to any number of different military units flying missions in the D.C. area, and it can be difficult or impossible to tell where the trouble spots are or where the disruptive flights originate.

Hynes explained residents' desire for someone to look at the overall flight scenarios in the region and identify "hot spots" where helicopters regularly fly too low or veer off course into residential neighborhoods. "Do you look for those patterns?" she asked the panel. But because many flights touch on issues of national security, it seems that most agencies with air traffic in the area lack either the manpower or the security permissions to gather or release that kind of information. In an attempt to clarify the situation, the operations manager for the air control tower at Reagan National Airport (DCA) said he might be able to help by doing a case study of a two-week period of helicopter traffic and complaints. That information round-up would necessarily lack specific flight information, but it could identify the patterns Hynes mentioned. Air traffic control at DCA has access to all entities that fly through its airspace, and thus could bring together all the necessary parties for further discussion.

Hynes was encouraged by the meeting's information-sharing and the potential for positive developments to come. "We all know this is not going away," she said. "Our best hope is to manage it better."



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X marks the spot

You may have noticed about 20 trees along Fairlington streets sporting a spray-painted white “X.” If not, look quick, because those trees soon will be gone. In fact, by the time the November *Bulletin* hits doorsteps, most of the marked trees—snapped, bent, and broken beyond salvaging by the August 5 storm—will have been removed.

The county’s Landscape and Forestry office, a division of the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Resources, reports that in the aftermath of the storm, county work crews responded to more than 140 emergency calls to clear trees and limbs blocking streets and

sidewalks—the vast majority of the blockages reported were in Fairlington. After clearing streets, the crews did repair work on trees in the public right-of-way that posed an immediate safety hazard, and then assessed the remaining damaged trees to determine which ones would have to be removed—the ones marked by X. The tree removal has proceeded in phases: Four trees have already come down in Fairlington Villages, and a dozen removals are currently ongoing in south Fairlington. For more information, see the report on PRCR and street trees, page 5.

Photographs by Gretchen Fallon.



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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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<i>Lemon Meringue</i>	<i>\$ 13.99</i>
<i>Cranberry Cheesecake and Pumpkin Cheesecake</i>	<i>\$ 38.99</i>

FAIRLINGTON

community center news

Blood drive

There will be a Red Cross blood drive at the FCC on Saturday, November 13, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. See page 9 for more information.

Classes and workshops

Get the complete description online or go to the FCC to pick up a copy of *Enjoy Arlington*. For questions or registration, go online to www.arlingtonva.us or call 703-228-4747. Contact the FCC at 703-228-6588.

Holiday mosaic

Recycle old decorations and ornaments into a one-of-a-kind holiday mirror, wall hanging, or door wreath. Use ribbons, ceramic pieces, and fabric to create a mixed-media piece. Some materials included; a list of stores and Web sites will be supplied for those who want to purchase additional items. Inst: Coler. Three sessions for people 17 and older, \$115, starting Wed., Nov. 10, 7 – 9 p.m., #140106A.

Precious metal clay

Learn all about the latest materials in jewelry making. Attendees will learn properties and types of PM C® and how to form, roll, texture, drill, make bales, and prepare for firing and finishing techniques, including patinas. A \$40 materials fee will be paid to the instructor at the first session. Inst: Paula Coupe. One session for adults, \$95, Sat., Nov. 20, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., #140131A.

Family holiday arts & crafts workshop

This workshop consists of various simple print-making, stamping, and collage techniques to create unique keepsakes, like handmade cards, ornaments, and trinkets—fun for the whole family. Inst: Rebecca Kallem. One session for ages six to adult; children under seven must have an adult present. \$34, Sat., Dec. 4, 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m., #120106A.

New outlook on sweets for the holidays

Do you sense a connection between your moods, your energy, your health, and your eating habits during the holidays? We'll help you to control your sugar intake during this often stressful time of year and make healthier food choices that will carry you into the New Year. Inst: Scheppach. One session for adults, \$22, Thurs., Dec. 2, 7 – 8:30 p.m., #140807A.

Senior center events

Regularly scheduled programs are Tuesday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for residents 55 and older who hold a 55+ pass. Call Emma Valencia at 703-228-7791 for more information. Special programs include (call for details) a Thanksgiving potluck lunch on November 19 at 12:30 p.m. There are no events on Veterans Day, Thursday, November 11.

Master Gardeners plant clinic

Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – noon. Help Desk, 703-228-6414.

FCC hours and contact info

Monday through Friday,
8 a.m. – 9 p.m.

Saturday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sunday, closed.

Hours are subject to change. For updates and more information, call the FCC at 703-228-6588.

The center manager is Patrick Mallon, 703-228-6590, pmallon@arlingtonva.us.

FCC programs

The FCC has six multi-purpose rooms, art studios, a gymnasium, a state-of-the-art fitness room, day-lockers, accessible pre-school and school-aged playgrounds, outdoor basketball courts, a fitness trail, a playing field, a picnic shelter, and accessible public restrooms. There is indoor open play for children 13 and under in the multi-purpose gym on Saturday, 3 to 5 p.m. and Sunday noon to 3 p.m.—children must be supervised by an adult (18 and older). In addition, there are a Senior Program, a creative pre-school (three to five years old), parent/child Co-op Program for children one and two years old, and summer camp.

Open play in gym, 13 and older

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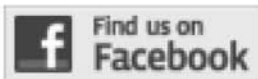
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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



A tree-lover's guide to the neighborhood

Spring and summer flowers are beautiful and easy to spot. But it's more challenging to spot a tree's fruit in autumn. Here's a navigation guide to some of Fairlington's fall splendor.

Sourwood—A narrow tree with burgundy fall color. There's only one I know of and it's in the Green, across the street from the Utah Park softball field. If a softball cleared the fence in right-center and bounced across the street, it might come to rest near the sourwood. In summer, there are white flowers that hang from the branch tips. In fall, these become beaded strands. There's another sourwood in Fort Ward Park, midway around the driving path.

Hickory—Another deciduous tree that's similar in habit to the sourwood, but three times taller. The leaves are gold, they persist into winter, and they come in threes at the branch tips. Each leaf is lance-shaped and pointed. The fruit is a hard-shelled nut within a four-valved husk. Sometimes, you'll find them broken apart by the teeth of a squirrel. You can find hickory in the wooded area surrounding the playground at the Fairlington Community Center.

Redbud—Its purplish, beaded flowers greet us in March and its yellow, heart-shaped leaves drop in early autumn. What's left is perfect for Halloween: Gray, four-inch-long seed pods that hang on leafless branches



*A Japanese black pine with mature and immature fruit.
Photograph by Corey Hilz, www.coreyhilz.com.*

and persist into winter. There are a few in a S. Utah Street court in the Meadows (last court on the right before S. 34th St.).

Golden rain tree—In October and November, the spent flowers become vivid yellow strands bearing three-valved capsules hanging at the ends of pendulous branch tips. There are two fronting residences on S. 36th St. (4436, 4438). The leaf color is an orange-yellow.

Black walnut—In the backyard areas of the above residences, there's

one that bears tennis ball-like fruit. It is lime, hard, and fragrant. Sometimes, they are borne in pairs. The leaves are lanced, pinnate, and fragrant when rubbed. The wood is prized for use in cabinetry and furniture-making.

Sycamore—You can spot this one easily by its exfoliating bark that bears white spots and by the gumball-like fruit that hangs on four-inch-long stems resembling ornaments. The skin of the fruit is soft and fuzzy and breaks apart after dropping. The sycamore leaf is large and turns yellowish-brown in October. There's one at the intersection of S. 36th and S. Wakefield Streets, and another at the intersection of S. Abingdon and S. 31th Streets in North Fairlington.

Japanese black pine—These line the fence outside Utah Park's playing field. On the same branch, you'll find a greenish-purple cone (before maturity) and the typical charcoal, mature cone. Needles are bunched in pairs and are five inches long.

Pagoda tree—If you're driving to Fort Ward Park on W. Braddock Rd., notice these on the center median strip. Lime-colored, jelly-bean-like fruit pods hang on the branch tips. In late fall, these pods turn yellow before becoming brown.

—By Bill Sullivan,
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Don't forget to come see what makes Abingdon SOOOOO special, November 3

Wheel Nights—the quarterly events at Abingdon where students show off all they are learning in our unique Architecture, Communications, Instrumental Music, and Science and Math Lab classes—are now called Project Gift Showcases. The first one will be held on November 3. We invite you to come and see what it is that makes Abingdon such an extraordinarily special learning environment. Children will be performing, showing off their projects, and performing musical pieces. Don't tell the kids, but they're not just having fun; they're learning (and rising test scores prove it!).

The PTA will be selling pizza, drinks, and snacks for bargain prices. So, don't worry about grabbing dinner after work. Have dinner with us.

Can you help us with our book drive?

Reading is so fundamental to a child's entire learning experience and at Abingdon we place a very special emphasis on getting the right books into each child's hands and fostering a lifelong love of reading. Our reading team—Ms. Rube, Ms. Smith, Ms. Reissman, Ms. Watson, and Ms. Nienstedt—have set a goal of collecting 3,000 books to help develop little reading libraries in each classroom at Abingdon. They're about halfway to the goal. Can you help us surpass it before we ring in the New Year?

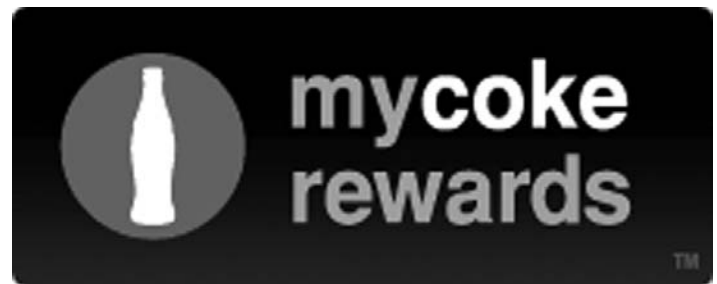
They're looking for new or gently used books for children of all

pre-school and elementary school levels. Fiction, non-fiction, mysteries, adventures, history, science—anything you can provide, they'll take and find the perfect reader for it. If you have some books you'd like to donate, please contact Abingdon parent Brandy Byrd and she'll arrange to take them off your hands. And, if you're a local business and would be willing to serve as a drop-off location for local residents and workers to leave their book donations, Brandy can set you up with a box and flyers. Contact Brandy at bbyrd82@gmail.com to learn more.

Thank you, Fairlington MOMS Club!

We consider ourselves very fortunate at Abingdon to have such great neighbors here in Fairlington. We'd like to single out one group right now—the Fairlington MOMS Club—for their tremendous generosity and caring. The members of this group recently collected a huge amount of school supplies, from backpacks to glue sticks to tissues—they left nothing out! We can use these items to help some of our families in need of a little extra help.

The Abingdon PTA helps students in need with their school supplies, as well as field trip fees, and we keep a fund going all year for just that purpose. But, with 52% of our students eligible for free and reduced school lunch, the funds run low all too



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quickly. Donations like these from the MOMS Club will go a long way this year to give all our kids the tools they need to succeed.

Last year, the Fairlington MOMS Club showed similar generosity, donating piles of cold weather clothing, including jackets, scarves, hats, and gloves, for boys and girls of all ages. And, with the weather last year, their donations couldn't have come at a better time. We're so thankful to all our generous neighbors, and particularly the wonderful parents of the Fairlington MOMS Club.

Save the date: December 3 is movie night

Our first free movie night is Friday, December 3. As always, we'll have a family-friendly movie selection. Bring your pillows and blankets and set up for the kids on the multi-purpose room floor. The PTA will be selling pizza, drinks, and snacks. And, after the movie, we'll raffle off the DVD and other prizes.

—By Michelle Marston, Abingdon PTA co-president

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neighborhood news

Fair Golds

The Fair Golds, an Arlington County social group in and around the Fairlington area (including Alexandria), meets at the Fairlington Community Center at noon on the first and third Thursdays of each month, with the exception of July and August when there is only one meeting on the third Thursdays of those months. The meetings begin with a brown-bag lunch. Dessert and beverages are provided.

This month the Fair Golds will hold a business meeting on Thursday, November 4, and on Thursday, November 18, we will enjoy a Thanksgiving luncheon, location to be determined. We always welcome guests and/or new members over 55 years of age. Please feel free to join us at our meetings to see if Fair Golds is a group you would be interested in joining. We try to arrange a special program or engage a speaker for the second Thursday meeting of the month. If you would like more information, call Gertrude Frankel at 703-931-3759 or Vernetta Kukulich at 703-548-8571.

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 Diners

We're an easy-going group of Fairlington and non-Fairlington friends who gather for dinner a couple of times a month, and focus on having a good meal in great company. We had a very nice trip by water taxi to National Harbor in October, despite overcast skies, and a good meal at McCormick and Schmick's. This month, we'll continue with Sunday outings, as they've been popular. Join us to try the Cedar Knoll Inn near Mount Vernon, which has great recommendations from several members of our group.

Monday, November 1, 7:30 p.m., half-price burger night at Ramparts Restaurant, 1700 Fern St, Alexandria, 22302, 703-998-6616. This is a popular event, with a different group each month. Come try the new burger menu, which has proved to be very tasty.

Sunday, November 21, 1 p.m., Cedar Knoll Inn, 9030 Lucia Lane, Alexandria 22308, 703-799-1501. This restaurant near Mt. Vernon has a nice view of the water—a feature we always enjoy.

Please call (not e-mail) Carol to let us know if you plan to attend, so we can choose the right size table when we arrive. Prior to the day of the event, please call at 703-379-6840. For Cedar Knoll Inn, please call NLT 6 p.m., Saturday November 20. For Ramparts, if you call on the day of the event, please call by 6 p.m. at 202-647-2624. Leave a voicemail at either number if you don't reach Carol directly—include your name and how to contact you the day of the event, in case of a change in plans. We have, on occasion, had to change plans, so we need to be able to let you know. If you'd like to be included in our e-mail list, please send your e-mail address to carol_dabbs@yahoo.com.

Thirty Somethings

In October, the Fairlington 30-Somethings tried out the innovative Twisted Vines Wine Bar on Columbia Pike. On November 18 at 7:15 p.m. they'll meet again for happy hour, this time at the bar at Busboys and Poets in Shirlington. Come say goodbye to Jeff, in his last month as co-organizer. Kavita will carry on for the group.

The Fairlington 30-Somethings is a social group for people who live in Fairlington. Members range from their mid-twenties to their mid-forties. Singles and couples are welcome. The F30s have monthly happy hours that tend to alternate between Shirlington and another local neighborhood in Arlington or Alexandria. They also sometimes organize other activities, such as attending concerts or plays, or inner-tubing or beach trips. Kavita Kalsy would love your help with organizing events. If you'd like to be on the e-mail list or help organize, please e-mail kkalsy@hotmail.com or j.b.hewitt@verizon.net.

Book Group

The Book Group will not meet in November and December. The next meeting will be January 25, 2011. Happy holidays! For further information, please contact Kavita Kalsy at kkalsy@hotmail.com or Terry Gough at tjgough@verizon.net.

Fairlington Babysitting Co-op (FBC) is currently accepting new members

At the autumn quarterly meeting, Fairlington Babysitting Co-op members and their children gathered at the Fairlington Community Center and enjoyed the remnants of summer with an Ice Cream Social. The Social was held after a bit of business was conducted. Members caught up with each other, met new families, and the children made new playmates while covered in ice cream.

What is the FBC? Fairlington families have been enjoying the benefits of this unique organization for 30 years. The Co-op is a network of Fairlington families who exchange free babysitting services. Parents who are ready for some time away from the kids but don't know who to call should consider joining the Co-op. It's perfect for parents who would like to know dependable adults to watch their children and meet other families in the community. Whether a parent is single or married, working or staying at home, the FBC can accommodate diverse schedules and situations.

How does the Co-op work? The Co-op works on a card system, where each member starts out with 15 one-hour cards and can use them to pay for sits. Members send out their own sit requests via the FBC Google Group. Members then "pay" for sitting services with cards. Sits may be requested during the day, evening, or weekend. During the day children are normally brought to the sitter's house, and in the evenings the sitter usually comes to the children's house; however, different arrangements may be made. The group introduces its new members at the quarterly meetings/social events.

How can I join? If you are a Fairlington resident (North or South), e-mail the Winter Quarter's Co-coordinators Amy Blauman and Cara Fahey at fairlington.babysitting@gmail.com to request an application and a complete set of rules. Once your application is complete, your references will be contacted, and then the Co-coordinators will come for an in-home interview. Once all of these steps are successfully completed, you will receive a supply of Co-op cards equal to 15-hours of babysitting.

MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington

Are you a stay-at-home parent, pregnant, or on maternity leave, and looking to connect with other Fairlington moms and dads? The MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington, VA© chapter of the International MOMS Club may be for you. Members and their children participate in general monthly meetings, member planned outings/events, family meal support, Parents' Night Out, and much more. The weekly age-specific playgroups start as young as birth to 6 months and go all the way up to 3+ years old. Playgroups are great for kids, but they also offer parents a chance to find support and friendship.

In the last year members have also worked on several community service projects benefitting Abingdon Elementary School, the Arlington Food Assistance Center, and the March of Dimes.

If you would like to learn more about the club and meet other parents, please join us for our general meeting on Wednesday, November 10, at the Fairlington Community Center. Children are welcome. For more information about the club, the general meeting, or membership, please contact Angela Klaus (Membership VP) at fairlingtonmoms@yahoo.com. Annual dues of \$25 support quarterly group functions and community service projects.

Avoid late-payment fees, sign up for online bill alerts

The first installment of real estate tax was due to the Arlington Treasurer in June, and the second installment was due in October. Some people, however, will incur a late payment penalty because they did not receive the latest bill in the mail, lost it, or forgot about it. The treasurer's office offers a way to avoid late payment by signing up for bill payer notification: You can receive e-mail reminders, view online payment history, and view bills for real estate taxes, personal property taxes, utilities, and parking tickets. "This service is currently enjoyed free of charge by more than 34,000 Arlington households," says the treasurer's office, and it is "far more reliable than traditional mail delivery." To sign up, go online to the Customer Assessment and Payment portal (CAAP) at www.arlingtonva.us/capp.

Mini-ads

For Sale

WHO'S ON YOUR HOLIDAY GIFT LIST? No matter who is on your list, I have the perfect gift ideas. Let me help you host a Lia Sophia Jewelry Show and receive tons of free jewelry for yourself or someone special. The holiday season is a perfect time to Share the Love of Jewelry. Contact: Michele Robinson, Lia Sophia Jewelry Advisor, miche2121@aol.com 301-266-2175 www.liasophia/michelerobinson

Services

INCOME TAXES. We can prepare your Federal and State Income Taxes. New home-owners and all-50-state taxes our specialty. Electronic Filing. Convenient location, evening and weekend hours. 30% discount for Fairlington Residents. Visit www.cpa-coker.com for more information, directions. Call for appointment 703- 931-3290.

SELF-CARE. Infant-Children's Massage, Reflexology, Reiki, Yoga and more. 703-671-2435 www.moorethanyoga.com.

COMPUTER HELP. Fairlington resident will help resolve problems with computers and other electronic equipment. Jim 703-820-8767 - jandgonline.com.

I FLAUT! DO YOU? Does your child love playing music? For pleasure or competition? My passion is helping all abilities and ages thrive and learn. Adults welcome. Former GWU flute professor. Call 703-998-7223 for a free lesson. www.lynnhertel.com.

Child Care

CHILD CARE. Professional child care in my home. FT/PT. CPR and first aid. Excellent references. Worked with children for 23 years. Infants welcome. Call Pat at 703-370-2603.

NANNYSHARE. Our wonderful nannyshare will soon have an opening! Contact Katie at katharine.devore@gmail.com for lots of details about our beloved nanny.

Gardening/ Landscaping

SULLIVAN'S LANDSCAPING. Ready for a new look in your patio? Email or call Bill at SULLIVAN'S LANDSCAPING, INC. billsullivan41@gmail.com or 571.213.9567. My prices are affordable and my customer service is proven. Interested in learning about landscaping? Register for my class at www.sullivanlandsclaping.net

LEAVES FALLIN', GARDEN'S CALLIN': BULB PLANTING TIME! Winterization: cleanup, mulching, planting, pruning, constructions and more. Wendell of Environs: 703-623-9625/MisterFixALot@gmail.com

Improvements

HANDYMAN. Windows, glass, clogged drains, storm door repairs, fixtures, garbage disposal installation, etc. Dave Pearce. 703-201-6303.

WINDOW REPAIR. Best prices. Quality work. Check my ad on new vinyl windows! Dave Pearce. 703-201-6303.

DOOR SOLUTIONS. 1,000's of pleased customers since 1992. An expert in Fairlington doors. Website: www.doorsolutions.biz (information/prices). Email Bill: bill@doorsolutions.biz.

PAINTING. Greg the Painter – Sixteen years Fairlington resident, quality interior painting and drywall repair. Large and small jobs. Call 571-242-2702.

HOME IMPROVEMENT. Ask to see finished bathrooms and kitchens to compare quality and price. Call Fairlington Maintenance Service. 703-379-7733. fairlingtonmaintenance.com

HOME IMPROVEMENTS AND REPAIRS. Serving Fairlington since 1978. Hundreds of bathrooms and kitchens renovated. Other services include painting, plumbing, window repairs, leak detection and correction, dryer vent replacement, regrouting, recaulking, drywall repairs, etc. Call Vic Sison at Fairlington Maintenance Service 703-379-7733. fairlingtonmaintenance.com

KITCHEN CEILING. Serving Fairlington since 1978. We have developed several ceiling designs. Talk to us about your kitchen renovation needs. Call Fairlington Maintenance Service. 703-379-7733. fairlingtonmaintenance.com

MICHAEL PACHECO CONTRACTING. 40 YEARS EXPERIENCE. No job too small. Interior renovation to include: painting, finish carpentry, window sills and casings, complete kitchen and bathroom remodeling, plaster repair. We also remove wallpaper, tile installation, tile grouting, linoleum kitchen and bathroom floors, and wall to wall carpeting. Installation of exterior doors all types including storm doors. General household repairs. Your home left clean and neat. Old fashioned quality at an affordable price. WE ARE NOW RUNNING A SPECIAL. WE WILL BEAT ANY WRITTEN ESTIMATE BY \$200.00. Call Michael at 703-379-6725.

BATHROOM & KITCHEN. Special discount for teachers, police, veterans, senior citizens, and disabled. Call Fairlington Maintenance Service 703-379-7733 or fairlingtonmaintenance.com

STAPLES REMODELING. For all of your remodeling needs. Kitchens, bathrooms, basements and painting. Call 703-499-2249 for a free estimate. Visit our website at www.staplesremodeling.com.

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Mini-ads

PAINTING. Professional, neat, clean, reliable, references available. Wallpaper removal/hanging, drywall repairs. Large and small jobs. 25 years experience. Licensed, bonded and insured. Free Estimates. Call Steve Chute at 571-216-9338.

JON NORDLING, LLC. A Class "A" licensed Building Contractor with 20 years experience. Kitchens, baths, basements, replacements, repairs- and more. A master in all aspects of construction projects, big or small. Unsurpassed in honest evaluations, workmanship, and customer relations. Visit www.jonnordling.com for more information. Free estimates. References. Call Jon. 571-215-3691.

House Cleaning

MICHELE'S MAIDS. Reliable, honest & affordable. Specializing in detailed cleaning. Serving Fairlington for over 13 years. LICENSED, BONDED & INSURED. Fairlington references available. No Machines to talk to. 703-820-1808 Visit our website at www.michelesmaids.net

HOUSE CLEANING. Reliable, experienced, good references, flexible scheduling, reasonable rates. We bring our own equipment. Weekly - bi-weekly - monthly - occasionally. One-time, move-in/out, offices. For free in home estimate call Maryen/Raul at 703-321-5335.

FAIRLINGTON MAID SERVICE. Serving Fairlington since 1978. Family owned and operated. Our staff is reliable, trust-worthy, punctual, and detail oriented. Our prices are reasonable, our service is thorough, plus we love pets, too. 703-820-8635.

JADA'S CLEANING SERVICE. Reliable, experienced and good references. Weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, occasionally, move in/out, windows and offices. Other services: carpets steams cleaned. Call us for free estimates (703) 569-7799.

HOUSE CLEANING. Experienced, honest, detailed cleaning. Excellent references from Fairlington residents. Weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, occasionally, move-in/out. Call 703-820-2116 or 703-597-1226.

Pet Services

PET & PLANTCARE BY GERRI, LLC. Reliable, loving care for your dogs, cats, rabbits, birds, or fish. Petsitting, playgroups, walks, feedings, medications. Indoor/outdoor plantcare. Established 1999 by 19-year Parkfairfax resident; bonded and insured. Competitive rates; flexible arrangements. Call 703-379-7719.

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ALWAYS CARING PET CARE. Dog walking, cat sitting. Reliable, flexible, midday, holiday or vacation care for your pets. Serving Fairlington for over 10 years. Excellent references. 703-765-0990.

DOG WALKER, PET & HOUSE SITTER. Reasonable rates. Mature and dependable lady who loves animals would be glad to take your dog for regular walks and kitty sit when you are away. Excellent references. Call Doris at 703-578-3978.

DOG WALKER & PET SITTER- REASONABLE RATES. Special rates for regular walks. Mature, responsible, reliable and dependable woman with excellent Fairlington references. Suzanne Mitchell: Pal4Paws.Suzanne@gmail.com or call 703-868-8894.

FAIRY DOG WALKER. Attention new and seasoned Fairlington residents with furry friends! Are you looking for someone caring and trustworthy to walk your puppy/dog during the day? Look no further! Fairlington resident with excellent rates. Call Heather at 303-931-1313 or e-mail fairydogwalker@aol.com.

Rental Wanted

FURNISHED RENTAL WANTED. Retired professional man seeks to rent furnished Fairlington unit, approximately December through February, while his own North Fairlington unit is completely remodeled. Contact Terry at 703-820-7832 or tjgough@verizon.net.

Miscellaneous

DOG PLAY. Join us at the North Fairlington December Board meeting to ask for Board support of a tennis court dedicated to off-leash doggie play. For more information, contact fairdogssocialclub@comcast.net.

Spring for bulbs

Time is running out for planting spring-blooming bulbs. The small bulbs, like grape hyacinth and crocus, were planted in September. Daffodils went in the ground in October. Tulips can be planted up until Thanksgiving if the ground has not frozen. You can find bulbs at local garden shops, home improvement stores, and in online catalogues.

Uses for household bleach

You might want to include household chlorine bleach and a medicine dropper in your emergency supply kit. When diluted nine parts water to one part bleach, bleach can be used as a disinfectant. Or in an emergency you can use it to treat water by using 16 drops of regular household liquid bleach per gallon of water. Do not use scented, color-safe, or bleaches with added cleansers.

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

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

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

Mailing Address for All Ads and Checks: FCA-AFB, PO Box 6182, Arlington, VA 22206-0182

Drop-Off Location for Ads and Checks: Drop-Off Box in Fairlington Community Center,
3308 S. Stafford Street

MINI-AD FORM

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

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

Cost is 50 cents per word (e.g., "998-0000" and "stove" are each one word; "interior/exterior" are two words).

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To order, come to an FCA-sponsored event or monthly meeting; e-mail president@fca-fairlington.org; or call the FCA at 703-243-1735 to leave your name and phone number. Visit www.fca-fairlington.org for additional details or to find the next FCA event.

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