

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

OCTOBER 2014

Volume 40, Number 10

Bond referenda discussion to highlight October 8 FCA meeting

Inside this month!

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*Michelle Cowan,
Arlington County's
Director of Management
and Finance. Photo
courtesy Arlington County.*

Michelle Cowan, Arlington County's Director of Management and Finance, will be the guest speaker at the FCA meeting, Wednesday, October 8, 7 pm at the Fairlington Community Center. Cowan was invited to talk to Fairlington residents about Arlington County's 2014 bond referenda going in front of local voters in November.

The bond proposal, voted on in June by the County Board, totals \$219 million and proposes investments in four categories: Metro and Transportation, Local Parks and Recreation, Community Infrastructure, and Arlington Public Schools. Cowan will walk residents through each of these categories in detail and address questions about how the bond process works and just how much money is allocated for each project area.

Arlington Public Schools (APS). By far the largest of the four bond categories at nearly \$106 million, this proposal would make funds available for the APS Capital Improvement Program, nearly \$29 million of which will go towards the renovation and addition to our neighborhood school, Abingdon Elementary. In addition, \$50 million is allocated for the proposed new elementary school at the Jefferson Community Center site, \$7.5 million towards completion of improvements to McKinley Elementary School, \$5 million for improvements to Washington-Lee High School, \$4 million for planning and design of addition seats for a high school or middle school, and \$10 million for capital improvements throughout the APS system.

Metro and Transportation. Most of the \$60 million under this category would fund two main projects: \$39 million would go towards Arlington County's contribution to WMATA/Metro's Capital Improvement Program and \$16 million towards road repaving and maintenance. Road repair, says Cowan "is clearly the priority of the community."

Local Parks and Recreation. The smallest of the four bond categories at \$13 million, these funds would mostly be allocated for maintenance of existing park facilities including court replacements, playground and athletic field replacements and upgrades, and other park infrastructure improvements. Cowan says that the money is meant to "refresh and replenish" the

Continued on page 25

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 571-403-1943 by the Sunday before the meeting.

October 8 preliminary agenda

Special presentation: Michelle Cowan, Arlington County Director of Management and Finance, discusses the bond referenda on the November ballot.

Regular Board business

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

Online resources:

Find more information on the FCA Web site, 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 Web site the week before hard copies hit doorsteps.

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

USEFUL CONTACTS

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Street Light Hotline	703-228-6511
www.arlingtonva.us/departments/Environmental	
Services/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm	
Helicopter Noise Complaints	Bob Laser (FAA)
	bob.laser@faa.gov

Fairlington Citizens Association

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All Fairlington Bulletin

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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 571-403-1942.

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FCA Calendar

FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, October 8, 7 pm
FCC

MOMS Club

Wednesday, October 8, 7 pm
FCC

Fairlington Diners

Wednesday, October 15, 6:30 pm
Bombay Curry Company, 2607
Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria

Fall tree walk

Saturday, October 25, 10 am
FCC

Fairlington Diners

Monday, October 27, 6:30 pm
Samuel Beckett's, 2800 S. Randolph
St., Arlington

Book Group

Tuesday, October 28
FCC

A Fairlington Halloween



Photo by Guy Land.

Halloween in Fairlington is a special time of year when neighbors decorate their yards, play eerie music, and dress up for the throngs of children who come out the evening of October 31 seeking treats (not the tricks). This year, neighbors in both North and South Fairlington will once again string up the spider webs and put out the decorations and fog machines in preparation for our little ghosts and goblins to collect sweet treats and help continue this very American tradition. Trick or treaters, remember your flashlights, glow sticks, and reflective tape to make sure you are visible to vehicle traffic.

—Janis Johnston

Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Fall is a busy time in Fairlington.

A quick glance at a partial list of activities suggests what a vibrant community this is—the MOMS Club consignment sale late last month, North Fairlington's community-wide yard sale Oct. 4, open house at Fire Station 7, master gardener training offered by Virginia Cooperative Extension at the Fairlington Community Center, Abingdon Elementary's Fall Festival, and the October 25 Fairlington tree walk. Plus don't forget the work of our inter-generational committee—if you haven't already completed last month's survey, there's still a little time to weigh in.

And then there's Halloween. This has become one of Fairlington's big informal celebrations. Elaborate decorations, neighbors visiting on their porches, trick or treaters of all ages strolling down the sidewalk. The very essence of a small-town community.

FCA has its own full agenda this fall, with County Board Chair Jay Fiset discussing policies with the community in September, county Management and Finance Director Michelle Cowan in October outlining the bond issues on this fall's ballot, and a county staffer discussing the permitting process for work in condo units in November.

October will see Arlington County Board action on a couple of things that directly affect Fairlington. At its Oct. 18 meeting, the county board is tentatively scheduled to consider a special use permit and license for the operation of a farmers' market in Fairlington. That same board meeting will also likely consider an application for a STEM preschool in Fairlington on S. Abingdon St. The FCA Board has expressed its support for both of these, each subject to a review after a year to assess the impact on the community.

This fall also brings the launch of the Abingdon School expansion project, with both the school board's Building Level Planning Committee and the county board's Public Facilities Review Committee reviewing plans for our neighborhood school. FCA has representatives in both groups.

Finally, late fall will offer FCA's annual board elections. We're anticipating vacancies on the board and are seeking volunteers who will help us craft and implement strategies for improving life in Fairlington. If you are looking for a way to help your community and have a few hours a month to work on Fairlington matters, think about serving on the FCA Board.

Then take a few minutes this fall to reflect on what a special community Fairlington is.

Guy Land, FCA President
president@fca-fairlington.org



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Park Shirlington redevelopment plans on indefinite hold

Plans for the rezoning and massive redevelopment of the Park Shirlington Apartments on S. 31st St. are no longer being pursued, reported Aaron Shriber of Arlington County's Department of Planning, Housing and Development. In a statement released in late August, Shriber said that the owner of the property requested that the rezoning and site plan application for redevelopment of the property be put on "indefinite deferral."



Photo by Gretchen Fallon.

As reported in the September issue of the *All Fairlington Bulletin*, Home Properties, Inc., the owner of the Park Shirlington Apartments, recently announced a change in its business strategy, exiting the new development business in order to concentrate on acquiring and upgrading older properties.

However, this doesn't close the door entirely for redevelopment of the property. Based on its current zoning permits, the land is considered underdeveloped. Shriber said that there are a number of options for the property. The owner could continue to operate the property at its cur-

rent status, rehabilitate existing apartment units and charge higher rent, or redevelop the property or a portion of the property under its current zoning allowances.

"There's no telling what they'll do in the future," said Shriber.

Original redevelopment plans included razing the existing property and rezoning the property in order to build 750 new apartment rental units. Under current

zoning permits, Home Properties could build 114 single family homes, 195 townhomes, or 380 apartment units.

To date, the owner has not officially withdrawn the site review applications, which leaves them the option to revisit the applications at a later date. In the meantime, county staff will cease to review the applications and no additional Site Plan Review Committee meetings will be scheduled.

—Janis Johnston

Fairlington farmers' market application set to go before the county board in October

Hopes for launching a farmers' market at the Fairlington Community Center (FCC) next spring are high as work continues on completion of the paperwork required by the county to make this idea a reality. Field to Table, Inc., the nonprofit organization applying to operate the Fairlington Farmers' Market, has been working with county staff over the past month to complete the necessary review of the Special Exception Use Permit prior to the County Board's action, expected to be on the board's agenda on Saturday, October 18.

In August, Arlington County determined that the FCC was appropriate for use as a farmers' market, leading the way for Field to Table to pursue its application to operate the local market. The application review is conducted by Arlington County's Department of Community Planning, Housing, and Development, which evaluates the impact of customer and vendor parking as well as impacts the market could have on the surrounding community.

The farmers' market application will likely be on the consent agenda at the October 18 county board meeting, with a carryover meeting scheduled for October 21 if there is a request by the public to comment on the proposal. Residents may email comments to the Board prior to

the meeting. "We are aware of no issue that would delay the Board's action at that meeting," notes Rob Swennes, Director of Field to Table, Inc. "We remain cautiously optimistic that the Special Exception Use Permit for the Fairlington Farmers' Market will be issued in October."

Members of the Fairlington Farmers' Market Committee are narrowing down the list of vendors and beginning work on the market's website in expectation that the County Board will give final approval to the venture. If the approval comes through at the October meeting, plans are to open the market by mid-April 2015.

Part of the growing "locavore" movement, Field to Table is an Arlington-based nonprofit that encourages people to purchase food from local farmers and vendors with an emphasis on nutrition, taste, quality, and freshness. Field to Table currently manages the farmers' market in the Westover neighborhood of Arlington. For more information on the organization, visit www.field2table.org.

If you would like to be included in the Fairlington Farmers' Market email distribution list, email your request to Fairlingtonfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

—Janis Johnston



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Abingdon expansion planning work gets underway

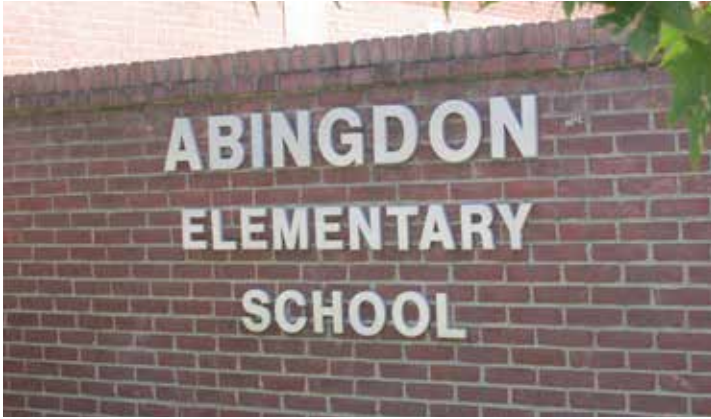


Photo by Janis Johnston.

A Building Level Planning Committee (BLPC) has begun work on plans for renovating and expanding Abingdon Elementary School. The committee, which represents the interests of the community and parents along with school leaders, works with the Arlington School Board and the engineering and architecture team in crafting the general design of the project. The school board appointed the committee in early September, and the group held its first session later in the month.

The committee advises the school board on things like the schematic design for the building and how it will fit on the school property, the potential community uses of the building and the impact of the project on the community, safety and accessibility issues, and construction schedules.

Fairlington residents constitute a majority of the committee. FCA has two representatives: Carol Dabbs and Anne Wasowski. Dabbs is the FCA Secretary, while Wasowski is an at-large director on the Fairlington Villages condo board.

The Abingdon PTA also has six members on the committee: PTA co-presidents Jennifer Davies and Andrew Vitoles, and parents Traci Gravelle, Michelle Diller, Emily Janka, and Jasmine Hayes. All of them are Fairlington residents. Other members include Principal Joanne Uyeda and other Abingdon staff and teachers, along with representatives of the Claremont and Columbia Forest civic associations.

The committee is expected to meet twice a month for four to six months, and then less frequently for several more months. The group's meetings are open to public observation.

In addition to the BLPC review, the Abingdon project will also be reviewed by a Public Facilities Review Com-

mittee, which reports to the Arlington County Board, beginning later this fall. FCA Vice President Kent Duffy will represent FCA on that committee.

The renovation and expansion is designed to modernize Abingdon and address overcrowding issues by adding 136 classroom seats. The project is expected to cost \$28.75 million, with work scheduled to be completed in time for the opening of school in the fall of 2017.

—Guy Land

FCA seeks board candidates

The FCA board has appointed a nominating committee to recommend officers and directors to serve on the nine-member board in 2015. Board members set the policies for the association and serve one-year terms.

The nominating committee consists of FCA Vice President Kent Duffy, Treasurer Ed Hilz, and director Carrie Street. Anyone interested in serving on the board may express that interest by emailing Kent Duffy at vp@fca-fairlington.org. There is currently one vacancy on the board, but all of the positions are up for election.

It is expected that a slate of candidates will be published in the November and December *Bulletins*, and/or the slate will be updated and posted on the FCA website at least 10 days before the December 10 annual meeting and election.

For additional information on what serving on the board entails, contact any board member.

Fire Station 7 open house, October 11



Photo by Janis Johnston.

Fairlington's Fire Station 7 will hold its annual open house for the community on Saturday, October 11, 10 am to 4 pm, in observance of National Fire Prevention Week. Children can climb aboard the fire truck and meet the fire fighters, and families can learn about fire

safety at home and how to create a home fire escape plan. Come by and meet our neighborhood first responders at 3116 S. Abingdon St.



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Master Gardeners help make Fairlington neighborhoods a natural oasis



Alice Rogalski, left, and Jan Macidull, both Master Gardeners, plant an herb garden at the Fairlington Community Center. Photo courtesy VCE.

Anyone who lives in Fairlington knows how much the surrounding green spaces, trees, flowers, and other natural landscapes add to our quality of life. Much of this is due in part to the work and influence of Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia (MGNV), many of whom live in Fairlington.

MGNV is an organization of volunteers who work with the staff of Virginia Cooperative Extension (VCE) to encourage and promote

environmentally-sound gardening practices. More than 12 members reside throughout Fairlington and some serve on the Fairlington Villages Grounds Committee.

MGNV members must complete over 60 hours of combined classroom and field training, as well as 60 hours of volunteer work as interns to become certified by Virginia Tech as VCE Master Gardeners. Additional volunteer work and continuing education are required each year to maintain certification. In addition to maintaining five demonstration gardens that illustrate the wide variety of plants that grow well in our area, Master Gardeners offer plant clinics at area farmers' markets; conduct public workshops on container gardening, composting, and lawn care; and support horticulture therapy and schoolyard gardening projects. They also respond to other community needs such as water conservation and alternatives to pesticide use.

Look around our neighborhood and you will likely see the results of their work. Some recent accomplishments include:

- **Rainwater management.** Master Gardeners from both North and South Fairlington provided guidance on water conservation and rainwater management, including links to the Arlington County grants program that matched funds for most of the seven rain gardens now in place around Fairlington.

- **Best practices.** Master Gardeners provided the Fairlington Villages association management and Grounds Committee with guidance on best options for integrating more native plants into the landscape's foundational plantings. In addition, they advocated for best landscaping management practices which included reducing the use of pesticides, attention to erosion, and the shift to more diversity in planting—especially the use of native plants, which reduces water consumption and increases the habitat for pollinators.
- **Nature walks.** In collaboration with Fairlington Master Naturalists, Master Gardeners facilitated fall and spring nature walks in 2013–14 in North and South Fairlington to familiarize interested residents with the local flora and fauna.
- **Tree canopy.** They provided technical assistance in writing the initial Arlington County Tree Canopy grant, now a well-established part of North Fairlington's yearly landscape planting. This enabled the association to replace damaged trees and enhance the number and diversity of trees throughout the property at a considerable cost savings.
- **Audubon designation.** This spring, Master Gardeners were instrumental in completing the requirements necessary for North Fairlington to become a certified Audubon at Home wildlife sanctuary. The Audubon at Home designation has principally been focused on individual homeowners, but Fairlington Villages is one of the first neighborhood associations to receive this as a community designation.



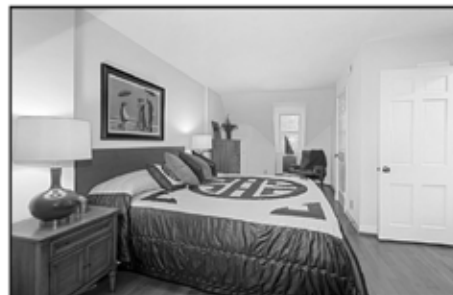
Master Gardener Carol Rosen, left, discusses the benefits of rain gardens in controlling erosion and excess water run off during the FCA plant tour in May 2014. Photo by Guy Land.

MGNVs field a wide range of gardening questions through a help desk at the Arlington County VCE office. To contact the help desk call 703-228-6414 or email mgarlalex@gmail.com. To learn more or to apply to become a Master Gardener, visit www.MGNV.org or stop by the VCE office at the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St.

—Anne Wilson

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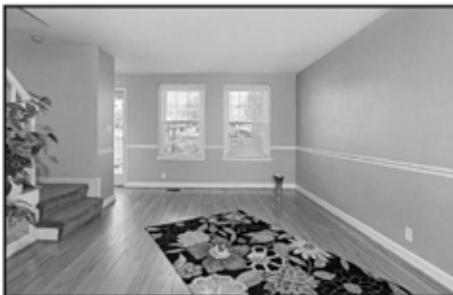
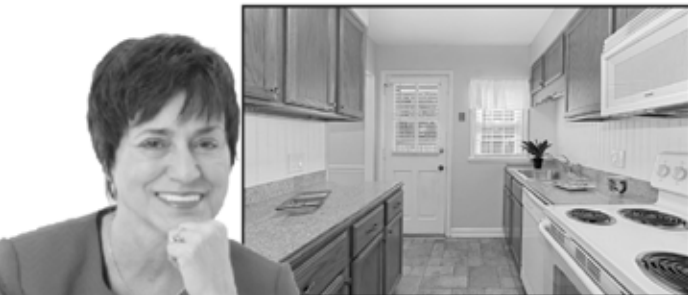


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Fairlington Book Group discovers some unexpected treasures



Book Group members Les Bergen, left, Kathy Murphy, and Linda Del Bene discuss the finer points of the group's book of the month. Photo by Robert Pope.

Are you in a book group? A quick internet search suggests that at least five million Americans are. If you are looking to join in this national pastime, there's a place for you at the table right here in the neighborhood with the Fairlington Book Group.

The group has been in existence since 2002 and meetings typically draw between six and 12 attendees each month. This past August, members discussed *Country Driving: A Chinese Road Trip*, the *New York Times* best-seller by Peter Hessler. Members agreed that it was a fascinating glimpse into the recent economic and social revolution in China—a book many would likely never have read on their own. Discovering unexpected treasures is something they have come to appreciate about belonging to a book group.



Just some of the titles read by the Book Group this past year. Photo by Robert Pope.

The Fairlington Book Group meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month (except December), at 7:30 pm in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. The group's selections alternate between fiction and nonfiction titles,

and prospective books are nominated and voted on by group members. Monthly discussions are generally led by the member who nominated the book. Look for regular announcements of upcoming meetings in the *All Fairlington Bulletin* and come ready to dive into a great discussion.

—Linda Del Bene

Captain Stu Ellis assumes role as new Third District Commander

This past July, Captain Stu Ellis took the job as the new Third District Commander with the Arlington County Police Department. Fairlington is included in Arlington's third district. Captain Ellis has been with the police department for 26 years in a variety of patrol and policy roles, most recently with the homicide and robbery division.



Captain Stu Ellis, Third District Commander. Photo by Janis Johnston.

As Commander, Ellis liaisons with civic associations and property management companies in his district (like Fairlington) to address issues in the community and come up with solutions or resolutions, works as a team with other county services to help solve problems, and oversees the police department's contribution to the Crisis Intervention Training program.

Ellis commented that in Fairlington residents tend to watch out for each other, and while there were some reports of vandalism over this past year, "the good news right now," he says, "is that there's not really a pattern here." Captain Ellis said that even though Fairlington is an easily accessible community, located right off the highway, crime reports from Fairlington are low and in general crime is down.

However, Ellis recommends you always lock your car. "The vast majority of things being stolen from cars in the county are from unlocked cars," he states. It's not so much that vehicles are being broken into as thieves are more commonly removing items from unlocked cars.

If you have a police emergency, dial 911. For non-emergencies, call the Arlington County Police at 703-558-2222 or Alexandria at 703-838-4444. But for ongoing problems, such as noise issues or other recurring concerns in the community that may be of a criminal nature, contact the Third District team at 703-228-4130 or email sellis@arlingtonva.us or dwashi@arlingtonva.us.

—Janis Johnston

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Abingdon teachers find Fairlington a great place to live and work

The Fairlington community is fortunate enough to have a public elementary school within its boundaries. The community has rallied for and with the school throughout its history—most recently by collaborating in the Fairlington 5K and in the support of the Arlington Public School Capital Improvement Plan that will provide close to \$30 million to renovate the aging neighborhood school's infrastructure.

The commitment is not one sided, as an increasing number of Abingdon teachers also choose to call Fairlington their home. Some have lived in the community for a number of years before teaching at Abingdon; others began by teaching at the school and recognized the gem of the surrounding community. Either way, Fairlingtonians receive yet another benefit of having a small-town-within-a-city: they entrust their children to teachers who are also neighbors.

This local-living approach strengthens not only the community itself but also the connection with Abingdon, a school that has been revived in recent years with neighborly commitment.

David McDavitt, Abingdon's architecture teacher, moved into Fairlington in 2002 after working at the school for eight years. McDavitt says he was attracted to the area even before it received its historical designation because of Fairlington's European lifestyle, with "handsome colonial architecture, beautiful urban planning, expansive tree-filled landscape, and solidly built homes."



David McDavitt. Photo by Janis Johnston.

He continually appreciates the proximity to work, grocery stores, and pharmacies, and urban amenities like parks, theaters, and restaurants that are just steps away. Fairlington, says McDavitt, "has retained the wholesome climate of a simpler era amidst the myopic bustle of the DC area. Its cozy homes encourage residents to focus on life experiences instead of accumulated material possessions." His thoughts about

being a teacher and resident? "Walking through the community in which you teach makes you feel like a rock star as throngs of students run out to greet you," he says.

After working at Abingdon for two years, Emily Childress, a kindergarten teacher, left apartment living in Shirlington to settle in North Fairlington with her family in 2013. For her, the top reason to reside in the community was its proximity to Abingdon—where her children attended even before she started



Emily Childress, right, with her two children Lauren and Will. Photo by Nicole Van Hoey.

teaching there. Childress waited four months for just the right unit to become available, and her entire family appreciates the ability to share neighborhood playdates with classmates, extending the loving and nurturing environment of Abingdon directly into the local community. Because her family likes to run and remain active together, they particularly enjoy the community pools and the easy access to nearby bike trails.

Childress encourages all teachers to consider residing in Fairlington, and she successfully helped returning teacher Rachel Nesbitt and her young family move into Fairlington Glen this summer. Abingdon wel-



Rachel Nesbitt and son Harrison. Photo by Nicole Van Hoey.

comed Nesbitt to the second grade team this fall, after returning from two years in California with her husband. Nesbitt began her teaching career at Abingdon as a long-term substitute and full-time kindergarten teacher and she knew that she wanted to return to the school when she moved back to Virginia.

With a new son, Harrison, she and her husband wanted a home

Continued on page 25

Kristin USAITIS & Pat SHANNON

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Alexandria helps you turn your scraps into compost

Did you know that the City of Alexandria collects food and yard waste for composting at the Farmers' Market located in Market Square in Old Town each Saturday morning? The Resource Recovery Station accepts fruit, vegetables, salad, nuts, coffee grounds, tea bags, and egg shells. Typical yard waste includes leaves, grass clippings, and flower and shrub trimmings. Bring your food and garden scraps to the drop off station where small compost tubs are available to purchase for \$5. Or if there's room, you can store your scraps in a large re-sealable plastic bag in your freezer. You'll find staff from Alexandria's Compost Recovery Division onsite to explain the program and accept items for composting. Compost tubs are also available at the Del Ray, West End, and Four Mile Run farmers' markets. You don't need to be an Alexandria resident to participate! For more information, visit www.alexandriava.gov/recycling or on Facebook www.facebook.com/CompostAlex.

—Debra L. Hinkle

New Arlington Alert system

Arlington has switched to a new emergency alert system that brings instant emergency warnings. Even if you signed up for Arlington Alert some time ago, you must sign up for the new system to continue to get alerts.

Alerts can go to your cell phone, text, pager, email, land line, work phone, instant messaging, or fax. You can customize them for any or all categories: weather, traffic, road closures, atomic bombs, missing persons, and evacuations of buildings or neighborhoods.

When an emergency occurs, the county will instantly notify you with updates and instructions on where to go, what to do or what not to do, whom to contact, and other important information. Sign up at www.arlingtonva.us/alerts/.

County taxes due October 5

Vehicle personal property taxes and the second installment of real estate taxes are due October 5. Because the deadline falls on a Sunday, Arlington County is extending the deadline to Monday, October 6. Late penalties will apply if the payment is received after that date.

Vehicle personal property taxes. The county sent out tax bills with new decals earlier this summer. Make sure to place the new property tax sticker on your vehi-

cle's front windshield and send in your payment. Police will issue tickets for cars with expired tax decals.

Real estate taxes. If you pay your property tax through your mortgage company, you will not be receiving a bill. If you received a bill but your taxes are normally paid by an escrow account, you should contact your mortgage company. If you have paid off your mortgage, you should have received a tax bill in the mail. Arlington County collects property taxes in two installments—the first on June 15 and the second on October 5. For questions, call the Department of Real Estate Assessments at 703-228-3920 or go to <http://topics.arlingtonva.us/realestate/taxes-payments>.

Walk and learn about Fairlington's trees, October 25



Master Gardener Anne Wilson explains the merits of native plantings at the May 2014 FCA plant tour. Photo by Guy Land.

Did you know that Fairlington has seven trees on Arlington County's list of "notable trees"? Where are they and what species are they? Join your neighbors and several of Fairlington's resident tree experts in a community walk examining Fairlington's notable trees and showcasing Fairlington's lush tree canopy.

Arlington County Environmental Landscape Supervisor Patrick Wegeng, who coordinates the county's tree programs, will join the walk to offer insights about the variety, condition, and care of Fairlington's trees.

Each year the county selects a small number of trees for "notable" designation because of their maturity, historical or community interest, uniqueness of species, and special significance to the neighborhood.

The group will convene Saturday, October 25, at 10 am at the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. The walk should last about 90 minutes. Come out and enjoy the fall foliage while learning more about Fairlington's impressive tree canopy.

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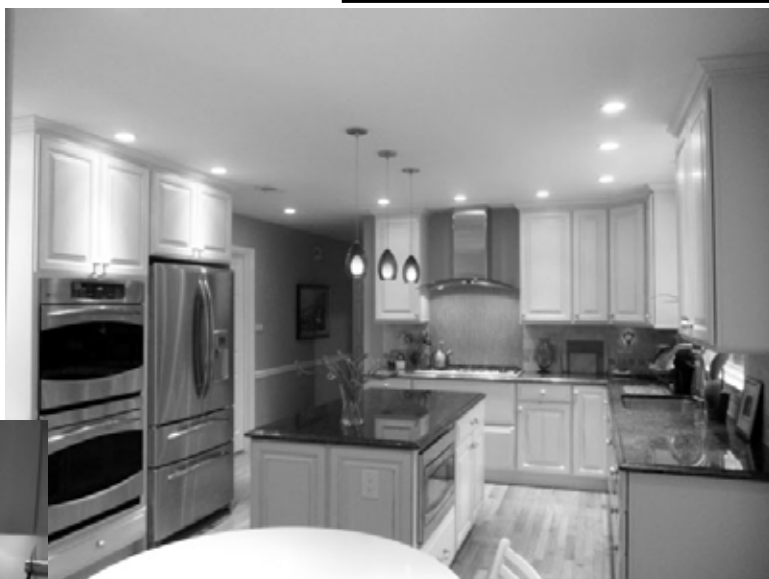
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— Rick Micker, Former Fairlington Condo VP

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— Denice McCullough, Fairlington Resident

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Two new businesses open at Bradlee Shopping Center

Two new businesses are coming to the Bradlee Shopping Center this fall. A MedStar PromptCare facility is anticipated to open by mid-November. This urgent care facility will occupy the space next to the RiteAid Pharmacy in what was formerly the Blockbuster video store. MedStar PromptCare will offer medical care for most illnesses and injuries, as well as concussion evaluations, flu shots, school sports physicals, and summer camp and pre-employment physicals. No appointments are needed. In cases of life-threatening illnesses, dial 911 or visit the nearest emergency room. For more information about the services offered by MedStar PromptCare, visit www.medstarhealth.org and search for "Prompt Care."



*Bradlee Shopping Center adds California Tortilla to its growing list of restaurants.
Photo by Janis Johnston.*

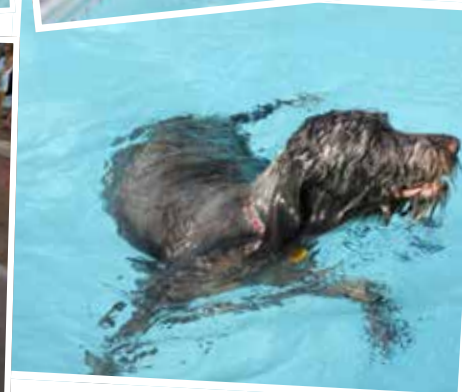
California Tortilla adds a south of the border eatery to the choice of restaurants available at Bradlee. California Tortilla, which opened in September, is located between the Subway sandwich shop and the Hallmark store. Stocked with 75 types of hot sauces, this Mexican-style restaurant offers a menu of fresh, healthy dining options including ready-made "chef-inspired" creations and as-you-like-it "self-inspired" creations where you choose your ingredients. The restaurant boasts that there's something for everyone—it was even voted "Best Vegetarian" by *Washingtonian* magazine recently. For more information and a preview of their menu offerings, visit www.californiatortilla.com.

—Janis Johnston

Doggie dip marks the end to the dog days of summer

What is historically one of the most popular events of the year, North Fairlington's doggie dip drew dozens of two-legged and four-legged residents to wish the summer good-bye and close out the pool season.

It's hard to say who had more fun: the dogs or the humans who came out to watch their high-spirited antics. *Photos by Guy Land and Janis Johnston.*



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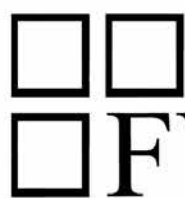
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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



A primer on poison ivy: for those just itching to learn

Toxicodendron radicans means nothing if one doesn't understand Latin and Greek. But the common name, poison ivy will make anyone jam their hands into pants pockets. The first word means "toxic tree" and the second means "roots." Another name for this plant is rhus radicans, rhus being a genus of plants whose sap can cause dermatitis.

Urushiol is the oil in the plant's sap that irritates the skin. This irritating oil also exists in poison sumac and poison oak.

Identifying this garden nemesis is tricky since not all species and varieties look alike. A commonality is the trifoliate leaf structure ("leaves of three, let it be"). Some leaves are glossy while others are dull.

In the woods, poison ivy has the habit of a small plant or vine. It grows close to the ground (reaching two feet in height) or attaches to a tree's bark and crawls. In its latter habit, the vine is beige or rust-colored, hirsute (hairy), and a half-inch thick. To pry it off the tree, stick the nose of a trowel underneath the root and pull. The entire vine will detach from the bark. But make sure you skin isn't near where it falls free from the tree. In a garden, it naturally twines on a shrub, roots along the ground, or attaches to a fence, a brick wall, latticework, window frame, shutters, or even electrical wiring.

Removal of the plant is tricky. The growth habit is spindly, so once you've uprooted it, the plant almost



Poison Ivy.

defies gravity. Try to bag a handful of uprooted poison ivy and you'll understand. This is why it's so easy to make contact with the plant as you try to bunch it together before stuffing it inside a bag or receptacle.

In a garden full of weeds, poison ivy is hard to find since its leaf shape and color blend with the foliage in the landscape. An immature plant leaf is light green and a mature leaf is dark green. In fall, the foliage turns red, similar to that of poison sumac, which is a fiery orange and seen along roads. The margin, or edge, of the poison ivy leaf can be serrated or entire (with no sinuses). The veins of the poison ivy leaf are a prominent ivory color.

The flowers of poison ivy are a yellowish-white and appear from

May to July. Its fruit is a grayish-white and manifests from August into November. Frequently, poison ivy grows near Virginia creeper—another invasive weed with a five-inch-diameter leaf that has five individual leaflets in a pinwheel shape. Unlike poison ivy, Virginia creeper creates no skin irritation.

If your skin is itching by now, you've paid attention to this column. If you contact poison ivy, calamine lotion is a soothing agent.

In culture, "Poison Ivy" was a song first recorded by The Coasters in 1959 that reached No. 1 on the R&B chart. Poison Ivy also was a villain played by Pamela Isley beginning in 1966 in the Batman TV series.

—Bill Sullivan
www.sullivanlandscaping.net

Re-elect JOHN VIHSTADT

Independent for Arlington County Board



LIBBY!

Dear Fairlington Friends & Neighbors,

John Vihstadt joined me on the County Board after the April special election. This November 4, John is on the ballot again for a full four-year term. Again, I ask you to vote for John Vihstadt.

In five short months, John has made a real difference working with me on the County Board. The conversation at the board table has changed and we are having debates about some important issues that have needed discussion for some time. In addition:

- John called for more transparency in Arlington government which helped lead to the hiring of an internal auditor.
- John called for wise use of our tax dollars and the Board lowered the property tax rate for the first time in nine years.
- Additional bonding authority was approved to fund much needed new schools and school additions.
- John led opposition to the very expensive proposed aquatic center and that project is, for the moment, off the table.

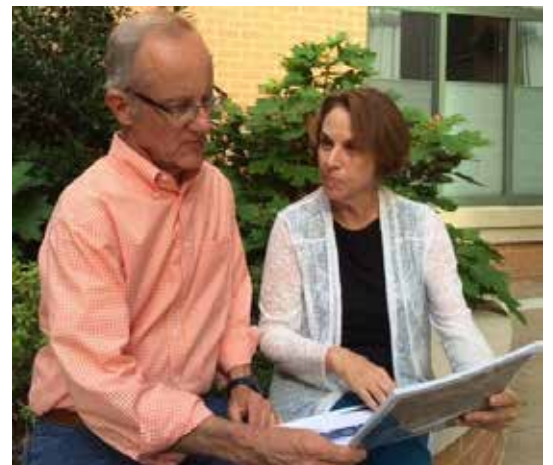
Finally, as you know, John joins me in a vigorous and outspoken opposition to the wasteful streetcar projects proposed for Columbia Pike and Crystal City. His 57%-41% victory in April showed how much opposition there is to these projects, but our colleagues took no notice. John needs to win again.

I will be walking with John in Fairlington on Sunday afternoon October 19. I hope we'll see you. Be sure to visit www.VoteforVihstadt.com to learn more about John, his campaign and his vision for a better Arlington for everyone. Or contact me. I'm always happy to talk about John and the County Board with my Fairlington neighbors.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the polls Nov. 4.

Libby Garvey
libbygarvey@gmail.com
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neighborhood news

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 September, we went to the Fish Market for the lobster special, but their supply had run out. A fine meal was enjoyed anyway!

Here's what's planned for October:

Wednesday, October 15, 6:30 pm, Bombay Curry Company, 2607 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria, 703-836-6363, www.bonbaycurrycompany.com. This local favorite has recently re-opened a few blocks south of its original location, and our earlier attempt to enjoy its delicious Indian food had to be cancelled, so we'll try this again.

Monday, October 27, 6:30 pm, Samuel Beckett's, 2800 S. Randolph St., Arlington, 703-379-0122, www.samuelbecketts.com. This is an alternate burger night for us in Shirlington, which we've enjoyed at previous visits.

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@yahoo.com.

Fairlington Book Group

Join the Fairlington Book Group in October to discuss *My Beloved World*, the candid memoir by Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

"This is a page-turner, beautifully written and novelistic in its tale of family, love, and triumph," writes Nina Totenberg of National Public Radio. "It hums with hope and exhilaration."

The Book Group will meet on Tuesday, October 28, at 7:30 pm in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. We hope you'll join us.

Fairlington Babysitting Co-op

If you are looking for a night out without the kids or an afternoon to yourself, look no further than the Fairlington Babysitting Co-op. For more than 30 years, the Co-op has been a community of parents helping parents right here in our neighborhood.

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

For more information or to request an application, email the coordinators, Rebecca Carpenter and Michelle Gregory, at fairlington.babysitting@gmail.com.

MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington

Members (and their children) of the MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington VA chapter of the International MOMS Club participate in fun activities, service projects, Parents' Night Out, meetings with interesting speakers, and group activities such as our walking, dinner, and book clubs. Our weekly age-specific playgroups start as young as birth and go up to 3+ years old.

Parents and parents-to-be are welcome to join us for our next general meeting on Wednesday, October 8, 7 pm at the Fairlington Community Center. Children are always welcome. For more information about the club, the meeting, or membership, contact our Membership VP at fairlingtonmomsclub@gmail.com or visit www.fairlingtonmomsclub.com. Annual dues of \$25 support our club activities and charitable projects.

North Fairlington fall yard sale

Whether you're looking to find that special deal on an end table or are ready to clean out that storage closet, don't miss the North Fairlington Fall Yard Sale, Saturday, October 4, 8 am to noon, at the Fairlington Villages Community Center parking lot on S. Abingdon St. Spaces are \$10 each and available on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information, email activities@fairlingtonvillages.com.

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Back to school picnic

We announced the PTA's Labor Day back to school picnic would be held rain or shine—and it did both! Despite heat, humidity, and a thunderstorm, families and Abingdon staff enjoyed a bountiful meal. Children decorated paper apples, which were placed at the school's entrance and teacher lounge to welcome teachers on their first day of class. Special guests included Arlington Public Schools Superintendent, Patrick Murphy, and Assistant Superintendent for Facilities and Operations, John Chadwick.



Superintendent Patrick Murphy, left, Abingdon Principal Joanne Uyeda, and PTA co-presidents Jennifer Davies and Andrew Vitols at the PTA back to school picnic. Photo courtesy Abingdon PTA.

Abingdon leading the way for 21st-century learning

When you remember your elementary school days, you probably conjure images of a teacher formally standing at the chalkboard, pointing at words or equations before a

class of students sitting in straight rows of desks. Times have changed and technology has evolved, as we all know. But what you may not be aware of is how teachers are adapting the layout of their classrooms to respond to these changes and create more student-centered, active learning environments.

Abingdon Elementary is leading a countywide charge to offer 21st-century style classrooms, thanks to the creativity of staff members and a generous supply of technology resources. Learning spaces are more flexible than they were decades ago.

Classrooms at Abingdon offer comfortable settings reminiscent of a coffee shop or library: traditional desks are replaced by comfortable chairs, tables, and open floor spaces. During any given lesson, students work around the room instead of in rows of desks, choosing a space that suits them best, mimicking real-world learning environments.

The second- and fifth-grade classes are participating in the countywide personal device initiative, which will bring iPads to each student in those grades. Accordingly, those teachers will flip their classrooms, preparing lessons for students to work at their own pace from home, then using classroom time for guided practice and assessment of the students' mastery of the presented information. This 21st-century model is beneficial because it promotes differentiated instruction. It also allows teachers to keep a pulse on how well their students understand and synthesize new material.

—Erin Sonn, Abingdon Testing Coordinator



Children get into the spirit of the holiday at Abingdon's Fall Festival. Photo by Jennifer Davies.

Fall Festival Returns Friday, October 17

Join us for our biggest event of the year! Enjoy games, prizes, face painting, moon bounces, and more. Come out to support the school and get ready for Halloween. We will have special surprises this year. Don't miss it!

Support Abingdon's fall fundraiser

Ask your neighbors who attend Abingdon about the school's Lavenders Fundraiser. The catalog offers a broad range of gift items, magazine subscriptions, and tasty treats. Money raised goes to fund activities throughout the school and support learning in the classroom. The class that raises the most money will help adopt a giant panda through the National Zoo.

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that was near the school but also offered a safe and peaceful family environment. She found these features in Fairlington and quickly appreciated the additional benefits for families with young children: the expanses of green space, non-crowded swimming pools, and multiple playground areas.

This past November, Joe Reed, a physical education teacher at Abingdon, and his wife bought their first home in Fairlington Arbor. Reed taught at Abingdon for eight years prior to moving to Fairlington. They used to live across the street at Fairlington Towne; Reed says that, even though it was across the street, it was a different world with fewer children, no one running or walking on the streets, and fewer community activities. Fairlington, notes Reed, "just seemed a more vibrant place to live."

Reed and his wife enjoy the Arbor's events, including the wine and cheese nights and the association barbecues. In addition, he takes full advantage of the swimming pool each summer, as well as the gym facilities and basketball courts at the Fairlington Community Center.

Reed, who was the principal coordinator for the Fairlington 5K last spring, feels that Fairlington is one of the few places left in Arlington that is still affordable and has a great community feel. "It's tough to go for a walk around the neighborhood and not bump into someone you know," says Reed.

These teachers, along with several other Abingdon colleagues who reside in Fairlington, contribute not only to the well-being of Abingdon's students but also to the very substance of this small community. The next time that you see any of them walking home from work or participating in Fairlington events, be sure to give them a big thank you!

—Nicole Van Hoey



Joe Reed, left, and Guy Land, FCA President, at the Fairlington 5K last spring. Photo by Janis Johnston

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Michelle Cowen, continued from page 1

park facilities that we already have and bring equipment up to code, not to build any new parks.

Community Infrastructure. \$12 million dollars of the nearly \$40 million under this category would fund county board-approved Neighborhood Conservation projects that include street improvements (sidewalk, gutter and curb, drainage, and repaving), and building infrastructure (roofs, HVAC systems, etc.). The Trade Center in Shirlington would receive \$6 million for improvements to the county's fleet vehicle facilities, including changes to the parking lot and fleet maintenance facilities. In addition, \$3.6 million would go towards planning and design for both replacing Fire Station 8 in North Arlington and renovating the Lubber Run Community Center on George Mason Dr. Funds are also included to replace the backup power supply to several county-run residence facilities, continue and expand service for ConnectArlington, and for the planning and design for upgrades to the Courthouse Plaza area.

For more information about the 2014 bond referenda, visit <http://budget.arlingtonva.us/bond-referenda>.

—Janis Johnston



← Featured Kitchen

Island kitchen in a Dominion model; Espresso cabinets with glass tile backsplash in a hint of green shade; big pantry with rolling pull-out drawers; extra storage facing dining room with an expanded island, plus breakfast bar!

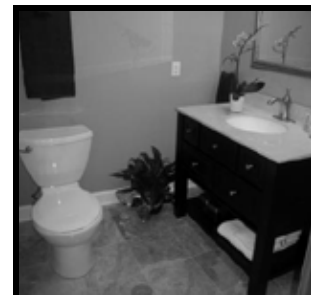
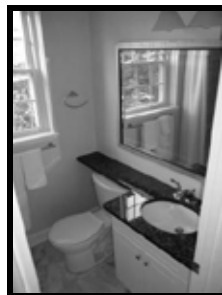
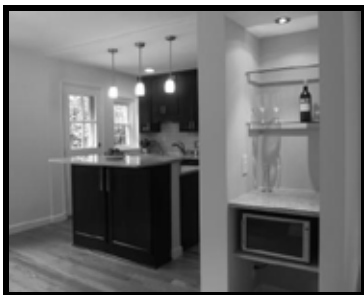
Special Feature: the niche at right of photo; here it has a mini wine frig with glass shelves above; can also be a home office nook with room for a laptop; or floor to shelving cabinetry & shelving. A great multi-purpose space!

Below: Left to right - another view of kitchen, upper bath, lower bath

Still, our most requested kitchen.

Thank you, Bob Harmon.
 1930-2014 ~ Rest in Peace

In 2010 our friend, Bob Harmon, gave us his Fairlington house, a budget, and instructions to remodel the Dominion model however we wanted and then sell it for him. He was moving on to the Goodwin House, having lived in Fairlington since 1977. He and I (Anne DeLong) were original owners in the small Columbus St. courtyard back when the condo conversion construction was going on all around us and my condo fee was \$33 month ! We shared countless conversations and two cats, Beau and Stitch, who went back and forth between our homes. A professor at Gallaudet, Bob Harmon was a doer and thinker and interested in everything – painting, tennis, skiing -- just to scratch the surface. His home was in great shape but had had no upgrades for 33 years, and a “whole –house” remodel was needed. Bob was fascinated by our plans and the remodeling process and during each visit he exclaimed, “Wow ... I can’t believe this is my house!” Through the open houses we held and then the 2011 Fairlington Home Tour, at least 600 people saw this house. It has brought us a lot of new business – something that would make Bob Harmon proud and happy as he was always cheering us on! Thank you, friend and neighbor. We miss you.



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