

# all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

NOVEMBER 2015

Volume 41, Number 11

**Please note change of date:** The November FCA meeting will be held on Monday, November 9, rescheduled from the usual second Wednesday of the month. Wednesday is November 11, when the Fairlington Community Center will be closed for the Veterans Day holiday.

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## Police will review recent incidents, answer questions



Members of the ACPD 3rd District team (left to right): Corporal Gomez, Officer Manning, Captain Quigley, and Sergeant Washington. Photo courtesy of Arlington County.

At the FCA meeting on Monday, November 9, Arlington County Police Department (ACPD) officers will discuss local crime, offer crime prevention tips and personal safety reminders, and take questions from residents about specific incidents or concerns. Recently, ACPD 3rd District Commander Captain Adrienne Quigley reported that Fairlington remains a very safe community and a largely crime-free one, despite rashes of Larceny from Auto (LFA) incidents in September and October.

Fairlington experienced a similar rash of LFAs in 2008-09 (when GPS units were the most frequently stolen items), and another in 2010-11 (when catalytic converters and air bags were popular targets). Again in September 2013, there was a rash of car break-ins, property destruction, and vandalism in south Fairlington along S. Stafford, S. 36th, and S. 35th Streets. Responding police reported then that the neighborhood had been virtually incident-free for the past couple of years.

The "rash" pattern repeated over the Labor Day weekend this year, when several cars (with unlocked doors) in the Glen, Meadows, Arbor, and Mews were entered, rifled through, and had items stolen. (The thieves were arrested and charged, and some stolen items were recovered.) Part 2 of the 2015 series occurred around 3:30 am on the morning of October 13, when four unlocked cars were entered on S. Abingdon and S. Utah Streets, and one car was stolen (unlocked, keys in the ignition).

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# Coming up ...

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

## November 9 preliminary agenda:

**Note change of date!** Rescheduled from the usual second Wednesday of the month, the FCA meeting will be held on Monday, November 9.

**Special presentation:** Captain Adrienne Quigley and members of the Arlington County Police Department 3rd District team will discuss recent incidents in Fairlington and answer residents' questions.

### Regular board business:

- Approval of October minutes
- Officer reports
- Committee reports
- Unfinished business
- New business

## Online resources:

Find more information on the FCA website, [www.fca-fairlington.org](http://www.fca-fairlington.org). Sign up for updates delivered to your inbox.



Find us on Facebook at Fairlington Appreciation Society.

Find the latest *AFB* online at the FCA website the week before hard copies hit doorsteps.

Web design by Global Thinking, Alexandria, VA, [www.globalthinking.com](http://www.globalthinking.com).

### USEFUL CONTACTS

Police, Alexandria (non-emergency)	703-838-4444
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Animal Warden	703-931-9241
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Fairlington Community Center	703-228-6588
Metrobus Complaints	703-228-7929
Miss Utility	811
Pothole Patrol Hotline	703-228-6485
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Street Light Hotline	703-228-6511
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<a href="http://Services/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm">Services/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm</a>	
Helicopter Noise Complaints	Mike Lucier (VA 8th Dist.)
	202-225-4376

### Fairlington Citizens Association

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### All Fairlington Bulletin

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**Assistant Editor:** Christine Chirichella

**Advertising Manager:** Beth Andrews

**Distribution Manager:** Noemi Riveira

### — DEADLINE —

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

Send material on disk with paper proof to:

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E-mail editorial announcements to:

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E-mail commercial and mini ads to:

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

### COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING RATES

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

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](http://www.fca-fairlington.org)**

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## Calendar

### Daylight Saving Time ends

Sunday, November 1, 2 am

### General Election

Tuesday, November 3, 6 am – 7pm  
Polling places

### Discount-fee swim

Saturday and Sunday, November 7, 8  
Wakefield HS pool

### FCA monthly meeting

Monday, November 9, 7 pm  
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

### Sustainable landscape workshop

Saturday, November 14, 9 am – noon  
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

### Book Group

Tuesday, November 17, 7:30 pm  
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

### Fairlington Diners

Wednesday, November 18, 6:30 pm  
Clyde's  
1700 N. Beauford St.  
Alexandria

### Last day this season

#### Fairlington Farmers Market

Sunday, November 22, 9 am – 1 pm  
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

### Thanksgiving break

Abingdon Elementary School  
November 25 – 29

## Fire Station Open House



Photo by Guy Land.

**Contributors this month:** Jennifer Davies, Rob Dietz, Guy Land, Lisa Schwanger, Christen Snow, Bill Sullivan, Michelle Woolley

Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

The inaugural year of the Fairlington Farmers Market has been an unqualified success: A steady flow of customers, great selection of local products, satisfied vendors, minimal problems with traffic and parking, and a strengthened sense of community. (*See the story, page 14.*)

We envisioned this as a community market—a market in Fairlington, for Fairlington residents, led by Fairlington volunteers. We saw it as a venue for neighbors to visit with each other, for families to enjoy getting out in the neighborhood, and for busy residents to have easy access to healthy local produce. The market has achieved all those aspects of our initial vision.

The creation of the farmers market is a good example of how your civic association can enhance the quality of life in Fairlington. As an umbrella organization for all of north and south Fairlington, FCA can launch activities that reach beyond the scope of the individual condo associations. We can provide the scale, the community-wide communications network, and the reservoir of volunteers to tackle projects that affect and improve all of Fairlington.

FCA is the only Fairlington organization that can provide that degree of coordination, publicity, and legitimacy.

Many of you told us, almost three years ago, that you would be interested in Fairlington having its own farmers market. Despite some skepticism, we decided to give it a shot. Thanks to a dedicated group of special volunteers, we were able to scope out options, convene community meetings, and work with the county on the operational details.

We never intended for FCA itself to operate the market. We lack the time, resources, and expertise. That's the role of Field to Table, the non-profit that operates both the Fairlington market and the Westover market. We likewise turned the local supervision of the market over to a terrific volunteer committee of Fairlington residents, taking FCA out of the direct decision-making. Our role is to lay the foundation for a community activity, then let others take it and run with it. We thank both groups.

Based on this year's experience, the county board has renewed the market for three years, putting it on course to become an institutionalized part of Fairlington life. During the winter months, the market committee will be examining strategies to make the market even better. And FCA will turn its attention to other ways its leadership can enrich life in Fairlington.

Guy Land, FCA President  
[president@fca-fairlington.org](mailto:president@fca-fairlington.org)





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# Changes in store for the Village at Shirlington

Michael Papillon, Director of Asset Management for Federal Realty Investment Trust (Federal), highlighted anticipated changes and upgrades for Shirlington at the FCA meeting in October. Federal owns much of the property that makes up the Village at Shirlington.

After a period of transition, one new establishment has already arrived. DAK Chicken, serving Korean fusion cuisine, has been open for a few months at the location previously occupied by Bonsai. And future openings are planned. Hula Girl, a brick and mortar restaurant from the owners of the popular food truck, will open during the fourth quarter in the former space of Aladdin's. Palette 22, a restaurant that will blend the experience of small-plate dining with the work of local artists, is set to open its doors in mid-January in the central location formerly occupied by Extra Virgin.

Lastly, Dudley's Sport and Ale is slated to open during the second quarter of 2016. The ownership team consists of operators of the current Shirlington restaurant Copperwood Tavern, together with the general manager of the Washington Nationals as an investment partner. Their plan is to significantly improve the venue at the location of the now closed Bungalow, including adding a first for the village—a rooftop bar.

In addition, renovation of the AMC movie theater is underway and scheduled to be completed by late November. The improved facility will feature plush, reclining seats; plans include wine and beer sales.

These improvements to Shirlington will leave only four storefront vacancies, including the location once occupied by Johnny Rockets. Noting that Shirlington is "special to the company," Papillon described Federal's strategic approach to selecting future tenants: Rather than just slot any store into any available storefront, the goal of the enterprise is to "find different and unique businesses that change and elevate the offerings for Shirlington."

Anchored by long-time favorites such as the Carlyle Grand and Guapo's, Shirlington now features more than twenty different restaurants plus additional retail shops. Hospitality venues constitute two-thirds of Shirlington's retail offerings.



*Michael Papillon, Director of Asset Management for Federal, and Norma Selman, Federal Regional Property Manager, talk with Fairlington resident Rob Dietz. Photo by Gretchen Fallon.*

Additional upgrades set for 2016 include improved awnings, storefront tile, and planter areas for the north side of Shirlington, as well as increased attention to landscaping—"because Shirlington is a walkable venue," said Papillon.

Fairlington residents asked questions and made suggestions about parking in Shirlington, and Papillon described maintenance work planned for several garages.

Upcoming special events include Shirlington's annual Light Up the Village celebration, scheduled for December 1. In addition to past favorites such as an appearance by Santa, this year's event will feature a performance by the team at Signature Theater.

—Rob Dietz

## Project updates

### **Arlington facilities study to submit final report**

The Community Facilities Study committee will submit its final report to the county board and school board at a joint work session on November 10. The year-long study examined the county's need for new and re-organized facilities and programs, and it developed principles to guide the county's decisions about where to locate facilities and a process for implementing decisions.

### **Gateway seeks city approval this month**

The proposal for the Alexandria Gateway project, nearby at 4600 King Street, will go before the Alexandria planning commission and the City Council for approval this month.

### **Abingdon expansion moves to construction phase**

The Arlington County Board unanimously approved the use permit for the expansion project at Abingdon Elementary in late September, and Arlington Public Schools is moving to the construction phase, with bidding on the construction work expected in the spring.

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# SAWG's final recommendation to come, November 4

The South Arlington Working Group, whose charge was to determine a site for a new elementary school in south-county, had narrowed down the list of potential locations by early October. The three potential sites are Thomas Jefferson Middle School, Drew Elementary, and Gunston Middle School. At one of the proposed locations, a new Arlington Public Schools (APS) elementary school would be added, with the intent of minimally impacting already existing structures and overall site use. The group's recommendation to the school board will be finalized at its last meeting on November 4.



*Michelle Wooley, FCA's representative to SAWG, SAWG Chair Greg Greeley, school board liaison Barbara Kanninen, and Abingdon PTA co-President Jen Davies visit before the October meeting. Photo by Guy Land.*

the student body, minimizing potential negative impact on neighboring elementary attendance zones, community objections, impact on current uses, and future site expansions for co-located schools.

Due to Fairlington's geographic location, it is not likely to be impacted by any future boundary changes, though the eastern and northern edges of Abingdon Elementary School's attendance zone could be impacted, particularly if a new school is built next to the current Drew Elementary.

The working group started meeting early in the summer to analyze site options and make a recommendation for the location of a new 725-seat elementary school in south Arlington, in a place where it could be built by 2019, and to make recommendations on related program moves to address increasing crowding in Arlington schools. The group considered the positives and negatives of the sites, including: traffic congestion, walkability for students, maximum impact in the most overcrowded attendance zones, economic diversity of

In addition to examining sites, the group conducted extensive discussions about potential changes to "by-choice" programs, to help address overcrowding and improve the educational environment for children in those programs. The group mostly focused on removing the Montessori program from Drew.

Drew currently hosts both a small neighborhood school and the Montessori program in one building, and it has experienced significant administrative problems, including a high principal-turnover rate. There was consensus that removing the Montessori program would help the neighborhood school flourish; while no decision has

*Continued on page 19*

## FCA to elect board members next month



*FCA board member Chris Weathers works on the sandwich board signs that advertise FCA meetings. Photo by Gretchen Fallon.*

The FCA's nominating committee is seeking candidates potentially to serve on the nine-member board in 2016. Anyone interested in serving may express interest by emailing FCA Vice President Kent Duffy, [vp@fca-fairlington.org](mailto:vp@fca-fairlington.org). It is expected that a list of candidates will be published in the December *Bulletin*, and it will be updated on the FCA website at least 10 days before the December 9 annual meeting and election.

## Vote on Tuesday, November 3

For registered voters, the ballot for the General Election on Tuesday, November 3, will contain candidates for: Virginia Senate (30th), Virginia House of Delegates (45th), Arlington County constitutional offices (Clerk of Court, Commonwealth's Attorney, Treasurer, Commissioner of Revenue, and Sheriff), School Board, and County Board (two seats). The candidates for County Board are Katie Cristol (D), Christian Dorsey (D), Mike McMenamin (I), and Audrey Clement (I).

All polling places are open from 6 am to 7 pm. Take valid photo ID. If you're unsure where to go to vote, go online to the county's Voting and Elections homepage, [vote.arlingtonva.us](http://vote.arlingtonva.us) (enter your address to find your precinct), or call the voter registration office, 703-228-3456.



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## ***Affix new car decals this month***



Per the county treasurer's office, the blue 2015-16 car decal must be displayed by November 15 on the front windshield of every car domiciled in Arlington, to indicate payment of personal property tax—and to avoid a ticket. Police will ticket vehicles garaged, stored, or parked in the county that do not display a valid decal.

You must pay all personal property taxes and any outstanding debt, including parking violations, to receive your vehicle decal from the treasurer's office. For any decal-related questions, call 703-228-4000 or go online to the county website and search car decal.

## ***STEM Preschool gets permit renewal***

In October, the Arlington County Board approved renewal of the permit for the STEM Preschool at 3120 S. Abingdon St. (next to the fire station). FCA supported the permit renewal request. The permit also will allow an increase in the number of students from 55 to 66 by expanding the preschool to the lower level of the building.

In a presentation to the FCA board in June, STEM Preschool owner Portia Moore noted that she had a waiting list for Fall 2015 and needed additional space to accommodate more children. (At FCA's request, Moore gives priority to Fairlington families.) Moore also hopes to have a nursery in the future. "There is a huge demand for infant and toddler care in this area," she said.

The preschool began operation in January of this year. Neither FCA nor the Fairlington Villages condo association has received reports of major traffic or parking issues associated with the preschool.

—Guy Land

## ***Take a lap at Wakefield's open swim—discounted weekend try-out for Fairlingtonians***



*Photo courtesy of Arlington Public Schools – Aquatics.*

Want to keep getting in a swim even though the condo pool has closed, but not excited about paying fees for a fitness club with a pool? Then consider the Wakefield High School aquatics center at 1325 S. Dinwiddie St. Only two years old and just five minutes away, the Wakefield pool is open to the public weekdays during early morning, mid-day, and evening hours, and all day on most Saturdays and Sundays.

Wakefield offers a variety of competitive pricing options, from single-swim fees, to a 10-swim ticket, to 3- 6-, and 12-month memberships. Arlington county residents pay cheaper rates than those for non-residents. The pool offers eight competition lanes, a diving well, and an instructional pool for kids.

Special deal for Fairlington residents: The aquatics team at Arlington Public Schools is offering a special discounted rate for Fairlington residents to come try out the Wakefield pool one weekend this month. On Saturday and Sunday, November 7 and 8, just present your Fairlington condo pool pass at the entrance to receive reduced prices: \$1.50/children, \$2/seniors (over 62), and \$3/adults. Then, take a lap!

For more information and lane availability, see [www.apsva.us/site/Default.aspx?PageID=16657](http://www.apsva.us/site/Default.aspx?PageID=16657).

Alexandria residents could visit the Chinguapin Park recreation center, 3210 King St., which has a racquetball court, sauna, and fitness room in addition to the pool. Fees for Alexandria residents are lower than for non-residents. See [www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/recreation/info/FY2016RPCA.pdf](http://www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/recreation/info/FY2016RPCA.pdf).

—Guy Land

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## Fairlington firehouse on display

A beautiful day greeted junior firefighters at the Fire Station Open House in October. Station 7 commander Tom Shamblin offered treats (at right) and ACPD K-9 officer Sergeant Bryan Morrison (below) demonstrated

police dog training, to a rapt audience, with his Malinois, Jax. *Photos by Guy Land.*



## MOMS Club consignment sale



*Bargains at the MOMS fall consignment sale attract young families. Photo by Guy Land.*

## Fairlington 5K's donation



In September, the 2015 Fairlington 5K Race organizers presented a check for \$11,000 to A Cure for Ellie, which supports Ellie McGinn's family in researching a cure for LBSL. Pictured, left to right, back row, Beth McGinn, FCA President Guy Land, Abingdon Principal Joanne Uyeda, Fairlington resident, Abingdon PE teacher, and race organizer Joe Reed, and Abingdon Vice Principal Gail Seligson; in front, Vivian and Ellie McGinn.



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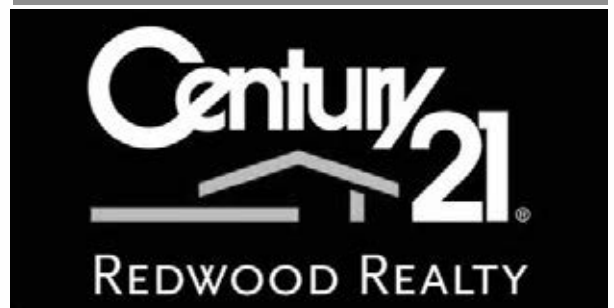
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# Composting: What the options are . . . and why it's a good thing!

There's a lot of buzz happening around the neighborhood these days in relation to composting. Growing up on a farm in the Midwest, I saw composting as simply part of our daily life . . . it wasn't "trendy" or even "green" for my family; it was just what a farm family did to maintain the natural cycle of food production and waste management on the farm. Fast-forward a few decades, and the concept of "zero waste" is beginning to gain momentum across the country, and composting/food waste recycling (FWR) efforts are a large part of that conversation.

Many Fairlington residents have likely seen the presence of The Compost Crew at the Fairlington Farmers Market, which is doing a great job to raise awareness about the benefits of composting/FWR. Currently, under the umbrella of the FCA, residents from several Fairlington condo associations have started a working group to explore the composting/FWR options for the community. The purpose of this working group is simply to develop a comprehensive understanding of the options available and to share the information, so that residents can decide what might be the best option for their condo association or for their individual house-



*A simple, DIY composting bin, made from sustainable materials at the Arlington Career Center. Photo by Christen Snow.*

hold. Ideally, the best options will be easy-to-implement, cost-effective, and beneficial to the community and the environment.

To date, approximately 16 different options have been identified by the working group, and there are differing degrees of composting/FWR services available. For example, the Arlington Career Center has recently designed a critter-proof composting bin constructed from natural, sustainable materials, which could be used for simple backyard composting by individual residents. Backyard composting (already being done by a handful of Fairlington residents) includes materials such as: grass clippings, leaves, weeds, fruit and vegetable waste, egg shells, coffee grounds, hay/straw, and hair/lint.

Additionally, there are a number of composting vendors being researched, including: The Compost Crew, The Compost Cab, District Compost, Environment, Fat Worm Compost, Free State Farms, Veteran Compost, and more. Each of these vendors provides differing levels of service and pricing options. Service

*Continued on page 19*

## Top reasons to compost

- **It's easy.** It doesn't take much more effort to throw materials into a compost bin rather than into the trash bin.
- **It's cheap.** It requires only the initial investment in a bin. Vendor services can be more expensive, but there are options to reduce those costs over time as well.
- **It reduces the amount of waste materials in landfills.** Landfills across the country are running out of space. According to the EPA, food waste is the second largest source of waste for landfills—which are expensive to operate and produce higher levels of greenhouse gases than other types of waste management (such as composting or waste water treatment).
- **It doesn't smell!** Backyard composting, done correctly, does not smell or attract vermin . . . and vendor composting removes the compost and any associated smells from the community entirely.
- **It builds humus!** And humus is the lifeblood of good soil—it contains carbon (reducing carbon emissions in the atmosphere), it improves the structure of soil allowing plants to better access minerals and nutrients, and it helps soil to retain water.

—Christen Snow

# Fairlington loves the farmers market



Photo by Guy Land.

## County board extends community market

The Arlington County Board has approved a three-year renewal of the Fairlington Farmers Market (FFM) at the Fairlington Community Center. Field to Table, Inc., the non-profit organization that has managed the market this year, will continue to run the market. The permit and license will continue to allow up to 20 vendors in the market.

FCA strongly supported the renewal of the market. “The market has become an important part of life in Fairlington,” said FCA President Guy Land in a letter to the county board. An online survey of Fairlington residents earlier this fall demonstrated the broad support that the market enjoys. Roughly 95 percent of responses to the survey said they would like to see the market return next year.



Kuhn Orchard's Sandy Lombardi discusses vending operations with market volunteer Eliot Delacruz-Kriviski. Photo by Gretchen Fallon.

Last fall, the board approved the market for one year, in order to assess its operation and consider the noise, traffic, and parking impacts on the neighborhood—matters that Fairlington residents

had expressed concern about when the market was being developed last year and that the FCA survey polled. The county staff's report on the renewal request noted that there had been no complaints to the county about the operation of the market, and FCA also had received no direct complaints about market-related traffic, parking, or noise.

—Guy Land

## Survey reveals strong support for market

Fairlingtonians love the farmers market and want to see it continue, according to results from an online survey conducted by FCA earlier this fall. “This is a wonderful addition to our neighborhood,” said one respondent, echoing many of the more than 300 respondents. The survey was publicized in last month's *Bulletin*, flagged on the Fairlington Appreciation Society Facebook page, and highlighted on the farmers market listserv.

Reflecting first-hand experience with the market, over 97 percent of respondents said they had visited at least once. Many were regulars. Almost a quarter said they went every week, and another 40 percent have been at least five times. Walking is the preferred way of getting to the market, a key premise underlying its establishment. Over 60 percent say they always walk; another 16 percent say they frequently walk. “We feel so lucky to have this within walking distance,” said one respondent.

In addition to question responses, almost half of respondents offered comments, the vast majority positive. They highlighted the convenience of the market and its contribution to a sense of community; the quality of the produce and its contribution to healthy eating; and the friendliness of the vendors and uniqueness of the selection (“the only place I can buy beef tongue”). Below, a sampling of comments:

*I love my Sunday tradition of visiting the market, enjoying a scone and coffee, and chatting with neighbors. Love the market!*

*I can't imagine a series of events or activities that would be more likely to foster community spirit.*

*I always run into someone I know and have met some new neighbors, too!*

*The market is fantastic and makes living in Fairlington even better!*



*It's nice to see neighbors at the market as well as to meet new people. Going to the market makes me feel more a part of the community.*

*We live in the neighborhood with our two young children, and the playground on Sunday mornings by the farmers market is the social highlight of our week.*

*Many neighbors and I text each other first thing Sunday morning to find out when folks are going so we can meet up. Then we see others when we are there that we chat with, and our kids play together. It is wonderful!*

*It was a lot of fun for our family to walk there, do some taste-testing, pick out a few things, eat donuts, play, and then walk home....a great asset to our community and consistent with the neighborhood feel.*

—Guy Land

## ***We couldn't have done it without the market volunteers!***

November 22, the weekend before Thanksgiving, is the last day of the market this season. But before we sign off for the winter, let's take a moment to thank our volunteers.

Volunteers are worth their weight in gold. They share their time and talents without compensation. The market couldn't have succeeded without FFM stalwarts like Arnie Malin and Leslie Frank. Other members of the team include: Cheryl Goodman, Melissa Beene, Lane Erwin, Lisa Schwanger, Jeff Kost, Eliot Delacruz-Kriviski, Monika Schiller, Gary Hughes, JoAnna Greene, Mindy Dickmyer, Christen Snow, Gail Crider, Karla de Steuben, Lauren Fussell, Nan Kyle Ficca, Susan Olson, Carrie Street, Erin Crawley, Jennifer Purcell, Julian Calhoun, Lynne Blassi, Molly Buchanan, Pam Newton, Peter Blasi, Pierre Annerlaird, Robin Roth, Sierra Cass, and Warene Garmeson Sheridan.

—Lisa Schwanger

## ***A word to our sponsors—Thanks!***

The market committee and patrons extend a heart-felt thank you to the people that helped underwrite the cost of the market or made in-kind donations. Market sponsors and supporters include: GMG Services, For Pet's Sake, Jennifir Birtwhistle, Realtor, Fairlington Presbyterian Church, Rampart's Tavern and Grill, and Margaret Windus. Please consider supporting these businesses when looking for services they provide.

## ***Donut truck draws lines and smiles***



Photo by Gretchen Fallon.

Fresh produce may be what draws people to the Fairlington Farmers Market, but it's Mama's Donut Bites that keeps them happy while they're there. "The longest line is for the donuts," observed north Fairlington resident Kerry McKenney on a recent Sunday morning at the market.

Mama's owner Ron Hosein and his sister Elaine, who together serve five farmers markets in Northern Virginia and run a busy catering operation as well, got into the business almost by accident. "Mom got laid off from the mortgage industry," says Hosein, explaining the company name, "and we needed something to keep her busy. The manager of the Vienna Farmers Market said 'we need a donut vendor,' so we bought this rinky-dink donut machine and we couldn't keep up with the demand."

As the business grew—and they bought a more expensive machine—Hosein quit his job after 12 years as a mechanic to focus full-time on the company. He recalls that as a mechanic he was always telling people bad news. "People would have a sad face when they saw me," he says. "Now they have a happy face."

Hosein reports that the apple cider donut is his most popular product, but with the arrival of fall he'll also feature pumpkin spice donuts. He's been pleased with his experience at the Fairlington market. "It's a wonderful community market, with lots of kids and young families," Hosein notes. "We see new faces every Sunday." And he still seems surprised by this turn in his life. "I never believed I'd be doing this for a living," he says. "It's a blessing."

—Guy Land



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## ***Willow oak succumbs to canker on S. Stafford Street***



*Photo by Gretchen Fallon.*

Fairlington residents mourn the loss of mature old trees, like the large willow oaks along S. Stafford Street that were treated or removed this year because they were infected with Hypoxylon canker. An opportunistic fungus, the disease is quick to colonize weakened or dying bark and wood, and, according to the county's urban forester Rachel Jackson, "Once a tree has Hypoxylon canker, it is only a matter of time until it is completely dead."

The Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), which supervises street trees like those shading Fairlington streets, values the county's urban canopy and tries to maintain as many trees as possible on county land and in the public right of way. "When we find the canker early on, we try to do pruning to extend the tree's life," said Jackson, describing the current treatment for another willow oak on S. Stafford. "But, really, there is no way to stop the disease from eventually killing the entire tree." DPR's Parks and Natural Resources division plans soon to replace the felled willow oak.

—Gretchen Fallon

## ***Brick wall stops drunk driver***



*Photo by Guy Land.*

In the early morning hours of September 24, a driver crashed into the decorative brick wall that marks the entrance to Fairlington at S. 30th Street. The woman driver was apprehended by Arlington County Police Department (ACPD) and charged with DUI, Hit and Run, and Eluding.

Minutes earlier, an officer observed the woman driving erratically on I-395 and attempted to pull her over, at which point the driver sped up to get away from police. In accordance with ACPD policy, the officer did not pursue the speeding vehicle. Rather, he deactivated lights and siren, reduced speed, and followed the driver to the King Street exit. (Pursuit is authorized only for cases involving violent felonies or the threatened use of a firearm, but not for traffic violations.) After exiting the highway, the officer came upon the same vehicle, unoccupied, crashed into the brick wall at Fairlington. The driver had fled but, because ACPD responded in number to establish a perimeter, she was quickly located and arrested.

—Gretchen Fallon

### ***Designing the sustainable landscape***

On Saturday, November 14, 9 am to noon, at the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St., you can learn the best management practices of sustainable landscapes—using native plants, making the most of available water, building soil health, and reducing maintenance. Virginia Cooperative Extension agent Kirsten Conrad Buhls and Master Gardeners of Arlington and Alexandria will cover the basics of sustainable landscapes and answer questions about individual garden management challenges. Free and open to the public. Register at [mgnv.org](http://mgnv.org). For more information, call 703-228-6414 or send email to [mgarlalex.org](mailto:mgarlalex.org).



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At the November meeting, Captain Quigley and members of the 3rd District team will review recent incidents in Fairlington and offer perspective from crime statistics. As Quigley noted recently, reflecting on the neighborhood's geography and population, it's an attractive destination for opportunistic thieves: "Fairlington is located next to a major highway, with several entrances and exits. Additionally, it's an area where there are lots of cars—usually nice cars. The cars are parked conveniently close together. And some people may not use their cars for days at a time"—which means there's a chance a theft may go unnoticed for some time.

Police underscore common-sense steps to thwart crimes of opportunity: Lock your car doors. Don't leave anything of value in the car. Turn on porch lights, front and back. Lastly, stay alert and report anything strange.

Call police if you see or hear anything questionable—if something seems

out of place or makes you feel uncomfortable. People often tell police they're reluctant to call because they don't want to be a bother, they can't be sure what they're seeing, or they assume somebody else will call. The point is, don't hesitate—Call. Let police sort it out.

The non-emergency numbers are 703-558-2222 (Arlington) and 703-838-4444 (Alexandria). If you see something immediately alarming or suspicious, call 911.

—Gretchen Fallon

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*SWAG, continued from page 7*

been reached, the group is considering different locations for the Montessori program with feedback from Montessori parents in the group. In addition, members of the Clarendon community voiced concerns over suggestions of moving Clarendon's immersion program from their local school, as that program is very popular and over-subscribed. While APS considers any choice program moveable, there has not been in-depth consideration of this option, and APS does not seem to be interested in relocating the program at present.

The working group also came to the conclusion that south Arlington needs more than one new elementary school. While there is crowding at schools throughout the county, overcrowding is particularly acute in the Barcroft and Patrick Henry attendance zones just south of Route 50, as well as at Oakridge, on the east side of

395. One 725-seat elementary school would not be able to address all the current and predicted student growth in South Arlington. The group was likely to make a recommendation for a second school to be built by 2024 in the Oakridge attendance area, potentially at the Gunston site, Aurora Hills Community Center/Virginia Highlands Park site, or River House location (if a swap is eventually negotiated with Vornado, the site's owner).

However, as School Board member Barbara Kanninen pointed out at SAWG's October 7 meeting, funds for schools are limited, and a second elementary school is not currently included in APS's 10-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). APS currently is expanding several schools, including Abingdon, and has significant building plans at the current Career Center site, which will become Arlington Tech High School. APS also must plan for crowding issues in middle and high schools. As members of the group pointed out, though, CIPs are revised every two years, so a second elementary school can eventually be included. Addressing the overcrowding in Arlington schools is going to require additional funding, and it may require the county board to make difficult budget decisions to ensure children in our ever more popular and densely populated community have room to learn.

—Michelle Wooley

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*Composting, continued from page 13*

options come in a range of formats: independent household service (where individual families pay for services); community service (residents organize a group of people in the community to collectively bargain for services at a reduced rate based on the number of households served); or contracts with individual condo associations (an association contracts with the vendor to provide composting/FWR services to all households within the association—similar to what is currently done for Fairlington trash and recycling services). Vendor services might be a good option for residents who do not have outdoor space for a compost bin, or for those residents who are interested in recycling additional food waste such as meats and dairy products, which are unable to be placed in backyard composting bins.

The Fairlington composting/FWR working group is meeting monthly to share information and plan next steps to disseminate this information more broadly to residents. New participants are welcome at any time, and if you're interested in learning more please email Christen Snow at [kocherpuffs@gmail.com](mailto:kocherpuffs@gmail.com).

—Christen Snow

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go home the same day as long as the application has been approved, but there is a waiting period for dogs, because applicants must go through pre-adoption counseling. AWLA recommends that everyone living in the house meet the animal (although not a requirement), as well as bringing other dogs in the house to meet a new dog prior to adoption. In addition, dogs can be tested by the shelter to see if they are friendly towards cats, should you request that. Learn more at [www.awla.org](http://www.awla.org).

—Christine Chirichella

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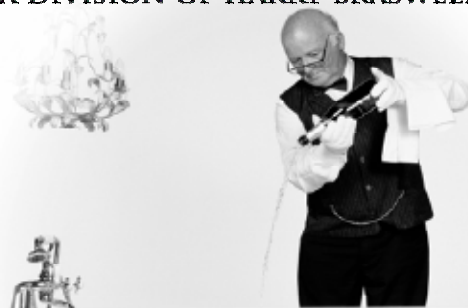
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# neighborhood news

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## **Fairlington Diners**

The Fairlington Diners gather a couple of times a month for relaxed dinners nearby. We focus on having a good meal and an opportunity to chat with neighbors. In October, we had a fun outing to National Harbor, traveling by water taxi from Alexandria.

For November, we'll have just one event, to allow space on our calendars for Thanksgiving.

Wednesday, November 18, 6:30 pm, Clyde's, 1700 N. Beauregard St., Alexandria, 703-820-8300. This is a local favorite nearby, with easy parking. The crab cakes are a favorite with a number of the regular diners. Because we need a reservation, please call no later than 6 pm on Tuesday, November 17, to let us know you'll be attending.

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

## **Book Group**

Join the Fairlington Book Group in November to discuss *The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics*.

The book's author, Daniel James Brown, tells the gripping story of nine working class boys from the University of Washington, who shocked the world by defeating the elite team rowing for Adolf Hitler's Germany.

The Book Group welcomes first-time visitors and drop-ins. No commitment required! If you're into history, join us in November, no strings attached. We are meeting on Tuesday, November 17, at 7:30 pm in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford Street. We hope you'll join us.

## **Card players welcome**

Join your Fairlington neighbors for a friendly game of Canasta. No previous experience is necessary to enjoy this card game. We are happy to teach you. The group meets Tuesday mornings at a local church hall near Fairlington. Call Carol Ann at 703-931-8533.

## **Fairlington Babysitting Co-op**

If you are looking for a night out without the kids, or an afternoon to yourself, join the Fairlington Babysitting Co-op. For more than 30 years Fairlington families have been exchanging free babysitting services using a card system. It's perfect for parents who would like to know dependable adults to watch their children and meet other families in the community.

Email the coordinators, Katarina Lesandric-Tonin and Rebecca and Eric Carpenter, at fairlington.babysitting@gmail.com to request more information and an application.

## **Fairlington's Cub Scouts to Collect Food for AFAC in November**

Fairlington's Cub Scout Pack 350 will collect food for the Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC) on November 7 and 14. Pack 350, a charter group of Fairlington United Methodist Church composed largely of scouts from Fairlington, will be responsible for collecting in south-side Fairlington.

On Saturday, November 7, the Cub Scouts will distribute Scouting for Food shopping bags to south Fairlington homes, and interested residents can place donations in the bags and set them outside their front doors by 9 am on the morning of Saturday, November 14. The Scouts will be uniformed, in pairs, and accompanied by parents in automobiles. They will only pick up donations placed outside; they will not knock on doors or solicit contributions. If a donation is not picked up by noon on November 14, send email to committeechairpack350@gmail.com, and a Cub Scout and parent will come to collect the donation.

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# DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



## *Fairlington sports fall colors*



*The catalpa tree on S. Utah at S. 32nd has long, legume-like pods—some may stay attached to the tree during winter and can be mistaken for brown icicles. Photo by Gretchen Fallon.*

November is a colorful month in the Fairlington landscape. Some colors shout from tree branches while others are discovered up close. Here's a list to take along when you're jogging, walking the dog, strolling with your baby, or just getting some exercise through the neighborhood.

**Red:** Two of the earliest trees whose leaves turn are the dogwood and

sweetgum. The former is plentiful and ranges from salmon to dark pink to a vivid red. When you come upon a dogwood, notice the deep, shiny red drupes that form on branches. They're so plentiful they're noticed from yards away. Shrubs with bright red foliage are burning bush and nandina "Firepower"—each aptly named.

**Orange:** No tree's leaves are as bright as the sugar maple. The leaf is as large as your hand, and the habit is tall and wide. Also bright is the fruit of pyracantha—a dense, thorny shrub with evergreen foliage. This time of year, though, clumps of bright orange "pomes" or berries form on the branches; orange flowers show as well. Honeysuckle actually flowers in orange, pink, and yellow on the same bloom, and it will show into December. Trumpet vine is wild and can be seen along roadways. It crawls on anything and its flowers are plentiful.

**Amber/brown:** In fruit form, look for the persimmon, rose, and crabapple. Apricot persimmon berries are smaller than a tennis ball; rose fruit or "hips" are also apricot and the size of a quarter. Malus fruit varies in size and color: there's one tree on the King Street median that has all orange fruit the size of a quarter.

**Lime:** Lime is a rare color in the autumn landscape, but it can be found in black walnut fruit as well as sweetgum fruit. Black walnut nuts are smooth, fragrant, and the size of a tennis ball. The sweetgum syncarp (fruit) is soft with pebbly append-

ages when it falls to the ground. Later, it hardens and turns black.

**Yellow/gold:** Many yellowy-gold hickory trees are scattered around the Fairlington Community Center soccer field. They are modest in height (18 feet) and width (10 feet), but their brilliant foliage is eye-catching. The redbud, Norway maple (on the Canadian flag), cherry, sweetgum, black walnut, and Rose of Sharon trees also bear bright yellow leaves in autumn.

**Beige:** Look closely and you'll notice many shades of beige in the landscape during this month: the Bradford pear tree pome, the bark of the crape myrtle tree, and withered stalks of Miscanthus grass (along the fence at the Arbor pool).

**Amber/brown:** This color can show its attractiveness in the pendulous fruit (pods) of the redbud and the catalpa trees. Catalpa, which can be seen at the intersection of S. Utah St. and S. 32nd Rd., has a long, thin legume-like pod. Most oak trees show amber in their foliage, which persists on branches into January. Look at the spruce tree cone (south of the Arbor tennis courts), and you'll see a cinnamon color on its soft scales. The golden raintree's fruit is light brown and resembles pendulous miniature lanterns. Walk around the soccer field at the FCC and you'll see brown hickory tree nuts lying on the ground. They resemble a walnut with ridges on the husk.

—Bill Sullivan  
[www.sullivanlandscaping.net](http://www.sullivanlandscaping.net)

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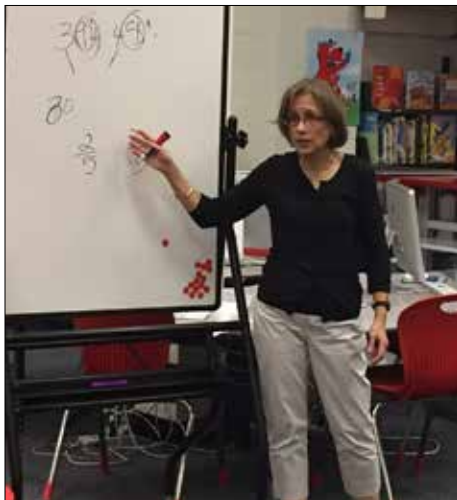
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*Abingdon Math Coach Carrie Wolfe.  
Photos by Jen Davies.*

## **Parents learn that “New Math” is not really that complicated**

At Abingdon’s monthly PTA meeting, parents were treated to a presentation by Math Coach, Carrie Wolfe. The presentation covered math curriculum basics from kindergarten through preparation for middle school, including algebra. However, the most pressing question focused on how parents could support their student’s learning when computation (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division) is perceived to be different or take longer than when they themselves were students.

“Don’t think of it as new math, think of it as more math,” Ms. Wolfe explained. Students are now required to show their work in a variety of ways, and they are not expected to simply rely on providing the right answer. As early as first grade, students must be able to reason about numbers, not just calculate them. Computational fluency (being able

to do simple equations quickly) is only part of the approach towards getting children to think holistically about numbers. Students are now expected to be able to demonstrate written, oral, and diagrammed explanations of their work, too.

Ms. Wolfe provided some helpful advice for parents who want to avoid student protests of “we don’t do it like that.” Parents are encouraged to talk about (not correct) their child’s math homework by asking the following questions:

- Why did you choose this method?
- How did you get this answer?
- What is the same/different about these problems?
- Why did you use  $+/ - / \times / \div$  to solve this problem?
- What question would you like to ask your teacher?

Parents were also given a “quiz” to test their ability to express simple math problems in multiple ways. Although no grades were given (thankfully!), parents came away with a greater understanding of how their children might approach, reason through, and solve a math problem.

## **November dates**

**November 3:** Election Day—no school

**November 4:** PTA Meeting, 6:30 pm, Library

**November 9:** Library Night, 6 pm

**November 11:** Veterans Day—no school

**November 25-29:** Thanksgiving break

—Jen Davies



*Last year’s Halloween parade at Abingdon.*





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

- Checks payable to "Fairlington Citizens Association."
- Send mini-ad copy via email, regular mail, or drop off at FCA drop box.
- Send checks via regular mail or drop off at FCA drop box.

**E-mail:** admanager@fca-fairlington.org

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

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

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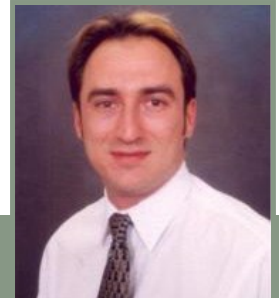
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