BULLETIN





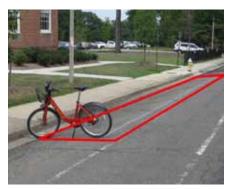
www.fca-fairlington.org

OCTOBER 2012

Volume 38, Number 10

Of bikes and bonds: Learn about both on October 10 CaBi coming to Fairlington

Next year, Arlington will expand the network of Capital Bikeshare (CaBi) stations that have already taken root in the District and, here in Arlington, primarily in the Ballston-Rosslyn and Route 1 corridors (some 42 locations in Arlington, with a total of 179 in Arlington and D.C. combined). The best news is that CaBi is coming to Fairlington, in four possible locations, and to three possible locations in Shirlington. The 2013 expansion will add about 30 more stations in Arlington (in addition to those in our neighborhood, stations



CaBi station proposed location outside the Fairlington Community Center.

along Columbia Pike and Route 50). In August, Alexandria launched eight CaBi stations, at the King Street and Braddock Road Metro stations and six others sites in Old Town.

The bike-sharing service's distinctive red bikes, arrayed in self-service, slotted docking stations, provide an affordable, easy-to-use transit option for point-to-point travel—for the car-free convenience of biking to Metro or to shopping areas. Pick up a bike at Point A, return it to Point B. Learn much more about CaBi at the October 10 FCA meeting, when Arlington's Capital Bike-

Continued on page 5

FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, October 10, 7 pm FCC 3308 S. Stafford St.



Native seed collection

Saturday, October 6, 10 am – noon Lubber Run Park

MOMS Club

Wednesday, October 10, 4 pm FCC

Fairlington Diners

Thursday, October 11, 6:30 pm Tempo Restaurant, Alexandria

Tree distribution

Saturday, October 13, 8 am – 3 pm County nursery

Household hazmat collection

Saturday, October 13, 8:30 am – 3 pm T.J. Middle School

MOMS consignment sale

Saturday, October 13, 9 am – noon FCC

Fire station open house

Saturday, October 13, 10 am – 4 pm Fairlington fire house

MOMS Halloween party

Friday, October 19, 5 – 7 pm FCC

Continued on page 3

County finance director to discuss bond referenda: Michelle Cowan, director of Arlington's Department of Management and Finance, will provide an overview of the four important local bond referenda that voters will consider on the November 6 ballot. Ms. Cowan can explain her department's process and discuss the facts behind the numbers. She can put us in the big picture about how county financing elements work together, including the county budget, the 10-year CIP plan, and the bond referenda. Ms. Cowan reminds us, however, that she is enjoined by state law from advocating for the ballot proposals. For more information, see the story in the September *Bulletin* that describes the four bonds and their dollar amounts, or go online to the county Web site, www. arlingtonva.us, and search 2012 bond referenda.

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:

October 10, 7 pm, special program, two parts:

Paul DeMaio, from Capital Bikeshare, will explain the program's plans for expansion in Arlington. In addition, Michelle Cowan, Director of the Department of Management and Finance will discuss the four local bond referenda that will appear on the November 6 ballot.

Regular business meeting:

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

AFB on the Web

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

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

USEFUL CONTACTS

| Police, Alexandria (non-emergency) | 703-838-4444 | |
|--|--------------|--|
| Police, Arlington (non-emergency) | 703-558-2222 | |
| Animal Warden | 703-931-9241 | |
| Dominion (power outages) | 888-667-3000 | |
| Fairlington Community Center | 703-228-6588 | |
| Metrobus Complaints | 703-228-7929 | |
| Miss Utility | 800-552-7001 | |
| Pothole Patrol Hotline | 703-228-6485 | |
| Shirlington Library | 703-228-6545 | |
| Street Light Hotline | 703-228-6511 | |
| www.arlingtonva.us/departments/Environmental | | |
| Services/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm | | |
| Helicopter Noise Complaints Bob Laser (F. | | |

Fairlington Citizens Association

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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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Assistant Editor: Christine Chirichella Advertising Manager: Beth Andrews Distribution Manager: Noemi Rivera

— DEADLINE —

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

Send material on disk with paper proof to:

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

E-mail editorial announcements to:
 editor@fca-fairlington.org

E-mail commercial and mini ads to:
 admanager@fca-fairlington.org

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

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Artwork and check made payable to **FCA** are due the 10th of the month preceding desired publication date. Direct inquiries regarding advertising file requirements to Beth Andrews at 703-243-1735 #1.

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| Full-Page Insert (2 Sides | s) 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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bob.laser@faa.gov

Calendar, cont.

Fairlington Diners

Monday, October 22, 6:30 pm Ramparts half-price burger night Alexandria

Alexandria traffic meeting

Monday, October 22, 7:30 pm City Hall Council Chamber

Book Group

Tuesday, October 23, 7:30 pm North Fairlington CC

FHS Fairlington Homecoming

Thursday, October 25, 7 pm North Fairlington CC

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

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A time to serve...

As we all know by now, this is a major election year: The candidates for President, Congress, the Virginia General Assembly, and local offices in Arlington and Alexandria are looking for your vote in November. Soon thereafter, it will be election time here in Fairlington for the FCA board—right in the middle of the December holiday season!

According to the FCA bylaws, the group's mission is "to unite the influence and endeavors of the Fairlington community by promoting, through purposeful and constructive cooperation, activities to make Arlington, and specifically Fairlington, a better community in which to live." How does the FCA do that? Through monthly public meetings with speakers on issues that affect Fairlington's quality of life; through community activities such as Fairlington Day, Fire Truck Santa's ride, and support for Fairlington Villages' Fourth of July Parade; and through engagement with local, state, and federal officials, as well as with businesses and other organizations. The work is interesting and fun, but the FCA works best when it has a range of great ideas and voices to draw on—including yours!

When this issue of the *AFB* hits your doorstep, the FCA's Nominating Committee already will have been collecting names for candidates for the nine slots on the FCA board: four Officers (president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer) and five Directors. It's not too late to nominate yourself: Contact the committee chair, Kent Duffy, kent.duffy@gmail. com or 703-798-7184, by Sunday, October 7. For more information, you can check out the FCA Web site, www.fca-fairlington.org. If you're not ready now to commit to running, you can nominate yourself (or get a neighbor to nominate you!) during the Annual Meeting at the Fairlington Community Center on December 12.

Remember: Fairlington is already a fabulous place to live—but the FCA needs you to make it even better!

Yours in service,

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

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Home Properties reviews development plans for Park Shirlington Apartments

An overflow crowd at the September 12 FCA meeting welcomed representatives of Home Properties, the REIT that owns the Park Shirlington Apartments, as the developers/owners outlined preliminary plans for the redevelopment of the rental complex on S. 31st Street. Catherine Moy, Home Properties Director of Development, introduced other team members and initiated the accompanying slide show, which illustrated other redevelopment projects' facades and amenities; site plan renderings for Park Shirlington; a traffic study analysis; and the permitting pro-

cess. Meeting attendees responded with many comments and questions; primarily, they expressed concern about possible traffic issues and the potential displacement of current Park Shirlington residents.

Before responding to concerns, Home Properties described what they believe are the most obvious things that neighbors would notice with redevelopment of the site: Increased density, with the current 294 units in low-rise buildings becoming 750 units in mid-rise buildings; underground parking garages to replace the current surface parking, with the prospect that street parking issues would be eased; with no ground-level pavement for parking and plans to underground utilities, the opportunity to create a greener, more park-like setting; not building up to the property lines, so that a buffer would be maintained between the apartment buildings and Fairlington homes; a consideration for the quality and character of



Home Properties VP for Development Michael Eastwood, FCA vice president Bryan Pettigrew, and Home Properties Director of Development Catherine Moy. Photo by Gretchen Fallon.

Fairlington, so that new development would be visually complementary; and no planned change in the shape, route, or width of S. 31st St.

The developer's traffic engineering analyst acknowledged that development could generate an approximate doubling of car "visits" at peak rush-hour periods, while the availability of transit options would ease the onroad increase. At the same time, the developer planned dedicated parking for Zip cars, bike racks, and a program to organize ride-sharing among residents. Thus, it was estimated that the

predictable increase in traffic would mean, in practical terms, a delay of perhaps two or three seconds at nearby stop signs. Reportedly, there would be no traffic impacts that would require mitigation per county regulations.

In order to accommodate lower-income residents in a newly price-y complex, Home Properties anticipates reserving about 110-120 of the new 750 units for tenants who qualify for affordable housing. The subject will be a matter of discussion and negotiation between the property owners and the county as plans mature.

Evan Pritchard, attorney for Home Properties, reiterated the fact that all planning is still in the very early stages; that the developer's choice to build via the site plan process (as opposed to by-right development) entailed

Continued on page 7

CaBi, continued from page 1

share program manager, Paul DeMaio, will explain the program's costs and membership options and answer any questions about how to integrate CaBi into your travels.

The four locations under consideration for Fairlington are: 31st S and S. Woodrow; 34th St. S. and S. Wakefield; S. Abingdon and 30th St. S; and S. Stafford and 33rd S. at the community center. The exact number of new stations to be installed throughout Arlington is not yet determined—more possible sites are offered for consideration than will actually be built next year. In the meantime, BikeArlington and CaBi are seeking the opinions of residents, by civic association area, on the proposed

sites in their neighborhoods, via a new Web site—locations display aerial and ground-level view photos, for residents to consider and provide feedback. Too close to the corner? Wrong side of the street? CaBi welcomes all opinions, positive and negative. The inventory of residents' opinions will determine which new CaBi stations are installed.

Go online to www.bikearlington.com > bike sharing and follow the links to the proposed CaBi locations (Fairlington and Shirlington proposals are on page two of the listings). After reviewing the photos, you can submit comments by 1) following links to the crowdsourcing map or 2) sending an e-mail to info@BikeArlington.com.

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Safeway pharmacy will remain nearby during store closure



Photo by Gretchen Fallon.

When the King Street Safeway near Bradlee closes for tear-down and reconstruction, pharmacy customers will be able to pick up and drop off prescriptions at very nearly the same location. The new temporary location for the pharmacy is a modular unit, being installed in September, in the parking lot of the medical office building behind (to the west of) the Safeway store. The office building's address is 3541 W. Braddock Road, but the parking lot is accessed from Marlee Way—the small street running between SunTrust Bank and the bank's drive-thru and connecting the King Street service road to Braddock.

Avis Black, Fairlington resident and Area Real Estate Manager for Safeway, reported last month that the company was in the process of obtaining a final site plan approval and permits for the proposed redevelopment of the store. In September, a definitive date for the store's closing was not known, but Black assured customers that they would be given ample notice once the date was set.

Taxes due this month: Bills for Arlington County real estate tax (second installment) and real property tax (cars/vehicles) were mailed out last month; payments are due October 5. Automatic penalties apply for late payments. For more information, including payment options, go online to www.arlingtonva.us/treas, call 703-228-4000, or send e-mail to treasurer@arlingtonva.us.

Comment on the intersection of S. 36th St. and N. Quaker Lane

Fairlington residents are invited to attend the City of Alexandria's Parking and Traffic Board meeting on Monday, October 22, 7:30 pm in the City Hall Council Chambers at 301 King Street. At its July meeting, the board considered a recommendation to address a potential



Photo by Gretchen Fallon.

safety issue at the intersection of S. 36th St. (in Arlington) and Quaker Lane (in Alexandria), by prohibiting left turns from northbound Quaker onto S. 36th St. Alexandria has jurisdiction over Quaker at that intersection.

As residents of the Glen and other Fairlingtonians know, it can be a busy intersection and has been reportedly the source of accidents and near accidents (14 collisions recorded over the last 10 years). Several Glen residents attended the July meeting and expressed the following: support for the prohibition; a request for alternatives to address the problem; and a request that the decision be delayed to allow time for more Fairlingtonians to provide comment. The vote was deferred until the October 22 meeting, which is the opportunity for residents to express their views.

The docket report for the July meeting can be accessed on the City Web site, http://alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/tes/info/072312%20docket%20report%20-%20edited%207.16.2012.pdf. The city staff contact is: Robert Garbacz, Division Chief, Transportation, 703-746-4025 or Bob. Garbacz@alexandriava.gov.

Development, continued from page 5

an extended period of discussion with neighbors and stakeholders and an equally lengthy period of review by county agencies before any action was taken; and that via the site plan process, the county would publish Web site updates on the project to keep neighbors informed about public hearings. No paperwork, plans, or permit requests have been filed with the county; that stage might be achieved by early 2013, and that would be followed by a discussion period of some 9 to 12 months. Planning for the re-development was described as a "long conversation" with many opportunities for neighbors to provide input and comment. The first phase of construction might be completed 4 to 5 years from now.



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Shirlington Village, 2900 S. Quincy Street, Arlington, VA 22206



Native tree species are ready for pick-up, October 13



Photo by Gretchen Fallon.

Arlington's free-tree-distribution event takes place this year on Saturday, October 13, from 8 am to 3 pm, at the county nursery facility, located behind the baseball field at the corner of South George Mason Drive and Four Mile Run. Parking is available in the small parking lot in front of the ball field. From the lot, participants will walk to the nursery to pick up their trees. The trees being distributed are called "whips" in the nursery trade and are in one- to three-gallon containers. Some of the native trees on offer this year are persimmon, hornbeam, sassafras, holly, beech, and red oak. Tree heights vary but are generally between two and four feet. All single trees will fit in a passenger car with open windows. Staff can help transport trees and load vehicles—a golf cart and driver will be available for anyone needing assistance.

At the nursery grounds, you'll be asked to check in using your name or group's name. Members of TreeStewards and the county landscape staff will be on hand with information and education materials—species characteristics, planting guidelines, and tree care/maintenance info. Note: Only one tree per residential property. Groups representing mutli-family properties must contact TreeStewards.org to reserve additional specimens. To access the online tree request form, go online to the county Web site, www.arlingtonva.us, search tree distribution, and follow the links. For more information, contact Patrick Wegeng, Environmental Landscape Supervisor, pwegeng@arlingtonva.us.

Fire station open house, October 13: The Fairlington firehouse will welcome visitors to ACFD's annual Open House on Saturday, October 13, 10 am to 4 pm. (All Arlington fire stations are open, except for Stations 2 and 4.) This year's theme is "Have 2 Ways Out." Bring the whole family to Fairlington's Station 7 and learn how to protect yourselves and your home from fire risks. *Photo by Gretchen Fallon*.



Native seed collection project, October 6

Join Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment and Arlington County Forester Vincent Verweij to collect acorns, walnuts, and other hardwood tree and shrub seeds. The seed collection effort will be held on Saturday, October 6, 10 am to noon, at Lubber Run Park (N. Columbus St. and 2nd St N.), in coordination with the Potomac Conservancy's Growing Native program. Collected seeds are sent



to state nurseries to be grown into tree seedlings, which eventually are distributed throughout the state for restoration projects, to replenish Virginia's native hardwood tree stock. Volunteers should meet at the Lubber Run Amphitheater. Go online to www.growingnative.org for more information about the seed collection program and procedures. Please RSVP to volunteer@arlingtonenvironment.org or call 703-228-6406.



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Things to do, places to go in October

Cooking class, October 11: On Thursday, October 11, 6:30 to 8:30 pm, Virginia Cooperative Extension will host an evening in the Fairlington Community Center kitchen to prepare three recipes using local seasonal foods. You'll sample each and go home with a packet of recipes. The cost is \$30. For more information and to register, contact Jennifer Abel, jabel@vt.edu or 703-228-6417.

MOMS consignment sale, October 13: Fairlington MOMS Club is holding their fall kid/maternity consignment sale on Saturday, October 13, 9 am to noon at the Fairlington Community Center—clothing and gear for babies, children, and moms-to-be. All proceeds will be donated to Arlington County Department of Parks and Recreation. There will also be raffles, a charity bake sale, and a vendor expo of Fairlington residents' small businesses.

Get rid of old paint safely, October 13: Arlington residents can safely dispose of household hazardous materials (paint, garden chemicals, cleaners), and recycle bikes, small metal items, shoes, clothing, bed frames, and more at the fall E-CARE event on Saturday, October 13, 8:30 am to 3 pm at Thomas Jefferson Middle School, 125 S. Old Glebe Rd. Materials should be in original containers or properly labeled. Business and commercial wastes will not be accepted. Bring ID to verify residency. For more information, go online to the county Web site, www.arlingtonva.us, and search household hazmat.



MOMS Halloween party, October 19: MOMS Club invites prospective members (families living in Fairlington, including expectant parents) to attend their annual Halloween party on Friday, October 19, from 5 to 7 pm at the Fairlington Community Center (3308 S. Stafford St). The whole family is encouraged to attend; kids in costume are most welcome. For more information and to RSVP, send e-mail to fmc.membership@gmail.com.

Homecoming for all Fairlingtonians, past and present, October 25

The 7th annual Fairlington Historical Society Homecoming will be held on Thursday, October 25 at 7 pm at the North Fairlington Community Center (3005 S. Abingdon Street). Each year, Homecoming celebrates some aspect of life in Fairlington—this year, we focus on our courtyards, where neighbors may create a distinctive identity and form relationships that last for many years. One of these, the "Battery Garesche" court, named for the historic marker at S. Abingdon Street and 30th Road S., plans to reunite the residents around the adjacent parking lot during homecoming. Others can do the same. Anyone who has ever called Fairlington home is welcome at Homecoming—enjoy wine, cheese, and a light supper, as well as stories of courtyard life. Greet old friends, meet new ones, and help celebrate the community. You can also share stories or pictures of courtyard life in Fairlington at www.fairlingtonhistoricalsociety.org. RSVP by Monday, October 22, at the Web site or call Patty Clark at 703-820-7328.

Seniors (55 years of age and older) can participate in all Arlington County senior programs by registering with the Office of Senior Adult Programs (\$20 annual fee, which includes the bi-monthly *55+ Guide*). Regularly scheduled activities (various locations and times) include all levels and types of fitness classes, such as aerobics, Pilates, tai chi, yoga, zumba, strength training, walking clubs, water exercises, and personal training. Other activities include table tennis, volleyball, and Wii sports/games; chess, mah jongg, Scrabble, bingo, bridge, and poker; arts and crafts, and more.

The senior program also coordinates special trips every month. Indeed, the travel program has become so popular that this year the county purchased a new 41-passenger, coach-style bus to accommodate more people on more trips. Here are just a few of the places/events senior program members can visit in October (separate fee for each): Nats' game, Civil War battleground walk, Renaissance festival, apple festival, and Leesburg outlets. To register, call 703-228-4721 or visit a senior center. Go online to www.arlingtonva.us and search seniors.



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Take your ID to the polls



The general election next month is expected to draw a large turnout, and county election officials are issuing this early plea for voters headed to the polls on Tuesday, November 6: Go to the polls prepared with valid ID—state voter card, driver's license, Medicare card, passport, military ID, current utility bill, bank statement, or government check with your name/address, etc.; photo ID is not specifically required, although some forms of valid ID may well have a photo. All registered Virginia voters will have received a free voter card in the mail in late September or October. If your address has changed, you have until October 15 to update your address prior to the November 6 election. If you don't receive a state voter card, lose it, or need to update it, contact the county voter registration office, 703-228-3456.

If you arrive at the polls without valid ID, your "voting experience will be considerably slower and more complicated" than it was in the past when the affirmation-of-identity option was viable, says Arlington's registrar, Linda Lindberg. Virginia has had voter ID requirements for more than 10 years, but in the past people were permitted to merely affirm identify. Now, after a change in state election law, those who arrive without acceptable ID may cast ballots, but they will be directed to a separate line; their ballots will be considered provisional; and they will be required to provide identification to officials shortly after the election (by noon Friday) in order for their votes to be counted. For more information, go online to the county Web site, www.arlingtonva.us and search election or vote.

Rob Krupicka won the September 4 special election for the Virginia House of Delegates, 45th District seat, replacing David Englin, who resigned effective August 31. For more information, go online to www.krupicka.com.



Restaurant Week



OCTOBER 8-14

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Fairlington Community Center news

Classes starting this month

Get the complete description online or go to the FCC to pick up a copy of *Enjoy Arlington*.

For questions or registration, go online to www. arlingtonva.us/dpr or call 703-228-4747.

Digital photography: Explore the creative techniques of photography while photographing subjects of your choice. Learn when to use custom white balance, flash, auto depth as well as various modes for landscape, portrait, action, and night photography. Bring your 35 mm digital singlelens reflex (DSLR) camera (with manual settings) and operating manual to class. Suitable for those who have taken the beginner class or have beginner experience. Ages 15 to adult. Thursday, October 25, 7 – 9 pm, 5 sessions, \$101. Inst: Reinink. 140173A

Intro to Manga drawing/illustration: This is a structured course in figure drawing to teach students how to draw their own characters in realistic and Manga style. Warm-up exercises include gesture drawings from life and projected images leading into more rendered figures. You will practice eyes, hairstyles, facial features in various emotions, hands, bodies, and clothing. Receive stepby-step guidance in drawing in layers, correcting proportions, foreshortening, and camera angles. All materials included. Visit www.mansuino.com and view this instructor's work. Ages 9 to 13. Friday, October 5, 4 – 6 pm, 8 sessions, \$146. Inst: Mansuino. 120108A

FCC hours and contact Info

Monday through Friday, 8 am – 9 pm Saturday, 8 am – 5 pm Sunday, closed.

Hours are subject to change. For updates and more information, call the FCC at 703-228-6588. The center manager is Patrick Mallon, 703-228-6590, pmallon@arlingtonva.us.

Dogs v. Jogs: Who has the right of way?

Lately the sidewalks in Fairlington seem to be a dangerous battleground between dog walkers and joggers, all vying for the same small space—and it needn't be so. Recently, one jogger nearly pushed me out of the way and ran over my dogs, calling out, "Coming through!" as she barreled past at full speed. She easily could have jogged around us. It would have been the courteous thing to do. Also the smart and safe thing.

As a frequent dog walker, I always try to step to the side to let pedestrians, including joggers, have the right of way. However, that can be a challenge with two 40-pound dogs that have their own sniffing and potty agendas. I simply cannot move three bodies in the time it would take one jogger to alter his/her course to avoid a confrontation or collision. Also, it seems many joggers fail to understand that dogs chase motion. If a jogger comes running straight at a dog on a leash, or right through a group of dogs, the jogger may inadvertently put him/herself at risk—not because the dog is vicious, but because the dog is following instinct.

Recently while I was standing in a group of three humans and half a dozen dogs, two joggers came up behind us. One went around on the street to avoid the potential melee. The other chose to jog right through the group—like she wasn't about to be deterred from her path no matter the obstacle. While I'm sure it's frustrating to encounter a group of dogs blocking the sidewalk, I think it's safest for joggers to avoid potential risk of injury and give dogs they don't know a wide berth when passing. On the flip side, I think dog walkers should be vigilant and move to the grass to let joggers pass if there is enough time.

As a final point, joggers running with their dogs should take extra care to avoid pedestrians and other dogs, as they can never be sure how their own dogs are going to react in passing. The bottom line: Can't we all be a little bit more thoughtful and share Fairlington's crowded sidewalks to make them safer for everyone?

—Christine Chirichella, Assistant Editor

Note: As a related aside, a concerned citizen called me to caution joggers running with dogs not to jerk the leash, which could harm the dog's neck. Make sure that your collar/leash setup is a secure one that will not cause any injury to you or your dog.

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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



Planting time in Fairlington

October is one of the best times to plant new specimens. The humidity is gone and root balls remain moist, better allowing plants to absorb minerals, water, and oxygen. Plus, digging holes during autumn is a lot easier on the gardener than doing the same task in July. Here are some plant characteristics, providing options to supply the style you seek:

Variegation. It manifests in yellow, white, and even pink, and the varying colors appear around the leaf edge, in spots or swirls. *Hydrangea*, with its broad, serrated leaf, is more attractive in flower dormancy with the thick white band around the leaf edge. If you have deep shade, try an *aucuba*, which has yellow spots or yellowish swirls over the entire leaf surface. The *red twig dogwood* not only has scarlet branches but also fat leaves with variegation along the edges. It is a small shrub bearing white flowers in summer.

Pendulous. The yew is common in Fairlington but one seldom sees the pendulous variety. The evergreen shrub is smaller (2-3 feet tall with similar width) and its needled branches simply fall to the ground. There is no "bare ankles" effect with this plant since its globose shape is dense with foliage. *Falsecypress* branches also droop and come in light green or a yellowish tint.

Free-form habit. The *pieris* and *lecouthoe* come to mind. Pieris can be variegated or green-leafed. It bears a fragrant, white, bell-shaped flower in March and April. The



Euonymous and liriope combine varied color and differing shapes/sizes to add texture to the predictable green. Photo by Gretchen Fallon.

cultivar "Mountain Fire" bears new growth in reddish leaves. The pieris is neither truly vertical nor very globose; rather, it gives the effect of "a branch here and a branch there," while being fairly dense. Lecouthoe is also a ground cover, since it spreads more horizontal than vertical. Its free form includes redstemmed branches that bear green leaves or ones with variegated swirls.

Patio sized. Merrifield Garden Center in Fairfax always has a plentiful collection of *dogwoods*. Though deciduous, the native *dogwood* flowers in white, pink, or red in March to April, bears seed-like, red fruit in September and October, and has a an "alligator-hide" bark pattern similar to the *persimmon* tree. The *Japanese dogwood* has a tighter, more compact habit and bears ivory-colored flowers only. Also look at the *snowbell*, which

bears white pendulous flowers in spring and hanging fruit in autumn. The tree's habit stays small (9 feet tall with a 6 foot spread). By the way, the *persimmon* is a rare specimen, but you will find one in Fort Ward Park, just off the intersection of West Braddock Road and North Howard Street. In September and October, it bears apricot-colored, edible fruit. If you have a sweet tooth, this one's for you. (Golf club woods are made from the *Persimmon* tree.)

Colorful leaf. Not all plants have green leaves. In fact, foliage provides more color than flowers, especially if the specimen is evergreen, which offers 12-month interest. A *dwarf blue spruce* has Wedgewood-blue, one-inch long needles. It grows in the shape of a thick donut and loves full sun. *Photinia* has "fire-engine red" stems, while new leaf growth is copper-red. It's too bad *barberry* isn't an evergreen, but its oval maroon or burgundy leaf provides a rare color for six months.

Ground cover. The winter creeper euonymus has tiny oval leaves rimmed in white variegation that turn pink in cold weather. For the "individual" ground cover look, never forget liriope, which is alive with spiked lavender flowers from late August into October. Ajuga is very small and clumped with purple and green leaves on the same plant! In spring, it bears royal blue flowers. Pachysandra grows taller, up to 6 inches.

— Bill Sullivan, www.sullivanslandscaping.net

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ABING School news



PTA hosts two-day conference camp

The Abingdon PTA, in conjunction with KSS Programs, will host a twoday camp for elementary students at Abingdon during the Fall Parent-Teacher Conference Days, on Thursday and Friday, October 18-19. There is no school for Arlington Public School elementary students these two days. Parents can register their children for half-day or fullday programs and choose activities (sports, crafts, music, academics, etc.). Extended day options until 6 pm are also available. All students in grades pre-K through fifth (not just Abingdon students) are eligible to attend the camp. More information and online registration is available at www.kssprograms.com.

PTA's 2012 annual fall festival



Fall Festival chair Donalee Rooks with her family Mark, Elise, Samuel, and Sophie. Photo by Dana Andy.

The Abingdon PTA will hold its annual Fall Festival on October 26, from 6 to 7:30 pm, with two moon bounces, face-painting, hairspray coloration, haunted house, cakewalk, and a wide assortment of fun games and other activities. Doors open at 5:45 with food and drinks

being served. Abingdon parent and Fairlington resident Donalee Rooks chairs the event, to which everyone in the community is welcome. In addition to parent and staff volunteers, Abingdon will receive help from many Wakefield High School students. If you are interested in volunteering please e-mail Donalee at abingdonelementarypta@gmail.com.

Book Buddies seeks volunteers to help young Abingdon readers

You can make a difference! Volunteer to tutor and open the door to reading for an Abingdon student. The program is simple. Twice a week you meet with a student for 30-45 minutes to share an individually tailored lesson plan that includes: familiar books at the student's current reading level; games and activities to help the student see patterns in words; writing practice; and a new book to pique the student's interest.

Developed at the University of Virginia, the Book Buddies program provides tutors and students with

Wrapping paper raises

funds: Every year, we get questions from Fairlington residents about when we'll be selling wrapping paper—the fall catalog sales are our biggest fundraising event. Sales began September 25, so please go online to www. ShopLavenders.com and use Program ID #123378400. Abingdon gets credit for all purchases made through December 15. We appreciate your support.



Fourth graders Alex Temoshok and Ben Spindler at the annual Back to School Picnic on Labor Day. More than 300 parents, students, and staff members attended this year's picnic, hosted by the Abingdon PTA. Photo by Susanna Smith.

support and structure on the road to literacy. Everything needed is prepared each week by a reading specialist. With a small commitment of time, you can share the joy of reading. For more information, contact Beth Sanderson at bethsand@ verizon.net or Andrea Leidolf at andrea_leidolf@comcast.net.



Fairlington parents Andy and Chrissy Smith walk their children, Aidan, third grade, and Riley, kindergarten, to Abingdon on the first day of school. Photo by Dana Andy.

—Dan Branch and Dana Andy, PTA co-presidents, and MaryLou Rube



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neighborhood news

Fairlington Diners

Fairlington Diners is a group of Fairlington and non-Fairlington friends who gather for relaxed dinners near Fairlington. 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, and burger night at Ramparts on the fourth Monday of the month.

Thursday, October 11, 6:30 pm, Tempo Restaurant, 4231 Duke St. # C Alexandria 22304, 703-370-7900. Described as one of Alexandria's best-kept secrets, the restaurant is elegant but unpretentious. The food is a blend of Northern Italian and French cuisine and features fresh seafood. They have a parking lot.

Monday, October 22, 6:30 pm, Ramparts Restaurant, 1700 Fern St, Alexandria 22302, 703-998-6616. This local favorite offers half-price burgers with beverage purchase on Mondays as well as the rest of the menu.

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-sized 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. To be included in our e-mail list, 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

Tony Webster is the protagonist of Julian Barnes' Man Booker Prize-winning novel, *The Sense of an Ending*. Divorced and retired, Tony feels content. But when he receives the journal of a school friend who committed suicide forty years before, he is forced to radically revise his understanding of his own life. All Fairlingtonians are invited to discuss the book on Tuesday, October 23,

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, October 10, 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 currently accepting new members

The Co-op is a network of Fairlington families who exchange free babysitting services, and have been doing so for 30 years. It's perfect for parents who would like to know dependable adults to watch their children and meet other families in the community.

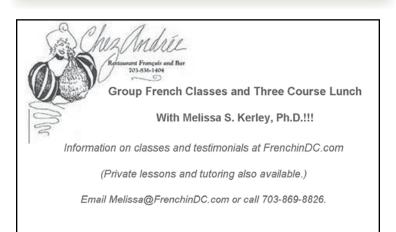
The Babysitting Co-op works on a card system, where each member starts out with 15 one-hour cards and uses them to pay for sits. Members send out their own sit requests via the Fairlington Babysitting Google Group. Members then "pay" for sitting services with cards. Sits may be requested during the day, evening, or weekend. During the day children are normally brought to the sitter's house, and in the evenings the sitter usually comes to the children's house; however, different arrangements may be made. The group introduces its new members at its quarterly meetings/social events. At the most recent quarterly meeting, Tiny Tunes & Tales joined the group for a musical presentation.

If you are a Fairlington resident (north or south), e-mail the fall quarter co-Coordinators Erica Brown and Erin Snow at fairlington.babysitting@gmail.com to request an application and a complete set of rules. Once your application is complete, your references will be contacted, and then the coordinators will come for an in-home interview. Once all of these steps are successfully completed, you will receive a supply of Co-op cards equal to 15-hours of babysitting.

23

Two Wheel Tuesdays at Shirlington Library

BikeArlington hosts "Two Wheel Tuesdays" get-togethers to discuss topics such as riding your bike in traffic, maintaining your bike, and selecting a bike route. Starting this month, October, the sessions will be held at the Shirlington Library. Come to the library, 7 to 8:30 pm, to learn more about these topics on these dates: October 2, safety tips; October 9, routes and directions; October 16, safety tips; October 23, equipment, clothing, and gear.







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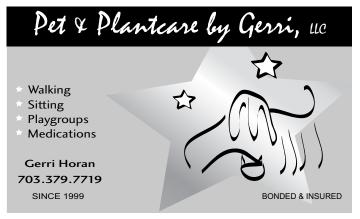
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DOG WALKER & CAT SITTER - REASONABLE RATES. Special rates for regular walks. Mature, responsible, reliable and dependable woman with excellent Fairlington references. Suzanne Mitchell: Pal4Paws.Suzanne@gmail.com or call 703-868-8894.





NOTICE TO ALL ADVERTISERS

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

Payment: BOTH payment and ad copy must be received by the 10th.

Make checks payable to "Fairlington Citizens Association."

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

Mailing Address for All Ads and Checks: FCA-AFB, PO Box 6182, Arlington, VA 22206-0182 Drop-Off Location for Ads and Checks: Drop-Off Box in Fairlington Community Center,

3308 S. Stafford Street

MINI-AD FORM

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

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

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

| Please include the following information with all ads: | |
|--|------------|
| Name: | Phone (h): |
| Address: | Phone (w): |
| City, State, Zip: | E-mail: |
| Category (see newsletter for options): | |
| Mini-Ad Text (please print clearly): | |
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LONG AND FOSTER *ARLINGTON/ALEXANDRIA &

OFFICE

ArlingtonAlexandriaSales.Lnfre.com

4800 S. 31st Street | Arlington, VA 22206 | 703-998-3111

AUGUST TOP PRODUCERS



Kristin Usaitis Top Producer/ Listing Agent



Britt Grouby Top Selling Agent



Arl/Fairlington— 2BR/2BA 3 IVI TH w/renovated kit., HDWDs on main & upper, new windows, newer HVAC. backyard ++.

\$439,000 Call Sandra Graves



Falls Church/Glen Forest— Updated 3BR/3BA + den on 0.41 acres. \$482,000 Call Rob Allen



Lorton/Washington Square—3 lvl 2BR/2.5BA TH in great location. \$269,500 Call Pat Shannon



Arl/Arlington Court—Large 2BR TH w/ updates galore. Renovated kit. & BA, HDWDs. Mins. to shops & restaurants.

\$265,000 Call Kristin Usaitis



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



Arl/The Arlington—Wonderful 2BR, 2 Ivl w/FPLC, balcony/deck overlooking woods. Mins to shops. \$304,900 Call Paul Greenfield

SERVING FAIRLINGTON

