

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

NOVEMBER 2011

Volume 37, Number 11

Safeway redevelopment plans move forward

FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, November 9, 7 pm

Fair Golds business meeting

Thursday, November 3, noon
FCC

Daylight saving time ends

Sunday, November 6, 2 am

MOMS Club meeting

Wednesday, November 9, 4 pm
FCC

Fairlington Diners

Monday, November 14, 6:30 pm
Ramparts half-price burger night
Alexandria

Fair Golds program

Thursday, November 17, noon
FCC

Invasive plant pull

Saturday, November 19, 9 am – noon
32nd Road S.

Fairlington Diners

Saturday, November 19, 12:30 pm
L'Auberge Chez Francois
Great Falls

Book Group

Tuesday, November 22, 7:30 pm
North Fairlington CC

See Neighborhood News on pages
23–24 and related articles for details
about calendar events.

Safeway, Inc. has requested a special use permit from the City of Alexandria to redevelop the grocery store on King Street at Bradlee. In public meetings this year, most comments showed that neighbors welcomed the prospect of a shiny, new Safeway. Plans call for the existing 41,000+ square foot store and 199 surface parking spaces to be demolished and replaced by a new Lifestyle-format

Safeway—a two-story 61,000+ square foot stand-alone retail building, with 228 parking spaces (125 spaces would be covered by the store and the rest would be surface spots screened from view). The proposed design on the triangular site puts the parking at grade (ground level) with the actual store located on a second level above the parking. Oversized elevators would carry customers with their carts to/from ground level parking and the store above. In addition, there would be an up-escalator, a down-escalator, and a down cart-conveyor. The design plan calls for creating a “new pedestrian realm,” with wide sidewalks and a landscaped plaza for outdoor seating, where, the store suggests, patrons could dine, have a cup of coffee, or meet with friends.

From the company's concept plan documents: “The new Safeway will include such amenities as: Starbucks coffee bar; expanded produce and floral departments; hearth oven for baking bread along with a wide variety of specialty desserts; expanded service meat and service seafood; gourmet cheese department; expanded deli with prepared foods; expanded organic produce department; extensive beer and wine department with a wine steward; and in-store café seating. The new store will also include a pharmacy, an extensive health and beauty aids department, and a Bergmann's drycleaner.”

As yet, there is no published time line for the proposed renovation. For more information, including images of Lifestyle-format stores and links to public meeting notes and the developer's documents, go online to the Alexandria Web site, www.alexandriava.gov, and search Lifestyle Safeway or enter the link, <http://alexandriava.gov/planning/info/default.aspx?id=49466>.



The designer's rendering of the King Street service road façade of the new Safeway.

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 on Facebook at the "Fairlington Appreciation Society."

Preliminary agenda:

7 p.m. Special program: FCA board members will report what is known about development plans in and around the community and host a speaker if one becomes available by meeting time. Neighbors can discuss what they anticipate regarding the impacts on Fairlington of potential real estate development.

8 p.m. Regular business meeting:

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

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	Bob Laser (FAA) bob.laser@faa.gov

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:

FCA • PO Box 6182 • Arlington, VA 22206-0182

E-mail editorial announcements to:

editor@fca-fairlington.org

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
1/4 page	4 5/8 in.	3 5/8 in.	\$94
1/2 page	4 5/8 in.	7.5 in.	\$195
Full-Page	9.5 in.	7.5 in.	\$395
Back Cover (Full Page)	9.5 in.	7.5 in.	\$505
Full-Page Insert (1 Side)	11 in.	8.5 in.	\$525
Full-Page Insert (2 Sides)	11 in.	8.5 in.	\$570

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Fairlington is a National Register and Virginia Landmark Historic District

For more information, visit www.fca-fairlington.org

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Happy Thanksgiving! November 24

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Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fairlingtonians,

Change: Some of us live for it. Most of us are made queasy by the thought of it. All of us know that in life, change is always at hand.

In what some might consider a sign that the local economy is improving, several real estate and roadwork projects in and near Fairlington are in the planning stages. The sponsors say these projects will improve the quality of life for residents of South Arlington and the West End of Alexandria.

However, these same projects have some residents asking tough questions: Will these projects deliver the services we want most? Are there negative impacts lurking behind the blueprints? Is my local government exercising the appropriate legal oversight these projects require? Will Fairlington suffer? Or prosper?

This is where the FCA plays a useful role. The FCA is Fairlington's bridge to local governments, businesses, and non-profit interests. I believe in fact-gathering, in discussion, and in myth-busting. So, at the November 9 public meeting at the Fairlington Community Center, the FCA will present details on various projects, answer audience questions, and hear the community's input on how to move forward.

Living in Fairlington is, on the one hand, a chance for us to embrace something permanent and enduring—a community born nearly 70 years ago; one that is friendly, beautiful, lush, and walk-able; one whose very existence is honored by our historic designation.

On the other hand, living in Fairlington is an exercise in managing change, because our community should not and cannot remain static. We're surrounded by traffic, by economic growth and contraction, and by environmental concerns—our daily lives are affected by all these things. How we respond to inevitable change is the mark of a vibrant and engaged Fairlington, and that response depends on your insights, your input, and your passion.

As your civic association president, I am committed to representing your interests in this time of change and to making sure Fairlington remains the community we all enjoy calling home.

I hope to see you at our November public meeting!

Rosiland Jordan
president@fca-fairlington.org

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CLARENDON II - 1,383 SqFt



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Winter weather can trigger water problems



The intersection of Walter Reed and Arlington Mill on October 11, where WSS emergency crews worked to repair a broken water main. Photograph by Gretchen Fallon.

In the months ahead, as colder weather and freezing temperatures arrive, we can predict that, at times, there will be episodes of low water pressure or water shut-offs due to water main breaks or leaks and the ensuing repairs. Even during the balmy weather of early October, that was the case when water service in Fairlington and Shirlington was disrupted by a major water main break at Walter Reed and Arlington Mill Drives. It was the Tuesday after Columbus Day: Abingdon ES students got an unexpected extension of the school-closing holiday (and parents scrambled to make arrangements).

Emergency crews from the Department of Environmental Services, Water/Sewer/Streets Bureau worked through the day to locate a rare-sized pipe and then install the new pipe and valve. As they reopened the valves, however, another portion of the pipe broke. Water in the area was again shut off, so that the team could reassess the situation and initiate new repairs. Throughout the day, parts of Fairlington experienced low to no water pressure, but WSS opened an interconnection valve with Alexandria to help maintain some water pressure in the area. They confirmed that businesses in Shirlington had water service, but the Animal Welfare League of Arlington was without water. Repairs continued through the overnight hours and full service was restored the next day.

With approximately 485 miles of water lines and 465 miles of sewer pipes to monitor, WSS welcomes reports from residents about water problems. If you have concerns or questions about your water service or if you spot a leak or perceive some abnormality in the system, notify WSS immediately by calling the 24-hour water emergency hotline, 703-228-6555. For more information, go online to the county Web site, www.arlingtonva.us, and search "water emergency" to access the WSS water emergency page.

Police report uptick in solicitors going door to door

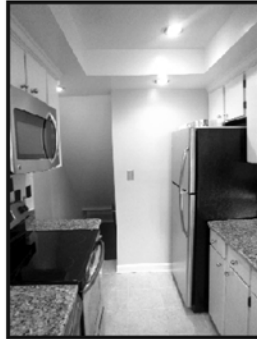
Captain Brett Butler, commander of the Third District, wants to highlight an increase locally in the activity of door-to-door solicitors. One named individual, Keith Franklin, was noted for repeated violations, including assault and burglary in the past, and, recently, trespassing, destruction of property, and being drunk in public. Captain Butler acknowledges that people want to show compassion by helping their fellow man, but he also cautions against letting your better nature compromise your security. "Do not make yourself or family members victims by allowing individuals such as Franklin to gain access to your homes. Do not encourage them to stay in your neighborhood by giving them jobs to do around the yard."

Police recommend you do call the police non-emergency number (703-558-2222) to report any suspicious activity, and call when solicitors come to your door, so that police can check them out and know who is walking around the neighborhood.

New Safeway's traffic impact

A traffic study conducted by Alexandria this summer, to accompany consideration of Safeway's request to build a new store at Bradlee (*see page one*), confirmed what many neighbors already know: If you want to avoid crowds at Safeway, stay away on Saturday afternoon. The study determined that the existing Safeway store generates approximately 150 trips during the morning peak hour, 438 trips during the afternoon peak hour, and 452 trips during the Saturday peak hour. The additional square footage planned for the store expansion is primarily intended to bring the store up to market standards rather than to increase trips to the store. Even so, using trip-generation rates based on square footage, the traffic study assumes approximately 55 new trips during the morning peak hour, 161 new trips during the afternoon peak hour, and 166 new trips during the Saturday peak hour.

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Fairlington fire station said "Welcome to our house"

In observance of last month's national Fire Prevention week, the Fairlington firehouse opened its doors and welcomed neighbors and visitors on Saturday, October 15. During the annual open house, you could stop by any of Arlington's 10 fire stations to learn about protecting your family and home from fires. Every year, the firefighters at Station 7 offer a variety of fun activities for enchanted youngsters, who sported junior firefighter helmets while going on a scavenger hunt throughout the station. While searching from one safety area to the next, children and parents learned hands-on safety

lessons, like how to check a smoke detector and how to create a home fire-escape plan. They watched, spell-bound, as Firefighter Werner Ennesser donned bulky turnout gear and breathing apparatus. The kids then climbed aboard the big red truck. They munched popcorn and cookies. They gathered decals, stickers, and memories. One mother with small children in tow described Station 7's open house as Fairlington's favorite fall event. You can friend the Fairlington firehouse on Facebook, at ACFD Fire Station 7.



Photographs by Gretchen Fallon.



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Helping hands require serious gloves



FCA treasurer Ed Hilz, a stalwart puller of invasive weeds and vines at the S. 32nd Road tree stand, wears heavy-duty ThornMaster gardening gloves, which have been his favored brand of gloves for the past nine years while doing similar volunteer work at Upton Hill Regional Park in Arlington. These work gloves are the kind that serious gardeners and landscape workers would find familiar. The hand is covered by a thick, green, rubber-coated fabric that promises safe contact with rough bark and remains (mostly) impervious to thorns. The extended canvas cuff, or gauntlet, covers the wrist and part of the forearm, to protect the wearer from poison ivy and those long, raking scratches that seem inescapable when you're handling brambles and tangled underbrush. That kind of protection can be pricey—deluxe models, often marketed for working with roses or cactus, easily can retail for \$30. ThornMasters, rugged as well as flexible, cost about \$13 a pair. If you can find them.

When monthly work pulling invasive plants from the tree stand began in earnest this spring, Hilz wanted a new pair of the tried and true ThornMasters. He discovered, however, that the gloves had been discontinued. An extensive Internet search turned up a cache at a supplier in Arizona. He bought two dozen pairs—enough to cover his penchant for volunteer landscape work.

Last chance this year to do some good work at the S. 32nd Road tree stand

The last-of-the-season habitat rehab event at the S. 32nd Road tree stand is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, November 19, from 9 am to noon. Come for any portion of the morning; work for as long as you like, pulling invasive weeds and/or planting new natives. Lenny Bankester, who has organized the monthly workdays since March, reports that the county has offered recommendations for planting wildflowers and trees, and he hopes to add some ferns, too. In addition to putting in plants, Bankester is thinking about supplying some nest boxes for the site—to see if any chickadees or wrens will take to them over the winter.

After November, the project will go on hiatus until late March next year. In the spring, volunteer hands will resume work on dislodging the invasive ivy and honeysuckle. The goal, says Bankester, is to “finish them off,” and then stand back and observe what native plants come up once the weed-removal gives them the chance. Next year, weed pullers will take on a broader range of species, like garlic mustard and Asiatic dayflower. And Bankester is now consulting with the county about removing the ailanthus tree—to head off “shoots spreading all over the place” in the spring.

Bankester acknowledges, with thanks, the help of Sarah Archer, the county's coordinator for the removal of invasive plants; Patrick Wegeng, the county's landscape architect; and our neighbor Ed Hilz, a consistent and reliable supporter of the work.

Create a wildlife map

If you enjoy watching wildlife, this workshop could be for you. Wildlife mapping encourages citizens of all ages to collect and contribute wildlife data to a public state database. The workshop, held at Potomac Overlook Park (2845 N. Marcey Road, Arlington, 22207) on Saturday, November 5 from 9 am to 1:30 pm, is designed to teach participants map reading skills (latitude and longitude), image-recognition search, and habitat classification skills. Pre-registration is required, and there is a \$15 fee to cover materials. Payment should be sent directly to the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. Register at www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlifemapping/workshops.asp. For more information, go online to www.dgif.virginia.gov/wildlifemapping/workshops.asp or contact Lou Verner at Lou.Verner@dgif.virginia.gov.

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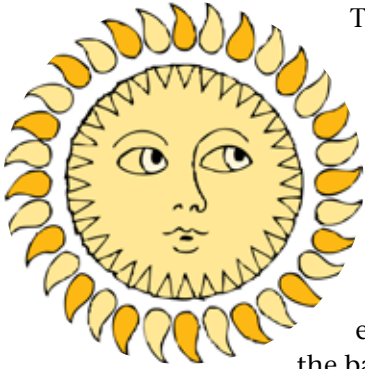
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Daylight hours can be calculated



The Web application Daylight Hours Explorer shows you how many hours of daylight you can expect on any given day throughout the year depending on your location (by latitude).

The app requires you to enter your latitude or slide the bar to change the number—

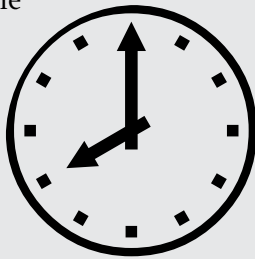
Arlington's latitude is approximately 38 degrees N. Then, on the graph, slide the bar around to a selected month/date, and the results box will tell you how many hours of daylight your chosen location receives.

According to the explorer, the number of hours of daylight in Arlington on November 10 will be 10.1; on December 24, 9.4 hours (the low point); on January 14, 9.6 hours; on February 11, 10.5 hours; and on March 17, 11.9 hours. The yearly average here is 12 hours of daylight. The high point occurs around June 15, with 14.7 hours.

Go online to <http://astro.unl.edu/classaction/animations/coordsmotion/daylighthoursexplorer.html>, or go online and search "daylight hours explorer."

Time to set clocks back, November 6

Time will fall back to standard time on the first Sunday in November—November 6, 2011—when daylight saving time ends. In the United States, clocks change at 2 am local time: In the spring, spring forward from 1:59 am to 3 am; in the fall, fall back from 1:59 am to 1am. The federal government doesn't require U.S. states or territories to observe daylight saving time, which is why residents of Arizona, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Guam, and the Northern Marianas Islands won't need to change their clocks this month.



Storm-ready resources online

We are now entering the last month of this year's six-month Atlantic tropical storm season. After November 30, winter snow and ice can cause road closures and power outages (remember Snowmageddon?). When any severe weather event or disaster occurs, FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency) and the American Red Cross say you should be able to take care of yourself for three days, without electricity or outside assistance. You can prepare now by assembling your family's emergency supply kit; making a plan for all family members; and staying informed. Information about how to prepare for any emergency and how to stay safe as a major weather event approaches is widely available online.



FEMA: www.ready.gov

American Red Cross, Arlington Chapter: www.arlingtonredcross.org > Disaster

National Hurricane Center: www.nhc.noaa.gov

Arlington County: www.arlingtonva.us > Emergency management and personal response

National Capital Region: www.makeaplan.org
Virginia: www.vaemergency.com.

Get in the flu zone

It's still optimal time to get a flu shot to ward off this winter's seasonal flu, which can arrive in waves, and in slightly varied forms, typically in December, January, and February, but even as late as April and May. The CDC encourages everyone six months and older to get a shot—the recommendation was new last year. For adults, it takes about two weeks after vaccination for antibodies to develop and provide protection from the flu. And now there's a special, souped-up version of the vaccine specially designed for people age 65 and over, who generally tend to produce a weaker immune response. Fluzone high-dose contains four times the immune-triggering virus proteins as the regular shot. The high-dose shot, covered by Medicare, may provide stronger protection against an illness that can have serious complications for older people. For more information, go online to www.flu.gov or www.cdc.gov/flu.

Shirlie Lights up the Village

Tuesday, November 29th

6:30pm-8:30pm



VillageAtShirlington.com



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Bus stops to get upgrades



Bus stop on the west side of Wakefield near the intersection with S. 36th St. may get a shelter like the stop across the street. Photograph by Gretchen Fallon.

At its September meeting, the Arlington County Board approved a contract to supply much-needed improvements to 31 existing, high-priority bus stops in Arlington, including ART bus and Metro bus stops (some stops serve both systems). A detailed survey, conducted by county transit staff, identified the bus stops that most needed improvement, when rated on such concerns as ridership, safety, accessibility, and amenities. Improvements may include: new bus shelters, improved street crossings, curb ramps, new or upgraded sidewalks, benches, trash receptacles, and landscaping.

Five bus stops selected for improvement are in Fairlington and nearby Shirlington:

- Stop 2148 (north side of Arlington Mill Drive near the Campbell Avenue intersection in Shirlington)
- Stop 10337 (east side of S.31st Street in front of the Park Shirlington Apartments)
- Stop 11206 (north side of Buchanan Street near the S. 30th Street intersection in Fairlington Villages)
- Stop 14103 (west side of S. Wakefield Street near the S. 36th Street intersection in Fairlington Mews)
- Stop 14139 (west side of Walter Reed Drive near the Arlington Mill Drive intersection).

Work on the bus stops was slated to begin in October and be completed by April 2012. Communities in the vicinity of the work will be notified of any expected disruptions. Stops will be temporarily relocated and residents should expect short term traffic restrictions in construction areas. County transit staff will assess other bus stops for future improvements. The goal is to upgrade shelters and benches and make all bus stops ADA accessible.

Whatever happened to HOT lanes?

They're still coming—just not here, not now.

Recall that the HOT lanes project, as originally envisioned, would have turned the I-395, inside-the-Beltway, through-Arlington portion of the public highway into a toll road funneling more commuters from the south into an inevitable bottleneck at the District line. Close-in neighborhoods were horrified at the prospect of local streets becoming nightmarishly clogged with commuter traffic, as northbound drivers bailed out at exits to Seminary Road, King Street, Quaker Lane, Shirlington, and Glebe Road to avoid the higher costs of congestion pricing on the last leg of commutes to Washington.

After public meetings revealed the scope of local opposition to the proposal, and Arlington County's 2009 lawsuit against the Virginia Department of Transportation proved successful in delaying construction, the project was put on hold. At the time, considerable public disdain from Arlington residents and officials was directed at the state legislature, which had, in the 1990s, empowered VDOT to enter into these public/private partnerships and financing arrangements, which essentially handed over the operation of public infrastructure assets to the benefit of revenue-generating companies. In turn, the Virginia General Assembly criticized Arlington County for being "obstructionist," and retaliated by not renewing the county's ability to collect a local hotel surcharge. However, despite the public wrangling and the objections voiced by affected Arlington and Alexandria neighbors (who characterized VDOT's comment-gathering meetings as "charades"), the likely reason for VDOT's holding-pattern decision probably had more to do with the worldwide economic downturn.

But the HOT lanes project was never abandoned; it was adjusted. Recently, public hearings resumed along southern segments of I-95, and HOT lanes are on track to be constructed along approximately 29 miles of I-95, from Garrisonville Road in Stafford County to Edsall Road in Fairfax County. For more information and project updates, go online to the VDOT Megaprojects Web site, www.vamegaprojects.com.

Shirlington Library news: For complete program descriptions, go online to the library Web site at www.arlingtonva.us/departments/Libraries/LibrariesEvents.aspx. See also <http://shirlingtonlibrary.wordpress.com>.



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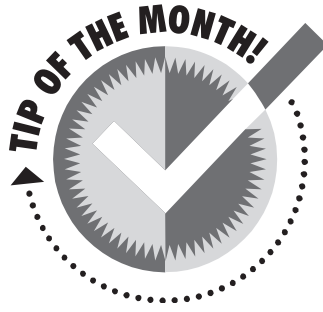
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Fall Into Savings

Saturday

Saturday, Oct. 8 - Monday, Oct. 10, three day
Taste of DC



Kick off Columbus Day weekend with the region's largest and most anticipated food, wine, beer and cultural festival. Attractions will serve up over 60 of the area's best eateries, wine and beer pavilions, musical acts and a family-friendly zone. Click [here](#) for a complete list of ticket prices for special events.

Location: Pennsylvania Avenue NW (between 9th & 14th

Streets) in Washington, DC

Information: (202) 618-FOOD; www.thetasteofdc.org

Cost: General admission is free; Food & beverage tickets are 10 tickets for \$15

Saturday, Oct. 8, 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. and Sunday, Oct. 9, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Alexandria West End Art and Wine Festival 2011

Alexandria's West End presents this art and wine festival featuring 90 juried artists, 25 crafters, a Taste of the West End with culinary delights from 16 ethnic restaurants, a wine garden starring Award-Winning DeFosse Vineyards and Winery, local entertainment, children's activities and sponsor booths.

Location: Cameron Station, adjoining Ben Brenman Park, Alexandria, VA

Information: (703) 746-3301; www.westendartandwinefestival.com

Cost: Festival is free; \$5 for wine garden



Saturday, Oct. 8, 12:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Capitol City Brewing Company's Mid-Atlantic Oktoberfest



Sample beers from 40 different breweries, try food from local vendors and enjoy the sounds of an authentic German band while wandering through the Village of Shirlington at Cap City's Oktoberfest celebration.

Location: Capitol City Brewing Company, 2700 S. Quincy St. Arlington, VA

Information: (703) 578-3888; www.capcitybrew.com/oktoberfest11.php

Cost: Free - \$25 for beer tasting

Sporting Updates

Friday, Oct. 7, 7:00 p.m.

Catholic University Cardinals vs. Randolph-Macon (Football)



Location: The Catholic University of America, 620 Michigan Ave. NE, Washington, DC
Click [here](#) for more information

Saturday, Oct. 8, 7:00 p.m.

Washington Capitals vs. Carolina Hurricanes



Location: Verizon Center, 601 F St. NW, Washington, DC
Click [here](#) for more information

Sunday, Oct. 9, 7:30 p.m.

Invisible Children Charity Triathlon at UMW



Location: University of Mary Washington, 1301 College Ave. Fredericksburg, VA
Click [here](#) for more information

Sunday, Oct. 9, 2:00 p.m.

George Mason Patriots vs. Hofstra (Women's Soccer)



Location: George Mason University, 4400 University Dr. Fairfax, VA

I love our neighborhood - there is always so much going on around here!

I've teamed up with a number of local businesses to offer you some great discounts on area restaurants, home services, and other useful offers. Through my weekly events calendar, you can see what's going on in the area and also get exciting discounts. The Local Weekend Events Calendar includes fun events such as free concerts, professional entertainment, sports contests, upcoming movies, and much more.

Head to www.mitchcurtis.com

to sign up for your weekly events calendar, and I hope to see you at many of these events!

And remember, if you or someone you know is thinking of buying, selling, or renting a home, please let them know that I can help.

Thanks,

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Pictures depict an actual Fairlington
Village kitchen recently remodeled by GMG



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AFAC set new record for clients served

During the week of September 12, the Arlington Food Assistance Center hit an all-time high for the number of families served—1,572 families (4,006 individuals). And that record held only until the last week of the month with 1,602 families (4,050 individuals) served. The previous high was 1,524 families the week of November 21, 2009—it was a traditionally high turnout time due to Thanksgiving distribution. But AFAC has noted a steady increase in people seeking food assistance every week throughout the summer, ending in the recent spike of visits in September. And that's before the expected uptick for the holiday season. The increasing demand at the 24-year-old food pantry was described in a *Washington Post* story in October.

For the holiday this year, AFAC's goal is to collect 1,500



each of the following items for families' Thanksgiving baskets: 1 lb. potato mix, 6 oz. stuffing mix, and canned gravy (no glass, please). Please drop off donations by Thursday, November 10. AFAC will be distributing items, including turkeys, the week of November 14.

More than 65 percent of the food AFAC distributes is donated. Donated food items help keep costs down and supply the kinds of food clients need.

Donations can be dropped off at

AFAC's Four Mile Run location (2708 S. Nelson Street), Monday through Friday, from 8 am to 4:30 pm; Kinder Haus Toys (1220 N. Fillmore St., Arlington 22201); all Arlington County Libraries; and Ballston Animal Hospital (5232 Wilson Blvd., Arlington 22205). Check with AFAC for additional locations and dates/times. For more information, go online to www.afac.org.

Wakefield High School news

Recently, the Virginia Department of Education announced that for the 2010-11 school year Wakefield High School failed to meet all requirements for full accreditation by the state. The finding was based on a single measurement standard, one newly instituted by the state, called the Graduation and Completion Index. In an open letter to community members, Dr. Chris Willmore, WHS principal, offered reassurance that the single negative finding did not reflect "student test scores and other performance measures [which] continue to meet or exceed state requirements" and had no effect on graduating students' academic records or prospects for higher education; explained how the GCI was calculated and how certain possible flaws in data-collection affected the results; and explained how WHS was addressing identified challenges affecting the school's graduation rate.

To read the principal's letter in its entirety, go online to the WHS Web site, www.apsva.us/Domain/2021, and scroll down to "A message from Dr. Willmore about Wakefield's accreditation."

FCA to elect officers, directors for 2012 board next month

The election for 2012 FCA board officers and directors will be held at the FCA meeting on December 14.

Currently, candidates for the 2012 FCA board include:

President, Rosiland Jordan

Vice-president, Bryan Pettigrew

Treasurer, Ed Hilz

Directors: Carol Dabbs, Kent Duffy, Jacob Gelbaum, Mark Jones, and Brenda Kriegel.

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 Fairlington's civic association board, contact FCA president Rosiland Jordan at president@fca-fairlington.org or leave a voice-mail message at 703-243-1735.



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Gardening events at the FCC in November

Green thumbs can still get a workout this month. Virginia Cooperative Extension is sponsoring two garden-related events at the Fairlington Community Center in November. For either workshop, you can ask questions or pre-register by contacting the VCE Help Desk at mgarlalex@vt.edu or 703-228-6414.

Feed your soil. Wednesday, November 9, 7 to 8:30 pm. Learn how to compost your yard and kitchen waste to increase your yield, make your plants and vegetables more disease resistant, and improve the water retaining capacity of the soil.

Vertical wall gardens and roof-top vegetables. Thursday, November 10, 7 to 9 pm. Hear about some new ideas on space saving, run-off retaining, energy conserving, and gardening practices for urban dwellers; part of the Sustainable Urban Agriculture Lecture series.

Taxi fees may go up, but you could pay with plastic

At the November 19 public meeting, the Arlington County Board will consider several small changes to the existing taxi ordinance, which have been recommended by county staff in order to help taxi drivers recoup some of the ever-increasing costs of operation. The changes include: Increasing the drop charge (the originating fee) from \$2.75 to \$3.00 and adjusting the extra-passenger charge of \$1 per additional rider (over six years old) to \$1.50 per additional rider over age 12. At the same time, county staff recommended that all taxicabs be required, and equipped, to accept credit card payment (currently most, but not all, do). If approved, the changes would go into effect next year.

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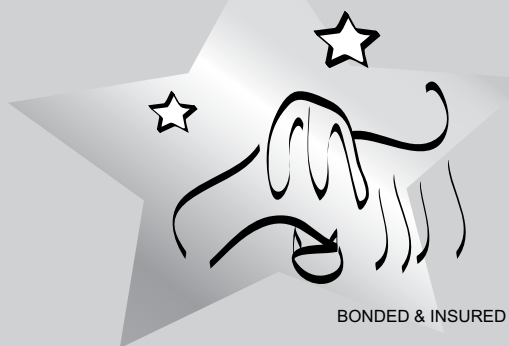
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Hurricane season runs through November 30

Hurricanes are still in season this month. For more information, including basic hurricane safety tips, links to weather watches, and timely updates, go online to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Web site, www.nws.noaa.gov/om/hurricane, and the Web site for NOAA's Atlantic Oceanographic & Meteorological Laboratory, www.aoml.noaa.gov.

FAIRLINGTON

community center news

Workshops, classes, and programs

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/prc or call 703-228-4747.

Paint your own pottery: This class offers a fun and easy way to decorate your own functional pottery. Two pieces of pottery are permitted per student. Learn techniques in painting, sponging, and stenciling with under glazes to create one-of-a-kind pieces. They make great gifts. All materials included. Additional pottery may be purchased. Instructor, Drake. Ages 6 to adult. Saturday, November 19, 9:30 – 11 am. 120101C

Next step digital photography: Continue to explore the creative techniques presented in photography and enjoy photographing subjects of your choice. Learn when and how to use custom white balance, flash, auto depth, and various modes for landscape, portrait, action, and night photography. Bring your camera and operating manual to class. This class requires an SLR (single-lens reflex) camera with manual settings. If you have questions regarding your camera, please call Jessica Sauer at 703-228-5922. \$92. Ages 15 to adult. Two sessions: Instructor, Golfer, Tuesday, November 1, 7 – 9 pm, 140173A. Instructor Reinink, Thursday, November 3, 7 – 9 pm, 140173B.

Teen Fitness Challenge: Open to Arlington students aged 13-18

years old, the FitArlington Teen Fitness Challenge allows teens the opportunity to learn how to work out safely in the weight room, gain an understanding of overall health benefits through physical activity, and develop a lifelong fitness habit. Just \$10 covers your membership costs until you graduate from high school. Register for the program, pay the \$10 registration fee, and attend the introductory training sessions to become a member and start training. Contact Shanan Knox at 703-228-7782 or e-mail Sknox@arlingtonva.us.

Cold weather workouts in the fitness center: Don't let your health and fitness goals get sidetracked by bad weather or the holiday season. You can exercise when it's convenient for you in the FCC fitness room. Personal training services are available on Saturday mornings, and there are a variety of classes in studio. Locker rooms and showers are available. Stop by FCC to purchase a fitness center pass good at Fairlington plus five other Arlington County community centers. Ten day pass available, plus three, six, and twelve month passes.

Senior center events

Regularly scheduled programs are Tuesday through Friday from 8:30 am to 1:30 pm for residents 55 and older who hold a 55+ pass. Call Emma Valencia at 703-228-7791 for more information.

Open play in the gym

13 and older, Saturday, 3 to 5 pm.
13 and younger, whenever no other scheduled programming is ongoing. Check the FCC bulletin board or call the day-of to confirm availability.

FCC hours and contact info

Monday through Friday,
8 am – 9 pm

Saturday, 8 am – 5 pm

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 pm—children must be supervised by an adult (18 and older). In addition, there are a Senior Program, a creative preschool (three to five years old), parent/child Co-op Program for children one and two years old, and summer camp.

Master Gardeners plant clinic

Monday through Friday, 9 am to noon. Help Desk, 703-228-6414.

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Holiday art show and sale in early December

The ninth annual "Artful Weekend," sponsored by the Arlington Artists Alliance, takes place the week-end of December 2 – 4 at the restored Hendry House at Fort C. F. Smith (2411 N. 24th Street). The sale will feature 36 two- and three-D artists working in oil, pastel, water media, collage, ceramics, wood, textiles, and glass in a variety of styles from realist to abstract. There will be works priced for every budget and suitable as gifts. The opening reception is Friday, December 2 from 6 to 8 pm. The show continues Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm, and Sunday, noon to 4 pm. Admission is free. On- and off-street parking is available.

Fairlington calendars: The 2012 Fairlington calendar is available for \$5. Featuring photographs and facts about Fairlington's history and community life, this keepsake calendar is a perfect gift for the upcoming holiday season. You can buy a calendar by sending a check made out to the Fairlington Historical Society for \$6.50 (includes postage and handling) to FHS at 2776 South Arlington Mill Drive, #150, Arlington, Virginia 22206.

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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



Western landscapes inspire a spare, natural look

Flowering shrubs and ornamental trees aren't the only centerpieces of a landscape. I learned this driving through southern Colorado in late September.

Walking around the "Garden of the Gods," staring up at Pike's Peak, and observing median strips and garden beds dotted with rock (not mulch) offered a new perspective. After all, the earth is made up of clay, silt, and sand with plants growing out of the "mix." In Colorado, red sandstone and feldspar are naturally formed features on mountain slopes and flatlands. In smaller amounts, you'll find them spread among evergreens and wildflowers in landscapes.

Across the desert, sandy mesas are randomly stitched with greenish clumps of scrub oak and scrub pine. Vegetation is sparse, since the soil has little organic matter (humus), and it loses more water through evaporation than it receives from rainfall. Up on the mountains, aspen, Rocky Mountain juniper, and blue spruce flourished—except for the very mountain tops, which were frosted with snow even in late summer.

Flowers were more apparent in the wild than in private gardens. Along the roads and throughout the rough on a golf course I played, wildflowers were everywhere: Sunflower (mustard and Daisy-like), aster (purplish or yellow but Daisy-like), yucca (white blooms on vertical scapes), Canada thistle (maroon



Rocky trails and pebble "mulched" garden beds create a spare background for specimen plants. Photograph, www.desertlandscapedesign.com.

flower), bluebells (royal blue), milkweed (pink and thistle-like), mullein (vertical with yellow flowers), cactus (pear-like and walking stick—the latter has a mauve flower), hollyhock, and chokeberry.

Deer ventured daily into neighborhoods at dawn and dusk, stopping to bite off foliage of eye-level shrubbery. Bighorn sheep were far less apparent, preferring to roam the foothills and cliffs of the mountains.

Colorado's climate is arid—that means hot and sun-splashed, since the horizon is apparent in every direction except west, where the

Rockies stand with undulating shoulders. The day I arrived, the humidity in Colorado Springs was 14%, compared to 88% in Arlington. For East coast denizens, it's odd to be hot and shielding yourself from the sun's never-ending glare.... without perspiring!

Despite the climate differential, we can adapt Western garden designs for use here. Instead of mulch, fill your beds with fist-sized stones, called River Rock or Rip-Rap at local distributors. They vary in shades of beige and gray, which provide a pebbly texture to your garden "floor." Spread the rock after you've planted specimens, and be sure to first lay fabric on the soil so weeds don't poke up through your rockscape.

To complete your "desert" design, choose these plants that thrive in our climate: yucca, juniper (common and rug cultivars), falsecypress, mugo pine, and spirea for touches of color. You can even add the perennial, columbine—Colorado's state flower—which comes in combinations of pink, purple, maroon, aqua, yellow, and white.

If you find open space boring, place large rocks of granite or quartz on the mulch. Do so in a "here-and-there" pattern or in clusters. Remember, perennials appear "natural" when brushing the rock with their foliage. For more planting ideas, visit this Web site: www.donerickson.com/plants/plants.html.

— Bill Sullivan,
www.sullivanlandscaping.net

Animal Talk

Keep the holidays hazard-free for pets

It's hard to believe that the holidays are right around the corner! Although it can be a joyful time, holidays also can be dangerous for pets. Here are a few tips for keeping your pets safe over the coming months.

November. Who can resist Thanksgiving dinner with all the trimmings? It's tempting to allow your pets to join the festivities, but they should not be allowed to overindulge. Overfeeding can cause gastrointestinal problems, and cooked bones can be a hazard when ingested, since they can splinter and get stuck or cause obstructions. Foods with high fat content can lead

to a life-threatening condition called pancreatitis. So while you may have trouble showing restraint, try to exercise control with your pets.

December. The many holidays celebrated in December can bring a host of problems. Holiday parties and decorations abound, creating potential hazards for pets. Alcohol, popular treats like chocolate, and traditional holiday plants like mistletoe can be toxic. Contrary to popular belief, poinsettias, while they can cause digestive upset, are usually not toxic. Decorative and wrapping items may attract the attention of your pets. Take care throughout the month to place potentially danger-

ous items out of their reach.

If you suspect your pet has ingested a potentially dangerous substance, call your veterinarian or the ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center immediately at 888-426-4435. For a small donation, they will work with you and your vet to identify the problem and recommend a course of action. A comprehensive list of pet ingestion hazards can be found at www.asPCA.org under Animal Poison Control Center.

Stay safe this holiday season!

—Christine Chirichella, AFB Assistant Editor

AWLA's good news, good times



**Animal
Welfare
League of
Arlington**

In its fall 2011 annual report, the Animal Welfare League of Arlington was proud to report several changes over the last fiscal year. The initiatives, many of which are designed to modify negative behaviors and speed an animal's adoption, include: A new, front office pet lounge that showcases animals that might not show well, might be overlooked, and/or could benefit from extra

socialization; free obedience classes as a special offer/special incentive for people to adopt pit bulls, which tend to take longer to be adopted; education workshops with humane traps for the trap-neuter-return program for feral cats; and training for volunteer dog walkers to reinforce positive behaviors, like not jumping up or pulling on the leash, and to supervise dog play groups so that animals can productively work off some of their energy.

Less visible but most significant, says AWLA, "We have decreased euthanasia by 60 percent over the previous fiscal year. Our positive outcome rate for dogs has increased from 80 to 91 percent; for cats from 70 to 85 percent; and for small

companion animals from 79 to 97 percent."

AWLA's annual fundraiser, Catsino Night, occurs on Saturday, November 5 in the historic lobby of National Airport's Terminal A. At last year's Catsino Night auction, the most hotly contested bidding was for dinner with the firefighters of Fairlington's Station 7. Again this year, an authentic firehouse dinner will be offered as the coveted prize for the highest bidder. Tickets to the event are on sale for \$100. For more information about AWLA or Catsino Night, go online to www.awla.org.



Abingdon joins schools across the world for Walk to School event

Through the years the sight of Abingdon parents and students walking to and from school has become a staple of the Fairlington community. During October, Abingdon joined schools across the world to participate in and promote International Walk and Bike to School Month. This world-wide, month-long celebration encouraged students to walk and bike to school, while teaching them about the health and environmental benefits of walking and biking. As the drop-off and pick-up lines for cars increase at most schools, Abingdon maintains a uniquely high level of pedestrian school-goers, and the school's sense of community is greatly enhanced by the large number of walkers. It is a daily occurrence to see many parents gathering in groups after school to talk while their kids play at the large park adjacent to Abingdon. Many

parents become friends, kids have a common place to play immediately after school and, most of all, Fairlington residents can take great pride in having a truly authentic neighborhood school.

New Tech Crew gives Abingdon students an innovative learning edge

Tech Crew is a new addition to Abingdon's multiple-intelligences learning model. Abingdon now boasts six "Wheels" of specialized subjects including Architecture, Living histories, Math lab, Science lab, Tech Crew, and Suzuki violin. Under the direction of Abingdon's Paige Whelan, Tech Crew students are enthusiastically engaged in learning multiple subjects while incorporating state-of-the-art technology.

Tech Crew students use a variety of equipment, software programs, and web tools while collaborating on innovative projects. For example, first graders engage in the "Little

Bird Tales" web program, illustrating important scenes from a story, and then recording their voices to retell the story. Third graders create Key-note presentations about their life events. The final product is a narrated story from which they learned to capture and direct photographs and synchronize them with their own voiceovers. Fifth grade students apply the properties of sound to create original musical compositions. Using Garage Band is an example of how these students fulfill a part of their science curriculum while learning to compose music.

Odyssey of the Mind comes to Abingdon

Odyssey of the Mind is an international program that challenges children to think outside the box. The program was introduced in 1978 by Dr. Sam Micklus as a way to encourage students to use creativity to solve problems. Today, student teams from Kindergarten through college compete by applying a wide range of skills from engineering to acting. Last year, 16 Abingdon students participated in an intramural Odyssey club, learning the team-building and problem-solving skills that they'll be able to use in Odyssey competitions. This year, Abingdon will field as many as four teams of students in the Northern Virginia regional competition. The problems they solve include building sets, writing stories and scripts, and designing vehicles and load-bearing structures. Students will work from now until March with their teams, coached by parent and teacher volunteers. — Michelle Marston

—Dan Branch, Abingdon PTA



Fourth grade students in Ms. Whelan's "Tech Crew" class use the school's new Macintosh computers to create digital animation of geometry concepts. Photograph by Paige Whelan.

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neighborhood news

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

Fairlington Diners is a relaxed group of Fairlington and non-Fairlington friends who gather for dinner a couple of times a month. We focus on having a good meal in great company. Come out and join us in November! For either event, please leave a voice-mail 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. And if you'd like to be included in our e-mail list, please send your e-mail address to carol_dabbs@yahoo.com.

Monday, November 14, 6:30 pm. Half-price burger night at Ramparts Restaurant, 1700 Fern St., Alexandria, 22302, 703-998-6616. This is a local favorite that we visit monthly—usually with a large turnout. Please call Carol at 703-379-6840 to let us know if you plan to attend, so we can choose the right size table when we arrive.

Saturday, November 19, 12:30 pm, L'Auberge Chez Francois, 332 Springvale Rd., Great Falls, 22066, 703-759-3800. As a special treat to kick off the holiday season, join us for a four-course, *prix fixe* lunch (\$38, including a glass of wine) at this superb restaurant in a delightful setting. If you will attend, please call Carol at 703-379-6840 by noon on Friday, November 18, so the reservation can be for the correct number, and so that we can arrange carpools.

Fair Golds

The Fair Golds, a social group in and around the Fairlington area, meets at the Fairlington Community Center on the first and third Thursdays of the month at noon (except in August). Regular meetings begin with a brown-bag lunch; dessert and beverages are provided. We always welcome guests and/or new members over 55 years of age. This month, Fair Golds will meet on Thursday, November 3 for a business meeting and on Thursday, November 17 for a program. For more information, call Gertrude Frankel at 703-931-3759.

Book Group

Romanian immigrant Attila Ambrus became an outlaw and an improbable folk hero in the disarray of 1990s post-Communist Hungary. Julian Rubinstein tells his bizarre and antic tale in *The Ballad of the Whiskey Robber: A True Story of Bank Heists, Ice Hockey, Transylvanian Pelt Smuggling, Moonlighting Detectives, and Broken Hearts*. Come enjoy a chat about the book on Tuesday, November 22, at 7:30 pm in the North Fairlington Community Center. For more information, contact Terry Gough at tjgough@verizon.net.

Fairlington Babysitting Co-op accepting new applications

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

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 sittings. Sittings may be requested during the day, evenings or weekends. 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 Co-op holds quarterly social events where children play together, parents converse, and a few business items are discussed.

For an application or more information, contact the FBC via Google Groups at <http://groups.google.com/group/fairlington-babysitting> or by e-mail at fairlington.babysitting@gmail.com. The Fairlington Babysitting Co-op looks forward to hearing from you!

MOMS Club

Are you a parent and looking to connect with other Fairlington moms and dads? The MOMS Club of

neighborhood news

Continued

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, Parents' Night Out, and much more. The weekly age-specific playgroups start as young as birth and go 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 and the Arlington Food Assistance Center. Our club also raised donations for and participated in the March of Dimes' March for Babies, which took place in May. We have hosted speakers on topics including separation anxiety, nutrition, early childhood literacy, and positive discipline, and even wardrobe styling for busy moms. Recently we hosted a local author who shared tips on how to help children learn to appreciate a variety of foods and flavors.

Parents and parents-to-be are welcome to join us for our next general meeting on November 9 at 4 pm at the Fairlington Community Center. Children are always welcome. For more information about the club, the meeting, or membership, please visit www.fairlington-momsclub.com. Annual dues of \$25 support quarterly group functions and community service projects.



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MOVING SALE. Bed, kitchen goods, framed prints. Call 703-379-7125.

FURNITURE. Four Stanley Craftsman Farms side chairs, mink finish, new May 2011, stored since June. SKU 955-11-60. Description, photos, Stanley Furniture site. \$130 each or four for \$480. 703-820-7832.

Services

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.

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HEALING TOUCH. Massage therapy services. 1225 Martha Custis Drive Suite 2. Alexandria, Va. 22302. 5-10 minutes from Fairlington. Phone 703-980-5304. For more information check out: www.healingtouchmassagetherapy.biz.

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CHILD CARE. Professional in-home daycare. FT/PT. CPR and first aid certified. Excellent references. Worked with children for 25 years. Infants welcome. Call Pat at 703-370-2603 or 703-566-7448. www.patkids.com

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DOOR SOLUTIONS. 1,000's of pleased customers since 1992. Expert in Fairlington doors. Visit website: www.doorsolutions.biz (for contact/scheduling/prices info).

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

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NOTICE TO ALL ADVERTISERS

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

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