

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

NOVEMBER 2012

Volume 38, Number 11

Delegate Rob Krupicka stops by the FCA meeting

FCA monthly meeting

No meeting in November. The board will meet in executive session for review of the FCA bylaws.

Wednesday, November 14, 7 pm

FCC

3308 S. Stafford St.

Daylight Saving Time ends

Sunday, November 4, 2 am > 1am

General Election

Tuesday, November 6, 6 am – 7 pm

Polling places

Long Branch birthday party

Saturday, November 10, 1 – 3 pm

625 S. Carlin Springs Road

MOMS Club

Wednesday, November 14, 4 pm

FCC

FCA Board working session

Wednesday, November 14, 7 – 9 pm

FCC

Car decals in place

Thursday, November 15

Arlington

Fairlington Diners

Thursday, November 15, 6:30 pm

Peking Gourmet

Falls Church

FHS Home & Garden kick-off

Friday, November 16, 7 pm

NFCC

Fairlington residents in attendance at the October 10 FCA meeting welcomed a surprise, drop-in visit from state legislator, Delegate Rob Krupicka, representative for the 45th District in the Virginia House of Delegates.

When the General Assembly is not in session, said Del. Krupicka, he hopes to make many such visits to civic association meetings in his district—the gatherings are familiar venues for Krupicka, who began his civic career as president of the Del Ray (Alexandria) Citizens Association. He also spent nine years on the Alexandria City Council, and then was appointed by Governor Tim Kaine to the State Board of Education, before winning the special election in September to fill the seat vacated by David Englin. The 45th District is comprised mostly of Alexandria and parts of Arlington.

The delegate's previous experiences have helped to shape the values and priorities he will take to Richmond—particularly in the areas of education and transportation. The next General Assembly session, which convenes January 9, 2013, will be something of a sprint, Krupicka said—3,000 bills to consider in 45 days. (Virginia has one of the shortest legislative sessions in the country, he noted.) Krupicka expected to spend much of his time during his first GA session listening, getting briefed on issues, working on collaboration, and building relationships. FCA board member Guy Land acknowledged that team-building spirit: He noted that candidate Krupicka had attended the Fairlington Fourth of July parade this year when he was running for office, and now Delegate Krupicka returned to Fairlington without fanfare after having secured his seat.

For more information, go online to www.krupicka.com. To contact Delegate Krupicka: Elizabeth Jones, Legislative Aide, DelRKrupicka@House.Virginia.Gov; 571-357-4762; P.O. Box 25455 Alexandria, VA 22313.



FCA board member Guy Land greets Delegate Rob Krupicka. Photo, Gretchen Fallon.

Continued on page 3

Coming up ...

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

Preliminary agenda:

November 14: No meeting in November. The board will meet in executive session to review the FCA bylaws, November 14 and November 17.

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	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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Jacob Gelbaum
Mark Jones
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Fairlington-Shirlington Neighborhood Conservation Committee

Chair: Ed Hilz • 703-379-6435 • treasurer@fca-fairlington.org

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:

editor@fca-fairlington.org

E-mail commercial and mini ads to:

admanager@fca-fairlington.org

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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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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Calendar, cont.

FCA Board working session 2

Saturday, November 17, 9:30 am

FCC

Fairlington Diners

Monday, November 19, 6:30 pm

Ramparts half-price burger night

Alexandria

Book Group

Tuesday, November 27, 7:30 pm

North Fairlington CC

See Neighborhood News on page 23 and related articles for details about calendar events.

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Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I recently adopted a puppy, Chocolat. She's a rat terrier with tons of energy and boundless cheer, and I love her just as much as I love my ginger cat, Bobo. And thanks to Chocolat, I am now a true Fairlingtonian—eight years after moving in!

Buying in Fairlington was my declaration that I was finally a grownup—that the period of moving for college, for graduate school, for the first real job, and then the next one, and the next one after that, was over. It meant painting the walls whatever color I wanted. It meant practicing my not-so-green thumb with middling results. And in a way, it meant returning to my childhood: My five siblings and I had both a dog and a cat. I'd also raised a cat in three states in the early days of my career, and I missed having a furry one around.

Thanks to Bobo, a charmer and a most intelligent feline, I was already part of the pet parent community. The vet is five minutes away; a wonderful sitter is as close as a phone call; and I know where all the great pet supply stores are. But—this being Fairlington—I did feel a bit left out. So many dogs! So many wagging tails, so much joy! I wanted some of that wagging in my household.

So, when a colleague announced that her college-age daughter needed to give up her puppy, I took one look at Chocolat's photos and offered to take her in. Yes, housetraining has been a challenge, and Bobo has been skeptical, but each day is exciting and fun.

And Chocolat has given me something in return: a universe of wonderful, friendly neighbors, both with dogs of their own and without. When we head out for our walks, Chocolat is sure to approach every dog she sees, and that's given me the chance to make new friends. (Good job, Chocolat!) She's reminded me why I moved to Fairlington in the first place—the sense of community and camaraderie that makes our community really a special one.

So, from Bobo, Chocolat, and me: A wonderful and Happy Thanksgiving to everyone—furry and not—in Fairlington!

Yours in service,

Rosiland Jordan, president
Fairlington Citizens Association
president@fca-fairlington.org

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CaBi responds to Fairlington feedback

True to their word, the CaBi staff (Capital BikeShare and BikeArlington) welcomed feedback from Fairlington residents on proposed locations for new CaBi stations in the neighborhood, as reported in the October *Bulletin*, and they've already changed those locations accordingly. Most importantly, CaBi heard the desire of Fairlingtonians to cede as little on-street parking as possible to new stations and to position the new stations near well-used bus stops. Arlington's CaBi program manager Paul DeMaio told residents at the October FCA meeting that the newly recommended sites for the neighborhood are:



CaBi program manager Paul DeMaio explains bikeshare stations in Fairlington. Photo, Gretchen Fallon.

- 31st Street S. and S. Woodrow, on the grass near a high-traffic bus stop and on the downhill side of the street.
- S. Abingdon St. and 31st Rd. S., at the north end of the bridge, adjacent to the bike lane and on the same side of the street as a high-traffic bus stop.
- S. Stafford St. and 33rd St. S., on the grassy area beside the FCC parking lot, rather than in on-street parking spaces in front of the FCC.

DeMaio said that residents' comments were just what they were looking for—the kind of local, community input that guides the growth of the bike share service's transportation plan. And CaBi's growth has been impressive: It took 12 months to reach one million bike rides, eight months to reach the second million, and four months to reach the third million—and the exponen-

tial growth makes sense. As DeMaio pointed out, CaBi's usefulness grows as the system expands. "The more stations we have in D.C., Arlington, and Alexandria, the more useful it becomes for everyone. With every new station, there are more destinations, more work sites, more trips, errands, and events that become accessible and convenient." And the bikes operate on every individual's personal schedule—they're available on demand, 24/7, 365 days a year.

In addition, DeMaio emphasized an important point: CaBi offers a point-to-point transit option—it is not a recreational bike rental company.

If people want a bike just to cruise around or get some exercise for a day or a half-day, CaBi is probably not the best or most economical choice for them. Rather, CaBi is intended for purposeful travel from one docking station to the next. Accordingly, the pricing schedule encourages short-term use—after a membership fee, the first 30 minutes is always free, and progressive usage fees begin to apply as the bike's "out of dock" time grows. (The system-wide average trip is 21 minutes.) You can join CaBi through one of four membership choices: one year for \$75 is the cheapest option; one month costs \$25; three days for \$15 accommodates people who might have someone visiting for the weekend; and one day for \$7 is designed for tourists or people who want to try out the system before joining for a longer term. For more information, go online to BikeArlington.com > bike sharing.

Arlington voters to consider \$153 million in bonds

At the October FCA meeting, the county's director of the Department of Management and Finance, Michelle Cowan, provided Fairlingtonians with an overview of the four bond referenda that will be on the November 6 ballot for Arlington residents to consider. Ms. Cowan first introduced meeting attendees to the ten-year CIP—the county's FY 2013 – FY 2022 Capital Improvement Plan document—a hefty tome, which is updated every two years through an extensive process, and which contains much of the detailed background underlying the four bond questions, including construction time frames and projected operating costs. The information is

available on the county Web site, arlingtonva.us > CIP. Also available there is a link to referenda-specific questions and answers. In short, on Election Day, Arlington voters will consider a total of \$153 million in four separate bond questions. "Shall we taxpayers borrow this money for these purposes?" State



Michelle Cowan

Continued on page 7



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Dominion's improvements to electric grid

Dominion Virginia Power spokesperson Deborah Johnson clarified what the utility means by improvements that may affect the two circuits that supply power to south Fairlington. Likely improvements include the following: Replace cross-arms, insulators, reclosers, and other devices as needed; inspect and replace poles; check tension on poles and guy wires; perform additional tree trimming; transformer inspection/replacement; switch inspection/replacement; circuit tie automation; and cable replacement.

Vote next month for 2013 FCA board members

At the FCA meeting on Wednesday, December 12, Fairlington residents will elect the board for the Fairlington Citizens Association for 2013. The board consists of four officers and five directors who volunteer their time to maintain the quality of life in Fairlington by: organizing monthly informational meetings; providing a forum for residents to voice concerns, exchange views, and ask questions; sponsoring community events and outreach efforts; and monitoring issues in local government that affect life in Fairlington. The FCA represents all Fairlington residents, owners and tenants.

Board members serve for a term of one year. The board meets monthly, except in August when there is no scheduled meeting (nor at other times, as announced). Duties are outlined in the FCA bylaws, which are posted on the FCA Web site. There are currently two open seats for director, and additional nominations may be made from the floor at the December meeting. The slate of candidates (as known at print time) is:

President, Guy Land
Vice president, Kent Duffy
Secretary, Carol Dabbs
Treasurer, Ed Hilz
Directors, Jacob Gelbaum, Michelle Woolley, Mark Jones

NOTE: The FCA is distinct from the seven separate condo associations in Fairlington. Your condo association is governed by a resident/owner board that works together with a management company to establish policy for and supervise such routine issues as building and grounds, parking lots, pets, trash/recycling pick-up, landscaping and snow removal, recreation amenities, carriage lamps, fence replacement, and so on.

Vote on November 6

For the General Election on Tuesday, November 6, all polling places are open from 6 am to 7 pm. If you are unsure where you need to go to vote, go online to the polling place page on the county Web site, www.arlingtonva.us, or call 703-228-3456. If you need a ride to the polls, representatives from the two major political parties offer help. Call or e-mail the Arlington County Democratic Committee, arlingtond@arlingtondemocrats.org or 703-528-8588, or the Arlington County Republican Committee, info@arlingtongop.org or 703-685-2488. For general voter information, go online to the election resources page on the county Web site or call the League of Women Voters, 703-344-3246.



Bonds, continued from page 5

law prevented Ms. Cowan from advocating for approval or disapproval of the bond referenda, but as chief author and supervisor of the plans, she was a welcome and knowledgeable guest who was available to provide background and answer questions from Fairlington residents.

In a brief overview of an admittedly complex subject, Ms. Cowan highlighted certain interesting facts in specific bond areas. As to the category for Metro & Transportation: Although we hear a lot in the news about the Silver Line (the proposed Dulles corridor Metro expansion), Arlington's Metro costs have nothing to do with the Silver Line. In the category for Parks and Recreation: The biggest part of the bond would go for constructing/operating the proposed Long Bridge Aquatics facility; bond funding would contribute about half of the total cost. In the Infrastructure category: The bond would fund a county-built, -owned, and -operated fiber optic network; essentially, it would replace the network contract with Comcast, the current service provider.

In general, said Ms. Cowan, "Now is a good time to borrow," due to historically low interest rates and to the county's triple-A bond rating from Wall Street rating firms. The county's responsible financial management makes an Arlington bond a "safe" investment, which makes it attractive to investors.

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Be a Secret Santa—with help from Fairlington's own elf

Giving to Arlington County's Secret Santa program is a wonderful way to experience the holiday spirit and help people in need at the same time. Organized by the Department of Human Services, the program requests that Santa's helpers donate gift cards, of no more than \$25 value each, from area stores (Target, grocery stores, drug stores, etc.). Cards will be distributed by county social workers to low-income families, kids in foster care, people with disabilities, and low-income seniors in Arlington. Include the value (if it's not printed on the card); a return address so your gift can be acknowledged; and a beneficiary category, if you choose one. Donors are asked to submit cards by December 18—earlier is better, starting now. Mail or hand deliver gift cards to the program coordinator, Kurt Larrick, at Secret Santa Program, DHS 2100 Washington Blvd., 4th Floor, Arlington, VA 22204. For more information, call 703-228-1775 or go online to the county Web site, www.arlingtonva.us and search Secret Santa.

Special delivery for Fairlington residents: As it happens, Secret Santa's chief elf Kurt Larrick is our Fairlington neighbor, and he has volunteered his front-door mail slot as a handy gift card drop-off point for us: 3189 S. Stafford St., in the Green.

Free trees picked up and planted last month



Sunny October weather welcomed county residents to the Arlington nursery facility, where members of TreeStewards helped people pick up trees to plant at home and thereby add to the urban canopy. Photo, Gretchen Fallon.

Fire Station Open House: At the fire station open house in October, ACFD Station 7 firefighters from B Shift offered junior fire hats, stickers, and popcorn to eager visitors. As usual, the biggest draw was the shiny red truck. *Photos, Gretchen Fallon.*



Holiday food drive for AFAC

To stock up food pantry shelves for the holiday season, Arlington Food Assistance Center suggests you ask or alert your condo association or property management of intent to hold a food drive in the building vestibule to benefit AFAC this month or next. The center would provide food collection boxes, posters, and a template flier for posting. AFAC says, "Since 65% of our food is donated to us, food drives are critical to providing clients with as much choice as possible." For more information about conducting a food drive, send e-mail to danielle.rampton@afac.org.

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2013 Home and Garden Tour kick-off, November 16

The Fairlington Historical Society's 2013 Fairlington Home and Garden Tour, held every other year, will take place next spring, in May 2013. A kick-off planning reception will be held on Friday, November 16, at 7 pm at the North Fairlington Community Center (3005 South Abingdon Street). Join the FHS for this informal wine and cheese gathering, as tour committee chairs welcome people interested in showing their homes, working on tour planning, or volunteering to help with tickets, signage, refreshments, and other tour day activities. Volunteering for the tour is a perfect introduction to your neighbors and to the many unique approaches they have taken to renovating and decorating Fairlington homes. The tour committee needs many volunteers to make the day run smoothly, and there are roles even for those with very little time to spare.

If you're interested but unable to attend the reception, contact tour organizers, at www.fairlingtonhistoricalsociety.org. Please RSVP by Monday, November 12, at the Web site or call Patty Clark at 703-820-7328.

AWLA helps feral cats

In its Fall newsletter, the Animal Welfare League of Arlington reported on the trap-neuter-return program for fiscal year 2012, ending in July. Begun in 2011, the program spayed or neutered 140 feral cats. "Most cats came from the Nauck and Columbia Heights West neighborhoods, which were our target areas," the League said. "These cats are now vaccinated against rabies and distemper and will not add to the feral cat population....In the process of trapping feral adult cats, we received many feral kittens that were young enough to be socialized in foster homes and then adopted." The League requests that if you know someone in Arlington or Falls Church who is feeding feral cats, please urge the person to e-mail tnr@awla.org for help with trap-neuter-return.



No off-leash dogs allowed! At the October FCA meeting, board president Rosiland Jordan noted that recently there had been increasing numbers of complaints about dogs being allowed to run off leash. The county code is clear: All dogs in Arlington must be leashed and under the control of the owner/respon-

Letters to the Editor

A jogger's perspective

In response to Ms. Chirichella's article *Dogs v. Jogs: Who has the right of way?* I do both activities in Fairlington. While I agree with the idea that being thoughtful is the right course of action for all, I think the article was more than a little unfair in essentially saying that runners should cede right of way in most cases because it's easier for them to maneuver around. Well, part of running is being able to set a pace. I would suggest Ms. Chirichella tries running a few miles while constantly dodging baby strollers, dog walkers, and oblivious pedestrians—oftentimes having to run out into the street or up a berm to avoid an accident—before she reaches a final conclusion about that point. I've taken to mostly running on the street rather than put up with this built-in obstacle course.



Which brings me to a point that probably should be made now that the days are getting shorter. No matter what type of pedestrian you are, consider reflective clothing or some other method of being more visible to motorists if out when it is dark. There are many places in our neighborhood where it is hard to see pedestrians in the dark when a driver is leaving a parking lot or making a turn.

S.R. Sinclair
Fairlington Villages

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.

sible person, at all times. (The only exception: If the dog is in a county-sanctioned dog park—not an open, unfenced grassy area near your house.) If you encounter or see unleashed dogs, complain to your condo association or property management, and call Animal Control, 703-931-9241.

Shirlie Lights up the Village

Tuesday, November 27th

6:30pm-8:30pm



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News and events for November

Free workshop on edible landscape, November 8:

Learn how to design a beautiful, edible landscape—incorporating vegetables, fruits, and herbs into the garden—in this free workshop on Thursday, November 8, from 7 to 8:30 pm at the Charles Houston Recreation Center, 905 Wythe St., Alexandria. The workshop is sponsored by Virginia Cooperative Extension with support from Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia. For registration or more information, go online to www.mgnv.org/events/calendar/november.

Long Branch Nature Center's birthday party, November 10:

Long Branch Nature Center celebrates its 40th birthday on Saturday, November 10, with a party from 1 to 3 pm (625 S. Carlin Springs Road, Arlington, 22204; 703-228-6535). Park Naturalist Cliff Fairweather says: "We'll have crafts, a scavenger hunt, birthday cake (cake cutting at 2 pm), a chance to meet the center's animals, and other family fun." This is a free program, but donations are gratefully accepted! For more information, go online to the county Web site and search Long Branch.

Rain garden workshop, November 17: On Saturday, November 17, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm, at the Fairlington Community Center, you can learn how to properly locate, design, construct, and maintain a small-scale rain garden—a landscaped area designed to capture rain water and allow it to soak into the ground. Rain gardens capture polluted runoff from roads and buildings so that the water soaks into the ground, slowing its flow and preventing pollutants from reaching local streams and drinking water supplies for the region. To register, call 703-228-3610 or e-mail awinquist@arlingtonva.us.

Hurricane season runs through November 30:

For more information about hurricanes, including basic safety tips, links to weather watches, and timely updates, go online to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service Web site, www.nws.noaa.gov/om/hurricane and the Web site for NOAA's Atlantic Oceanographic & Meteorological Laboratory, www.aoml.noaa.gov.

Shirlington Library seeks a volunteer gamer:

If you like organizing family games, please join the Shirlington Library staff the first Saturday of the month to provide gaming opportunities for local families. Tasks include setting up the room and monitoring people who come to play. There will be board games and a Wii. For more information call Barbara Dean, 703-228-7688.

Cars decals should be in place this month

Per the county treasurer's office, the red 2012-13 personal property tax decals (replacing last year's blue decal) should be displayed by November 15, 2012. The decal expires November 15, 2013.

Most cities and counties in Virginia, including Arlington, require a decal to be placed on the car's front windshield next to the state inspection sticker (some municipalities have dropped the decal while still, of course, collecting the tax). The Arlington County Board sets the decal fee, which is currently \$33 for most vehicles.

The treasurer's office says: Police will ticket all vehicles garaged, stored, or parked in Arlington County that do not display a valid county decal. An Arlington decal is required to be displayed within 60 days of the vehicle's entrance into the county or within 60 days of purchasing the vehicle. New vehicles that are newly located in Arlington must be registered with the Commissioner of Revenue's office. After payment of the decal fee (as well as all outstanding Arlington County personal property taxes and parking tickets), a decal will be issued. For more information, go online to the county Web site and search personal property tax or car decal.



Time to set clocks back: Sunday, November 4

We'll gain an hour of sleep when clocks change to Standard Time on the first Sunday in November—November 4, 2012. When Daylight Saving Time (also called "summer time") ends in the United States, clocks change at 2 am local time when you reset the clock to 1 am. ("Spring forward, fall back" means move the clock ahead one hour in spring and back one hour in fall.) The federal government does not require U.S. states to observe DST, which is why residents of Arizona and Hawaii won't need to adjust their clocks this month.





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— Rick Micker, Former Fairlington Condo VP

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Police tips for personal safety on the trails

From the ACPD report: Rape, 07/03/12, Orange Marker 44 on Four Mile Run Trail. Between 7:30 and 8 pm on July 3, a female victim was jogging on the bike trail when she was confronted by a subject with a knife and sexually assaulted off the trail.



From ACPD Third District Commander, Captain Brett Butler at the time of the incident: Most of you have heard about the rape on the Four Mile Run trail. First I want to reiterate that the trails in Arlington are safe. Obviously an incident such as this calls that into question, but the crime rate on the trail is actually historically very low. I have received many e-mails asking whether the ACPD patrols the trails and, if not, who does. We do patrol the trails when time permits. Our SOS motorcycle officers ride the trails when they are not working traffic and dignitary details, the district teams to include the Third District team regularly ride bicycles on the trails, as do the Arlington Park Rangers.

Captain Butler's tips for enhancing your personal safety: Since we cannot be everywhere at once, trail users must also take safety into their own hands and have a plan about what to do in the event of an emergency. Start by carrying your cell phone to report suspicious or illegal activity by calling the police non-emergency number, 703-558-2222. The phone is also useful for an emergency call if you become injured or come upon someone else who is. Don't run/walk by yourself; run/walk with a partner. Don't walk or run at night. And be observant of who is around you at all times. Electronic devices can distract you—so if you must use an iPod or other device, keep one earbud in, and one out, so that you can hear if someone is coming up behind you.

How do you keep squirrels away from pumpkins? Find out on PLACE Space

Arlington's newly launched Web site called PLACE Space is a kind of electronic bulletin board/boardwalk, where you can "talk" with people who share your interests and exchange information informally. Check out PLACE Space at arlingtonplacespace.us: Join a like-minded circle or follow a conversation that interests you; ask for help or offer advice. Barbara Dean, volunteer coordinator at Shirlington Library, suggests you join the Fairlington neighborhood circle—lately, she said in October, "we've been talking about how to keep squirrels from eating decorative pumpkins." Below, Dean reviews some of the ways PLACE Space can be useful to you:



- **DIYers:** In the Marketplace, ask who might lend that tool you need for a project.
- **Vacationers:** Advertise for a garden-sitter to water your garden while you're out of town.
- **Parents:** Organize a "walking school bus" or car-pool to help get your kids to school.
- **Entrepreneurs:** Ask for feedback on a new idea or request they user-test a Web site redesign.
- **Apartment dwellers:** Start a circle for your apartment complex, and finally get to know your neighbors.
- **Organizations:** Put out a call for volunteers for an upcoming event.
- **Activists:** Mobilize fellow citizens around your issue.
- **Local businesses:** Stand out in the community by filling out your profile.
- **Business people:** Find neat places/events to donate your services or time and give back to the community.

APS enrollment up 3.7 % over last year

Following the mid-August dust-up over Arlington Public Schools' late-breaking announcement about some new bus stops and a new enforcement policy involving passes for school bus riders, APS reported that on September 4, the system welcomed an increase in student enrollment (pre-kindergarten through 12th grade) of 2.9 percent—a predicted increase that the revamped bus transportation plan was designed to address. On the first day of school, APS counted 21,253 students—up from 20,656 on the first day for the 2011-12 school

year and 19,903 for the 2010-11 year.

This year's first-day numbers were expected to go up during September, and a final official number for enrollment was reported to the state Department of Education as of September 30. The final, adjusted increase number saw total enrollment up 3.7 percent over last year, with the majority of the increase coming at the elementary level. The latest numbers report that there are now 22,657 students (pre-K – 12) enrolled in APS schools.

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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



Poets find inspiration in the garden



Lamb's ear. Photo, flowerpictures.org.

Playwrights, poets, and songwriters nurture their imagination staring into the garden. They also draw inspiration from it, employing landscape-derived images and figurative language to make vivid statements like the following:

Rambling rose—Nat King Cole sang the lyric, “Wild and wind-blown, that’s how you’ve grown. Who can cling to a ramblin’ rose?” If you’ve ever noticed this rosebush growing out of control, you can relate to how Cole felt about the girl he couldn’t contain. Written by brothers Noel and Joe Sherman, the 1962 song was No. 1 for over a month on the *Billboard* easy listening chart.

I heard it through the grapevine—“...not much longer would you be mine,” sang Marvin Gaye, after learning his dream girl had intentions with another man. Gaye, a D.C. native, wasn’t caught up in

the tasty Concord-blue fruit or fuzzy broad leaf of this perennial vine.

Wallflower—The origin of the bashful gent is more about paranoia than shyness, as depicted in the early 1800s poem “The County Ball” by Winthrop Praed: “I do not dare to stir from out thy murky cell, where in their darkened recesses dwell, thy kindred gnomes who love to nip, the rose on beauty’s cheek and lip, until beneath their venomous breath, life wears the pallid view of death.” Nervous, perhaps, but give Praed credit—he married and her name was Helen Bogle.

Steel Magnolias—No explanation needed here. Just watch the 1989 film starring Dolly Parton, Olympia Dukakis, Darryl Hannah, and Julia Roberts. The Magnolia tree is quite sturdy, creating a wide canopy with broadleaf, rubbery leaves that resemble mini footballs.

Baby’s breath—It sounds better than *Gypsophila*, the flower’s Latin name. Whoever has held a baby and felt its tender breathing movements understands how this delicate flower was named. No bouquet of roses is complete without Baby’s breath sprinkled among the blooms. Like a newborn, this plant is diminutive, only 12 – 18 inches long.

Lamb’s ear—I’ve never felt the ear of a lamb and may never have to after rubbing the fuzzy leaf of the *Stachys* perennial between my thumb and forefinger. It’s some-

thing that just appeals to one’s tactile sense. The velvety softness comes from thousands of tiny, white hairs that stand on the leaf surface. Its lavender flowers sit above the basal foliage in summer but are secondary to the plant’s charming, light-green foliage.

Hen and chicks—When working in a garden for the first time, be careful to peer through the invasive ground cover, for you may find this perennial. It grows close to the ground, sometimes no more than two inches above the soil. The mother “hen” is larger and her “chicks” are like small stones. They cluster like miniature pineapples, bearing pointed, lime-green leaves with reddish outlines. What’s interesting is each is connected with a tiny stolon or root, kind of like an umbilical cord, if you will.

Forget me not—Half-inch-wide florets in aqua or pink with yellow “eyes” dot this summer perennial. Each bloom resembles a tiny daisy. *Myosotis*, its Latin name, dates to 1532 in the Old Country. Henry David Thoreau wrote, “It is one of the most interesting minute flowers—more beautiful for being small and unpretending. Even flowers must be modest.” And in 1982, Patrice Rushen sang “Forget Me Not” with this refrain: “Sending you forget-me-nots to help me to remember. Baby, please forget me not. I want you to remember.”

— Bill Sullivan,
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ABINGDON *school news*



Abingdon alumni prosper



Vincent and Anthony Lopez are Abingdon alumni and standouts at Wakefield High School. Photo, Jolynn Lopez.

Abingdon alumni Vincent and Anthony Lopez are currently attending Wakefield High School, and are model students with a penchant for leadership and community involvement. As a senior, Vincent is president of Wakefield's student government, while younger brother, Anthony, a junior, wears number 14 as the starting varsity quarterback. When asked about Abingdon, Vincent says that his beloved elementary school played a major role in his childhood and continues to positively impact his life today. "My favorite teacher, Mr. Utley, has always been there to assist me. In fact, he allowed me to teach a history lesson to his fourth grade class. I love returning to Abingdon to visit former teachers and volunteer at various school events." Vincent aspires to major in biology, attend medical school, play professional golf, and run for the U.S. Congress. Anthony is focused on architecture and professional baseball. He remembers first learning about architecture from Abingdon's David McDavitt—a class that continues to be the only fully

dedicated elementary architecture class in the country. At Wakefield, Anthony is involved in student government, baseball, diving, and football. When asked about the impact of Abingdon he responded, "The teachers and staff are like family. I love going back and helping out at the school. My love of history can find its beginning from Mr. Utley." Vincent and Anthony have made their family, friends, classmates, and Abingdon Elementary proud.

Nats' "Teddy" is actually an Abingdon dad



For the first time, Teddy Roosevelt won the fourth-inning Presidents Race at RFK Stadium, after more than 500 attempts since the popular race debuted in the summer of 2006. But the Abingdon family credits Teddy's victory to years of hard work by Abingdon dad, Johnathan Williams—for two years he wore the 10-foot tall caricature



Abingdon parents and Fairlingtonians, Johnathan and Mandy Williams with their children. Photo, Mandy Williams.

on his shoulders. Before deploying to Iraq in 2007, Johnathan was Teddy.

"I always say the only way I could make it to the major leagues in baseball was as a mascot....It was like being a kid all over again. The auditions were pretty fun. The Nationals' entertainment director had potential racers don a presidential identity and act out expressions and dances to different songs. We then had a mock press conference, and acted out our emotions to winning and losing a game. My most memorable moment was when the Presidents filmed the entry video for the 2007 season in Washington. We ran all over the Mall, the White House, the Capitol, and Georgetown." Johnathan says that being a member of the Nationals organization was the chance-of-a-lifetime experience. "I am very happy that Teddy won....I am and always will be a Nationals fan. My time with the organization was one of the most memorable times of my life. GO NATS!"

Continued, next page.

Upcoming showcase spotlights GIFT: Fairlington residents are invited to the "Project GIFT Showcase: Amazing Abingdon" on Wednesday, November 14. The PTA will sell pizza, drinks, and snacks starting at 6 pm, and the program begins at 6:30. Visitors can choose among break-out sessions for math instruction, technology integration, instrumental music, the reading workshop model, etc. Teacher representatives from each grade and specialty (art, music, P.E., architecture, communications, math lab and science lab, and Living Histories) will give presentations throughout the evening.

—Dan Branch, PTA co-president

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neighborhood news

Fairlington Diners

Fairlington Diners is a group of Fairlington and non-Fairlington friends who gather for relaxed dinners nearby. We focus on having a good meal and an opportunity to chat with neighbors.

This year, we will hold our ethnic dinners on the second Thursday of the month (but in November it's the third Thursday as an exception), and burger night at Ramparts on the fourth Monday of the month.

Thursday, November 15, 6:30 pm, Peking Gourmet Inn, 6029 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church, 703-671-8088, pekinggourmet.com. This excellent Chinese restaurant is a local favorite, as well as the favorite of U.S. presidents. From Fairlington, it's east on Rt. 7, just beyond Bailey's Crossroads, on the left. Please call Carol at 703-379-6840 by 6 pm on Wednesday the 14th if you're planning to attend, so we can make a reservation.

Monday, November 19, 6:30 pm, Ramparts Restaurant, 1700 Fern St, Alexandria, 703-998-6616. This is a local favorite that we usually visit monthly. On Mondays, they offer half-price on burgers with the purchase of a beverage, and the rest of the menu is also available. Please call Carol at 703-379-6840 to let us know if you plan to attend, so we can make a reservation or choose the right size table when we arrive. Please leave a voicemail 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.

If you'd like to be included in our email list, please send your e-mail address to carol_dabbs@yahoo.com.

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.

Book Group

A millennium and a half after its composition, a radical text was rediscovered in a dusty German monastery by an obsessive fifteenth-century Italian book-hunter. In *The Swerve: How the World Became Modern*, Stephen Greenblatt

explains how the text, with its challenge to religion and its claim that the world is made of atomistic particles, helped ignite the Renaissance and shape modernity. Come discuss the book on Tuesday, November 27, at 7:30 pm in the North Fairlington Community Center, 3005 S. Abingdon St. For more information, please contact Terry Gough at tjgough@verizon.net.

MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington

The MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington VA© chapter of the International MOMS Club will hold a general meeting on Wednesday, November 14, at 4 pm at the Fairlington Community Center. Parents and parents-to-be and children are welcome. For more information about the club or membership, contact our Membership VP at fmc.membership@gmail.com or visit www.fairlingtonmomsclub.com. Annual dues of \$25 support quarterly group functions and community service projects.

Fairlington Babysitting Co-op

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 Babysitting 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 Babysitting 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 sits. Sits 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 by e-mail at fairlington.babysitting@gmail.com. The Fairlington Babysitting Co-op looks forward to hearing from you!



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WELLNESS. Yoga, meditation, breathing techniques, infant massage, Children's massage, reflexology, reiki & more. Private Sessions or Create a Class. Gift certificates available. www.moorethanyoga.com. 703-671-2435.

FOOT MASSAGE - REFLEXOLOGY. Personal pampering, pregnancy & pregnancy labor induction & more. www.moorethanyoga.com, 703-671-2435.

INFANT MASSAGE. Learn to massage your baby. Monthly classes. Certified Fairlington resident. www.moorethanyoga.com, 703-671-2435.

LOCAL FAIRLINGTON PIANO TEACHER. Have fun while learning skills in technique, theory, sight-reading, and performance. 15 years piano experience; great with children. \$100/month (30-min lessons). Contact sierra.frischknecht@gmail.com or (801) 674-5465 for details and free trial lesson!

COMPUTER PROBLEM? Don't overspend to fix it. Free Estimate - Evening Hours - On-Site Service. We can handle anything computer related. (267) 250 - 0594. BeltwayPC.com.

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

LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHER. Photographer recently relocated from N.Y.C. looking to build Northern Virginia/D.C. clientele. Specializes in infant, child, family, senior and engagement, as well as events! Flexible hours, on location, affordable prices and a unique style. Visit: www.saramannphotography.com and www.facebook.com/saramannphotography or contact at saramannphotography@gmail.com . 440-622-2316.

HEALING TOUCH MASSAGE THERAPY is Designed to Meet Your Individual Requirements. Established in 2003, HTMT identifies and meets all individual needs with the following services: Medical Massage, Swedish Massage, Deep Tissue Massage and Aroma Therapy. Call (703)980-5304 today for an appointment. Promotional rates for new clients and Fairlington residents. 1225 Martha Custis Dr. Suite 2, Alexandria, VA 22302.

SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY SERVICES. ASHA certified speech pathologist servicing Northern Virginia. Experienced with all ages children to adults. 860-614-6260. Kimbishops1p@gmail.com

Child Care

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

CHILD CARE. Warm home setting and nurturing environment. Experienced and licensed. Spanish speaking. Excellent references. Please call 703-824-0385.

Gardening/Landscaping

SULLIVAN'S LANDSCAPING. Tired of looking at that concrete slab in your patio? Think about covering it and the stoop with attractive flagstone in a mosaic pattern. In addition, let us re-design your garden or clean it up to make it more appealing. Call Bill Sullivan at 571.213.9567 or email me at:billsullivan41@gmail.com to set up a free consultation

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.

HOME IMPROVEMENT. Ask to see finished bathrooms and kitchens to compare quality and price. Call 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

RESALE OR RE-RENT PREPARATIONS. We have previously prepared hundreds of units for sale or rent. Lots of references. Call Fairlington Maintenance Service. 703-379-7733.

DOOR SOLUTIONS. An Expert in Fairlington doors. 1,000's of pleased customers. For contact, scheduling, and useful Fairlington information, visit: www.doorsolutions.biz

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Mini-ads

RENOVATIONS. "My Dominion was sold full-price at \$495,000 a few hours after I signed the listing. The home inspector said that my unit was the nicest unit he ever inspected in Fairlington. The bathrooms and kitchen were renovated by Fairlington Maintenance Service 6 years ago." Nancy Freeman - Fairlington Green

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

JOEL RIGGS REMODELING AND HOME IMPROVEMENTS: Joel Riggs Home Repair Service. Your Fairlington specialist. Kitchen and bath renovations, bath ceramic tile repair, painting, drywall, handyman services, trim work, flooring, carpentry, wallpaper removal. Free design services. Free estimates. VA. Class-A lic./ins., fast turn around time. 20 years N. Va. Experience. Joel 703-929-4676.

PAINTING & WALLPAPERING. 25 years experience. Excellent references in Fairlington and all areas. Interior and exterior. Faux finish. Call Ricardo for free estimate 703-495-0781. rrhomeimprove.com.

STAPLES REMODELING. For all of your improvement needs. Specializing in kitchens, bathrooms, basements and painting. Give us a call to set up an appointment for a free estimate at 703-499-2249 or visit our website at www.staplesremodeling.com.

WITT CONSTRUCTION. Kitchens, baths, built-in cabinetry and design consultation. Licensed/insured. Fairlington resident. 703-626-6429. garywitt44@gmail.com.

R.R. HOME IMPROVEMENT, INC. Celebrating our 20 year anniversary with very LOW RATES. Painting, drywall, carpentry, plumbing, electrical, floors, and general household repairs. Office 703-495-0781. Call 703-801-9151. rrhomeimprove.com.

ELECTRICAL SERVICE. Master electrician. Lights, fans, panel replacements. Licensed, insured credit cards Allegro LLC 703 314 1287 info@allegroLLC.net

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

PAINTING. Painting and wallpapering. Clean, neat, reliable. 25 years experience. Liscensed, bonded, insured. Free estimates. References available. Call Steve Chute. 571-216-9338.

HANDYMAN. Senior Craftsmen, Inc. Biff Henley, bonded and insured. 703-403-5354. Seniorcraftsmen@verizon.net.

House Cleaning

MICHELE'S MAIDS. Reliable, honest, affordable. BACKGROUND CHECK ON EVERY EMPLOYEE. Window cleaning now available. LICENSED, BONDED INSURED. 13 years in Fairlington. Fairlington references available. No Machines to talk to. 703-820-1808 Visit our website at www.michelesmaids.net

B&A CLEANING SERVICES. 22 years experience. Excellent references in Fairlington and all areas. Reasonable prices. We provide our own equipment and supplies. Call for free estimate 703-495-0781.

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, trustworthy, punctual, and detail oriented. Our prices are extremely competitive, our service is thorough, plus we are great with family pets. We have references throughout the neighborhood. Call today for a free estimate. 703-820-8635.

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.

ALWAYS CARING PET CARE. Providing reliable, flexible, and responsible pet care to Fairlington dogs and cats for over 15 years! Daily dog walking, cat sitting, overnite, vacation and holiday visits. Special housebreaking schedule for puppies. Excellent references. 703-765-0990/c 703-405-2775.

HOME ALONE FELINES. Loving, professional, in-home care of your special feline. 703-671-5504; homealonefelines@gmail.com

DOG WALKER & CAT 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.

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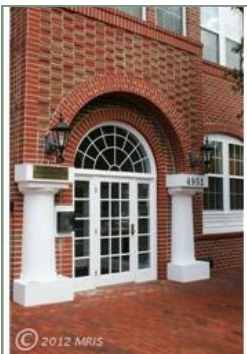


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Alex/Cameron Station—Spacious & sunny updated 1BR w/den on top floor. Gas FPLC, garage parking & free shuttle to Metro. \$299,900
Call Vera Gyor



Arlington Forest/Arl—Updated 3BR rambler in perfect location. \$425,000 Call Kristin Usaitis



Sudley/Manassas—Totally renovated 4BR/2.5BA Colonial. \$345,000 Call office for details



Arl/The Arlington—Wonderful 2BR, 2 lvl w/ FPLC, HDWDs, balcony/deck overlooking woods. Mins to restaurants, shops, theatre. \$299,900 Call Paul Greenfield



Pointe at Park Center/Alex.—Largest luxury 1BR model. Mins to DC, Shirlington, & Old Town. \$195,500 Call Barbara Kirkland



FOR RENT—Arl/Fairlington—\$1,000s in improvements. 2BR/1BA w/loft in great location. \$1,800 Call Dayna Wagner

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& ALL NORTHERN VA**

