

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

OCTOBER 2015

Volume 41, Number 10

Shirlington managers to provide update at October meeting

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At the FCA meeting on October 14, neighbors can hear news of events, changes, and upgrades planned for or now underway in Shirlington from Norma Selman, the Federal Realty Investment Trust (FRIT or Federal) Property Manager for the Village at Shirlington, and from Federal's Director of Asset Management, Mickey Papillon.



Photo courtesy of Federal Realty Investment Trust.

Federal's presentation will focus on the current business climate in Shirlington, which will include discussion of stores recently opened and planned openings in the next few months. (A July *Bulletin* article by Fairlington resident Rob Dietz pointed out that a recent seeming spate of store closings was due to the normal real estate economic cycle.) In addition, Papillon will share how Shirlington fits into the Federal family, what makes it special, and "why it remains one of our favorites."

Federal owns and operates 90 properties, many of the urban-village or town-center design, located primarily in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states and in California and Florida. Federal describes these properties as being located in "strategically selected metropolitan markets." In addition to the two nearby mixed-use (residential/commercial) urban village areas familiar to Fairlington residents, in Shirlington and at Pentagon Row, FRIT owns 16 more Virginia shopping plazas and villages in Alexandria, Falls Church, Fairfax, McLean, Vienna, Springfield, Leesburg, Richmond, and Charlottesville.

Shirlington's name derives from Arlington and Shirley—named for the county and for Shirley Highway, the original World War II-vintage name for what is now I-395. Opened in 1944 to serve residents of Fairlington and Parkfairfax, Shirlington shopping center thrived until the 1970s and 80s, when newer malls made it seem small and outdated. The property was acquired by Federal in 1995, and it was redeveloped as an urban village in the mid-2000s, with an emphasis on making the area pedestrian-friendly and a hub for the hospitality industry and for the arts and entertainment. Today, it is interesting to note that, in Shirlington, the average household income is \$109,000 and the median age is 35.

—Gretchen Fallon

Coming up ...

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

October 14 preliminary agenda:

Special presentation: Spokesmen for Federal Realty Investment Trust, owners of the Village at Shirlington, will discuss the commercial market and how Shirlington fits into it.

Regular board business:

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

Online resources:

Find more information on the FCA website, www.fca-fairlington.org. Sign up for updates delivered to your inbox.



Find us on Facebook at Fairlington Appreciation Society.

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

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

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	811
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	Mike Lucier (VA 8th Dist.)
	202-225-4376

Fairlington Citizens Association

PO Box 6182 • Arlington, VA 22206-0182
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— DEADLINE —

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

Send material on disk with paper proof to:

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E-mail editorial announcements to:

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E-mail commercial and mini ads to:

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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.

Ad Size	Height	Width	Rate
1/8 page	2 3/16 in.	3 5/8 in.	\$47
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Full-Page	9.5 in.	7.5 in.	\$395
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Full-Page Insert (1 Side)	11 in.	8.5 in.	\$525
Full-Page Insert (2 Sides)	11 in.	8.5 in.	\$570

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Fairlington is a National Register and Virginia Landmark Historic District

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

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Calendar

North Fairlington fall yard sale

Saturday, October 3, 8 am – noon
Fairlington Villages CC parking lot
3005 S. Abingdon St.

E-CARE event

Saturday, October 3, 8:30 am – 3 pm
Thomas Jefferson Middle School
125 Old S. Glebe Road

County taxes due

Real Estate (2nd installment)
& Personal Property (car)
Monday, October 5

Fairlington Diners

Monday, October 5, 6:30 pm
Lost Dog Café
2920 Columbia Pike

Zone 2 street sweeping

Tuesday, October 6, 7:30 am – 3 pm
Fairlington

Forum with County Board candidates

Wednesday, October 7, 7 pm – 9 pm
County Trades Center

Fire Station Open House

Saturday, October 10, 9 am – 4 pm
Fire Station 7

FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, October 14, 7 pm
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Fairlington Diners

Saturday, October 17, 1 pm
Saucity
National Harbor

Tree distribution event

Saturday, October 24, 8 am – 3 pm
Four Mile Run Drive

Fairlington history tour

Saturday, October 24, 10 am
Fairlington Villages Mgt. Office
3001 S. Abingdon St.

Book Group

Tuesday, October 27, 7:30 pm
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.

Fairlington tree walk

Saturday, October 31, 10 am
FCC, 3308 S. Stafford St.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Two of Fairlington's valuable assets are its lush canopy of trees and its rich history. Each will be featured in an FCA-sponsored activity this month—we hope you'll join us for both of them.

Coordinated by the Fairlington Historical Society, Fairlington's first-ever history tour will be held on October 24, with stops that feature key aspects of Fairlington's history, from its colonial days to the civil war to the 1940s to the condominium conversion in the 1970s.

Fairlington is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Virginia Landmarks Register. Those listings speak to the history of the buildings, but there's much more to Fairlington's heritage than just its structures, and the tour will give you a good sense of that.

For almost two decades the historical society has led the effort to preserve and promote our history and help Fairlingtonians learn more about their community. The historical society's home and garden tour, held every other year, attracts several hundred participants. Special thanks to historical society leaders Terry Placek, Cindy Kunz, and Patty Clark for crafting the tour for us.

For the past three years we've been sponsoring spring and fall walks focused on plants, trees, and wildlife. These have always drawn a good turnout.

This year we're adding an interactive component, by letting you tell us what we should look for. "Fairlington's fall foliage" will be our theme, and we're asking you to nominate your favorite trees with fall color. We'll look at as many as we can on October 31, and then participants on the walk will select our most colorful trees. Thanks to Emily Ferguson, Anne Wilson, Carol Rosen, and Bill Sullivan for guiding these walks.

The history and tree walking tours are designed to get you out exploring the neighborhood. They are a good way to get folks into both North and South Fairlington. Both tours are open to everyone.

I recommend one other do-it-yourself activity that can have you out visiting with neighbors: Go look at Halloween decorations. There's no formal FCA activity, but you can create your own fun excursion by admiring the creativity of our residents. I'm convinced Fairlington residents spend more on Halloween decorations than they do on other holiday displays. They're definitely worth checking out.

October is a great time to get out and explore our neighborhood.

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

Contributors this month: Kendra Best, Bob Bradley, Christine Chirichella, Jennifer Davies, Guy Land, Lisa Schwanger, Christen Snow, Bill Sullivan, Christina Vloet

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Gateway developer explains project to the neighbors

At the September FCA meeting, Fairlington residents got another chance to learn more about the Alexandria Gateway project. Developer Danny Abramson outlined plans for redeveloping the five-acre parcel of land at the nearby corner of King and Beauregard Streets. Residents then asked questions and voiced concerns about the proposed development project.



Developer Danny Abramson briefed the community on the Alexandria Gateway project at the September FCA meeting. Photo by Kendra Best.

It was the third time Abramson, co-owner of Abramson Properties, met with residents to review plans for the mixed-use commercial/residential project at 4600 King St., the site of the former Jefferson Memorial Hospital and the one-time Five Guys strip center. To provide detailed answers to residents' questions, Abramson was joined by members of his architecture, engineering, and transportation-study teams, as well as Alexandria City staff from the Department of Planning and Zoning and the Department of Transportation & Environmental Services (TES). In addition, Alexandria Mayor Bill Euille stopped by the meeting.

The centerpiece of the development is a 62,000-square-foot Harris Teeter grocery store, which will occupy the street level of a seven-story building. The remaining six stories will hold 278 market-rate apartment units.

The project also includes a three-story building with two stories of office space above a ground floor of retail space; a separate five-story building that will include 74 affordable housing apartments; and a five-story office building with retail space on the ground floor and a two-level, below-ground parking garage for 800 vehicles. In the interior of the development, there will also be what

Abramson described as a European "piazza." He likened the project to the pedestrian-friendly urban village at Shirlington.

Most questions from Fairlington residents focused on well-known congested traffic issues. A major plus is that the development's main entrance will be on Beauregard. Lisa Jaatinen, acting division chief for the city's TES Division of Infrastructure and Right of Way, described infrastructure improvements planned for King St., from S. Chesterfield Rd. to Park Center Dr., west and east

of the major intersection at King and Beauregard St. (in Alexandria) and Walter Reed Dr. (in Arlington). Improvements to the roadway, sidewalks, signals, and signage in the development area are in the planning stages, with phase one of construction slated for the spring of 2016.

Two important dates loom, Abramson said. The first is November 5 when the project's plans go before the city's planning commission, and the other is November 14 when the proposal goes before the Alexandria City Council. The hope, Abramson said, is that demolition at the site could begin in the fall of 2016. Construction would take about 25 or 26 months.

—Bob Bradley

FCA to compile slate of board candidates

FCA is seeking interested residents to serve as officers and directors on the 2016 FCA board. Anyone interested may express that interest by emailing FCA Vice President Kent Duffy, vp@fca-fairlington.org. The slate of candidates will be updated on the FCA website at least 10 days before the December 9 annual meeting and election. For more information about FCA or what serving on the board entails, see the FCA website, www.fca-fairlington.org, or contact any board member.

FCA attends civic federation meeting



FCA officers Guy Land and Carol Dabbs (at right) visit with Arlington County Civic Federation President Stefanie Pryor at September's candidates forum. Photo by Peter Olivere.



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A tour through Fairlington's history



Terry Placek, Patty Clark, and Cindy Kunz, founding members of the Fairlington Historical Society, stand at the historical marker on Quaker Lane. Photo by Guy Land.

Where in Fairlington is the stone from the 1790s that marked the boundary of the proposed District of Columbia? What was the name of the colonial plantation that once occupied Fairlington? What fort was located right next to Fairlington, and what was its purpose? What do the models of Fairlington look like that were used to sell units when the property was converted to condominiums in the 1970s?

Come learn—and see!—the answers to these and other questions about our community's rich history

in the first-ever Fairlington History Tour, October 24. Jointly sponsored by FCA and the Fairlington Historical Society, the walking tour will feature historical markers and sites, vignettes from Fairlington's history, and a close-up look at Fairlington architecture.

The tour will visit 10 significant sites in North and South Fairlington. If you prefer not to walk, let us know so that we can arrange for a vehicle and driver: RSVP to Patty Clark (pattyclark2@comcast.net or 703-820-7328). Or just join us at 10 am at the Fairlington Villages Management Office, 3001 S. Abingdon St., where the tour will begin and end. Light refreshments will be served inside. The tour will last roughly 90 minutes.

In 1756 present-day Fairlington was owned by John Carlyle, a merchant friend of George Washington, the builder of Carlyle House in Alexandria, and the original Trustee of Alexandria. At the time of the Civil War, the Fairlington property lay along a key route to Washington, D.C., which is why defensive positions were built in the area. Modern-day Fairlington arose out of the 1940s growth of the War Department and the need for defense worker housing. Fairlington's role as a pioneer in residential, planned-community living continued in the 1970s when it became one of the largest condominium communities on the East Coast.

Information for the tour will be drawn in large part from *Fairlington at 50*, a history of the community published in 1993 and reprinted in 2003 by the Fairlington Historical Society. Tour guides include FCA President Guy Land and FHS Trustees Patty Clark and Cindy Kunz.

—Guy Land

Where's the best fall foliage in Fairlington?

You can help determine the route of this fall's tree walk by nominating your favorite Fairlington tree with the best fall colors. Our resident tree experts will sort through nominations, choose a good selection of vibrantly-hued trees in North and South Fairlington, and route the October 31 tree walk around them.



Photo by Gretchen Fallon.

Participants will vote on nominated trees to determine the top autumn leaf displays in Fairlington. In addition, our tree guides will describe how fall color occurs and highlight an individual specie's special characteristics.

Even if you can't join the walk, take a minute to send an email with the location of your favorite tree—attach a photo, if you have one. Send nominations to Fairlingtonfallfoliage@gmail.com, no later than COB, Thursday, October 29.

Meet at the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St., at 10 am on Saturday, October 31. We'll see some beautiful trees, explore parts of North and South Fairlington, and expand our knowledge of Fairlington's trees. The walk will take about an hour and a half.

—Guy Land

Reminder: Street sweeping in Fairlington, October 6: Fairlington's streets are scheduled for sweeping on Tuesday, October 6. The county requests that you make every effort to remove your car from the curb between 7:30 am and 3 pm.

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Plans for Abingdon expansion address community concerns

As this *Bulletin* was going to press, the Arlington County Board was preparing to take up the use permit for the expansion and improvement of Abingdon Elementary School. FCA expressed its strong support for the permit.

County board approval of the permit will enable Arlington Public Schools (APS) to move to the construction phase of the project, which will expand the school to accommodate 136 additional students and will address a variety of deferred maintenance issues within the existing building. Work is expected to be completed in time for the beginning of classes in 2017.

“We are pleased that APS and Arlington County are moving forward with plans to create a vibrant, expanded and updated school that will help foster student learning,” FCA President Guy Land wrote in a letter to county leaders.

The use permit and the “conditions” that are associated with it address many of the concerns expressed by Fairlington residents over the past year. They will preserve most of the existing playing field (a top priority for residents), prohibit construction-worker parking in the neighborhood, improve storm-water collection and drainage in the area, and require a transportation demand management plan to emphasize alternative



Artist's rendering courtesy of Arlington Public Schools.

transportation options for students and faculty.

The project will also include a raised crosswalk in the middle of the 3000 block of S. Abingdon St. (where the existing crosswalk is) and better markings for the intersection of S. Abingdon St. and S. 29th St.

In the course of negotiations over the plans for the school, APS committed to monitor the impact of construction activity

on the foundations of buildings that are adjacent to the school—something that Fairlingtonians who live next to the school have been particularly concerned about.

The preservation of green space and the playing field is possible in part because of an agreement between APS and the Fairlington Villages condo board for the school-day lease of 15 parking spaces on Fairlington Villages' property (in the parking lot next to their community center). These spaces can be counted toward the county's requirement for a specified number of parking spaces to serve a school the size that Abingdon will be. The condo board approved the lease agreement in September.

As the project moves forward, FCA expects to host periodic status briefings for Fairlington residents. For an update on the county board's September action, visit www.fca-fairlington.org.

—Guy Land

Fall yard sale, October 3, 8 am – noon

The always popular Fairlington Villages fall yard sale will be held on Saturday, October 3, from 8 am to noon in the FV community center parking lot, 3005 S. Abingdon St. North and South Fairlington residents are encouraged to participate as buyers or sellers.

No reservations are taken. Sale areas (one car slot) are available on a first-come, first-served basis for \$10 per space. Residents should set up between 7 and 8 am; everything must be cleared out by 1 pm. A member of the Activities Committee will collect your fee once you are set up. Coffee, other beverages, and food will be available, with the proceeds going to support community activities.

—Christine Chirichella



A savvy shopper scouts out bargains at a past North Fairlington fall yard sale. Photo by Guy Land.

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Rash of car crimes occurred over Labor Day weekend

Last month, as noted on the Fairlington Facebook page and subsequently reported by Arlington County Police Department (ACPD), there was a rash of Larceny from Auto (LFA) incidents around the Labor Day weekend (September 5 – 8): “Numerous vehicles were entered and miscellaneous items were taken, mostly loose change and small items. One vehicle was stolen,” said ACPD 3rd District Commander Captain Adrienne Quigley.

The LFAs, which occurred in the Green, Glen, Meadows, Arbor, and Commons, showed no signs of forced entry and the majority of residents affected acknowledged leaving their vehicles unlocked. ACPD’s 3rd District team responded, gathered statements and evidence, and later said that they were working closely with the Criminal Investigations Section on the issue and that officers would perform extra checks in the area.

On September 11, Captain Quigley reported that the suspects in the Fairlington LFAs had been arrested, had confessed, and had been charged, and that the stolen car was recovered along with other items. Quigley renews the reminder to “please lock your cars. This group was specifically targeting unlocked vehicles by trying door handles and looking in for items of value.”

Call if you’re concerned: During the summer, neighborhood social media in Fairlington and across Quaker Lane in Parkfairfax posted several comments about attempted break-ins, peeping toms, noises outside, suspicious activity, people walking around trying car doors, and the like. Police offer this perennial reminder: If anyone sees anything suspicious, call the non-emergency number, 703-558-2222, to report it. Let police decide if it’s anything or not. If it’s an emergency, dial 911.

—Gretchen Fallon

Police say trust your instincts to stay safe

A half-dozen reported sexual assaults of women in Arlington at the end of the summer had residents and public safety officials on edge—and on high alert.

The six assaults occurred on July 24 and 31 and August 1, 8, 13, and 21, in or near Courthouse, Glencarlyn Park, Buckingham, Lyon Village Park, Lubber Run Park, and Columbia Heights West (often in or near trails or parks). A seventh assault was reported on August 24, but authorities do not think it is related to the previous six, which have earmarks of possibly being the same assailant.

Although none of the assaults occurred in Fairlington,

police officials are using the incidents as a way to remind all residents, particularly women, that there are measures to take which can go a long way to minimize risk, stay out of harm’s way, and maintain personal safety.

Captain Adrienne Quigley, ACPD 3rd District Commander, recently distributed, via social media, an infographic highlighting tips people can use to improve personal safety. Although the tips may seem like common sense, reminders are helpful.

- Walk with another person whenever possible
- Walk in well-lit, high-traffic areas
- Be aware of surroundings and don’t take shortcuts
- Limit use of devices like cellphones, which can be a distraction
- Call 911 immediately if you are the victim of a crime
- Always report to police if you believe you’ve witnessed any kind of crime. Let the police decide if it amounts to anything.

“Arlington is a very safe community,” Quigley said. “But it is always good practice to run or exercise with a friend. If you see something suspicious that makes you uncomfortable or uneasy, trust your instincts and report it.”

—Bob Bradley



Captain Adrienne Quigley. Photo courtesy of Arlington County.

Report street light outages

Police confirm that street light outages are on their radar and they continue to monitor lighting problems, while the county works with Dominion Virginia Power to resolve them. To report an outage, call 703-228-6570 or go online to the county’s Transportation Engineering and Operations Bureau at <http://transportation.arlingtonva.us/streets/street-lights>. The bureau is responsible for 18,000 street lights throughout Arlington; the county maintains 7,000 street lights, and the other 11,000 are serviced by Dominion.

When you contact the bureau with an outage report, provide the exact location of the street light and a pole number, which typically begins with two letters.

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Fire station Open House, October 10

The Arlington County Fire Department hosts its annual Fire Station Open House on Saturday, October 10, from 10 am to 4 pm. This popular event is a great opportunity for residents to meet our friendly neighbors at Fire Station 7 (3116 S. Abingdon St.).

As in years past, the open house offers a chance for youngsters to climb aboard a real fire truck and try on real firefighting turnout gear. Look for face-painting, treats, and decal takeaways, as well as great picture-taking opportunities. The open house also offers a way to learn more about fire safety from those trained to protect us and to pass the lessons on to junior firefighters.

The open house is a county-wide event held in conjunction with Fire Prevention Week. The 2015 theme is "Hear the Beep Where You Sleep. Every Bedroom Needs a Working Smoke Alarm." According to the National Fire Protection Association, half of home fire deaths result from fires reported at night when most people are asleep. It is important to have working smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home, including the basement. For more information on fire alarm placement tips, go online to the county website, www.arlingtonva.us > fire.

—Christina Vloet



Photo by Guy Land.

County Board candidates' forum, October 7

At a forum on Wednesday, October 7, at 7 pm at the nearby county Trades Center (2700 S. Taylor Street), four candidates for the November election of two Arlington County Board members will discuss issues involving Arlington's natural resources. The candidates in attendance will be Katie Cristol (D), Christian Dorsey (D), Mike McMenamin (I), and Audrey Clement (I).

The forum is sponsored by the Arlington Parks Coalition (APC), Arlingtonians for a Clean Environment (ACE), and Tree Stewards. The candidates will respond to questions posed by the sponsors and then take questions from the audience. If you would like to submit a question for the candidates, to be considered by the sponsors, send them in email to info@arlingtonparkscoalition.org.

For more information about the sponsors, go online to www.arlingtonparkscoalition.org, www.arlingtonenvironment.org, and www.TreeStewards.org.

—Gretchen Fallon

Bikes have left the station



The underutilized BikeShare station on the S. Abingdon St. bridge was removed August 24. The white pylons went the next day. Photo by Gretchen Fallon.

Pick up your free tree this month

The county's free tree distribution event is scheduled for Saturday, October 24, from 8 am to 3 pm, at the county nursery facility located behind the baseball complex on Four Mile Run Drive. Park in the lot near the ball field and walk into the nursery to pick up a tree.



Fairlington residents are reminded that condo boards and landscape committees make tree-planting choices for the common grounds. A free tree from the county may be selected by any individual homeowner for planting in his/her patio area, where it becomes the responsibility of the individual.

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Visit these light switch events:

- Westover Farmers Market, Sunday, Sept. 6, 8 a.m. - noon
- Arlington Farmers Market, Saturday, Sept. 19, 8 a.m. - noon
- Central Library, each Saturday in Oct., 10 a.m. - noon
- E-CARE at TJ Middle School, Saturday, Oct. 3, 8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.

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VDOT shores up the nearby highway retaining wall



Photos courtesy of VDOT.

From the Abingdon Street bridge over I-395, residents can watch construction workers from VDOT (Virginia Department of Transportation) shoring up the highway retaining wall just down the steep hillside from Fairlington homes on S. 31st Road. “Rest assured that the adjacent Fairlington Villages structures are not in jeopardy of falling onto the highway,” recently said Brian Morrison, Senior Structural Engineer for VDOT’s Northern Virginia District.

Morrison reported that a February 2014 inspection of the southbound I-395 retaining wall, just north of Exit 5 to King Street, revealed wall movement and cracked concrete, which prompted emergency repairs. The emergency repairs, completed in two weeks, consisted of steel shoring to stabilize the wall and prevent potential damage to people and property.

A thorough engineering analysis then was undertaken to determine the cause for wall distress and to evaluate permanent repair options. The analysis and repair-design work were completed last year. Early in 2015, VDOT identified funding for a permanent wall repair, and a construction contract was awarded in May. Construction on the current permanent repair work should

be substantially completed by May 2016. The ongoing permanent repairs, said Morrison, “will restore the wall back to a condition where it should last 75 years.”

For more information about this or other VDOT projects, go online to www.virginiadot.org.

—Gretchen Fallon

Metrobus proposes changes to the 7Y

Metrobus wants riders to consider three options for proposed changes to the 7Y Lincolnia-North Fairlington line. Option 1 will eliminate service between 18th St. N.W. and the Convention Center. Option 2 will bypass the Pentagon to save time. Option 3 will route service over the 14th St. Bridge to D.C. instead of over the Roosevelt Bridge.

Metrobus is asking for your input on these proposed changes. You can attend a public hearing, take a survey, or send email (written or audio comments) to written-testimony@wmata.com. To read the options in full, go online to www.wmata.com/bus/BetterBus.cfm and view the Virginia Proposed Changes PDF (at about page 41). For additional information or assistance, call Metro Customer Service, 202-637-7000.



Photo by Gretchen Fallon.

Reminder: County taxes due October 5

The second installment of Arlington County real estate property tax and the personal property tax are due to the county treasurer on Monday, October 5. For complete information, go online to the county website, www.arlingtonva.us, and search taxes.

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The market is open until November 22



Gourds in all their colorful glory. Photo courtesy of Kuhn Orchards.

After numerous inquiries about the market closing date, it's clear that many shoppers think we're closing at the end of the summer. Au contraire! There's plenty of fabulous produce to be had into the fall.

Autumn will bring gourds and pumpkins, of course, and all kinds of tasty apple varieties. In addition, imagine a maple bacon spread for your goat cheese, horseradish pickles, molasses cookies, harvest-themed pies, jams, and muffins, as well as pears, leeks, sweet potatoes, and multiple varieties of winter squash. And you'll be able to order a fresh, farm-raised, antibiotic-free turkey for the holidays! Fairlington market goers have a lot to look forward to—all the way to Thanksgiving!

—Lisa Schwanger

Pickle vendor brings crunch to market

"Their gazpacho is awesome!" raved Meadows resident Julie Pryor about her favorite Fresh Crunch product at the Fairlington Farmers Market. "I was so disappointed when they were out of it the next week."

The gluten-free gazpacho joins a list of more than a dozen products the Falls Church-based business offers, including Chili Garlic Dill Pickles, Balzy Carrots, Citrus-Ginger Beets, and Pickled Okra. According to owner Matt Bressan, the most popular product is Balsamic Carrots.

Participating in farmers markets from Dupont Circle to Williamsburg, Fresh Crunch has been winning glowing reviews across the D.C. area. The July issue of *Washingtonian* magazine named Fresh Crunch "D.C.'s Best

Pickle" and noted that "No one makes a better pickle than Virginia native Matt Bressan, whose hand-crafted cukes come in ten addictive flavors."

Bressan started out in the catering business, occasionally crafting some specialty foods for events he was catering. But the popularity of those products led him to focus on creating his own specialty food business, leaving the catering work behind.

He buys pickles, beets, and carrots locally, often from fellow vendors at the markets in which he sells. About



Heidi Branch displays over a dozen varieties of pickled veggies at the Fresh Crunch stand. Photo by Guy Land.

the gazpacho, Bressan notes that he makes his gazpacho at the end of the week, generally using produce he's stocked for his other products, and he often sells out before he reaches all the Sunday markets.

Bressan says the Fairlington market has met his expectations. "It has a nice neighborhood feeling for a market," he said. "We're very pleased with Fairlington. My only disappointment is that we got here a month later than everyone else."

—Guy Land

FFM Survey: FCA is conducting an online survey to gauge community opinion about the Fairlington Farmers Market as it concludes its first year of operation. Please take a moment to answer a few questions, which will assess the market's impact on the community (but not such things as vendor options or hours). Log on to www.fca-fairlington.org and follow the survey link. And, thanks!



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Neighbors helping neighbors is an attitude that resonates with many Fairlington residents. There are plenty of opportunities to support the community without going far from home. A few of these options include:

- **Abingdon Elementary** is looking for volunteers to tutor math students one-on-one, read with students, work with students in an outdoor garden, assist teachers in the classroom, or work in the library. Please contact Gail Seligson, Assistant Principal, for additional information: 703-228-6650.
- **TOPSoccer** is a community-based soccer training program for boys and girls, ages 4 – 19, with mental and/or physical disabilities. The program is looking for “buddies” to help players learn and have fun during weekly soccer sessions. TopSoccer meets on Saturday afternoons, from 3:30 to 4:30 pm. During the spring and fall, sessions are held at Woodlawn Park Field. Practice will be located at the Fairlington Community Center this winter (www.arlingtonsoccer.com/otherasaprograms/topsoccer-2/).
- **At Home in Alexandria (AHA!) and Arlington Neighborhood Villages (ANV)** provide a range of services to help individuals age 55+ remain autonomous and in their own homes. Both AHA! and ANV rely on volunteers of all ages to run errands, make friendly visits, offer computer or other technology assistance, and deliver a variety of other supportive services (www.athomeinalexandria.org/ and <http://arlnvil.org>).
- **Arlington Food Assistance Center (AFAC)** provides supplemental groceries to Arlington residents in need. Volunteers can grow, bag, distribute, or transport food. AFAC volunteers also have the opportunity to help in the office and warehouse, as well as organize and assist at special events (www.afac.org/).



*Lend a hand at AFAC, the county's food pantry.
Photo by Heather Marshall.*

- Right next door to AFAC is the **Arlington Street People's Assistance Network (A-SPAN)** which provides housing, case management, and other supportive services to homeless individuals. Volunteers can cook and serve meals, work in the emergency shelter, or provide support to Opportunity Place, A-SPAN's office and client drop-in center (www.a-span.org).
- **Animal Welfare League** has branches in both Arlington and Alexandria. Alexandria needs volunteers to help with adoptions, animal care, donation sorting, and a variety of other services (<http://alexandrianimals.org/volunteerfoster>). Arlington will post information about volunteer opportunities in mid-October (www.awla.org/volunteer/volunteer-program).

Not sure what you want to do? Check out a few volunteer search engines like VolunteerMatch (www.volunteermatch.org), Idealist (www.idealists.org), or your local government website (Arlington County, <http://volunteer.truist.com/acvo/volunteer>, and City of Alexandria, <http://alexandriava.gov/Volunteer>). These websites make it easy to find service opportunities that match your interests, skills, schedule, and location.

—The Locavivists

Locaviva is a monthly series about local services and opportunities that can make your life easier and more fun. We encourage readers to become Locavivists by learning more about local options each month, telling us about their experience, and adding their own favorite sources. Just send a message to our dedicated email account (locavivists@gmail.com). We'll post results on the Fairlington Appreciation Society Facebook page.

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Food waste recycling information to come

The Composting/Food Waste Recycling Working Group formed this summer, met in August and September, and continues looking into options for Fairlington. Working group members will research 16 different options/vendors over the next 6 weeks to determine which possibilities are best for the Fairlington community. The group's findings will be shared at an upcoming community meeting.

The working group's goal is to promote composting by offering information about flexible options that can assist residents in reducing their carbon footprint—which can “contribute to a healthier environment overall,” said the group's organizer, Christen Snow. If anyone is interested in joining or assisting with the group's work, contact Snow at kocherpuffs@gmail.com.

—Christen Snow

E-CARE recycles household hazmat and more, October 3



Photo courtesy of Arlington County.

At the Arlington Environmental Collection and Recycling Event (E-CARE), Arlington residents can safely and easily dispose of household hazardous materials (like paint, garden chemicals, caustic substances, flammables, fluorescent bulbs, etc.), as well as recycle bikes, small metal items, eyeglasses, durable medical equipment, shoes, clothing, and much more.

The recycling event will be held Saturday, October 3, 8:30 am to 3 pm at the Thomas Jefferson Middle School, (125 Old S. Glebe Rd.). Take ID to verify residency. Before going, check the website to see what kinds of items are accepted, which ones require a fee (TVs and computer monitors or like devices), and what is not accepted (business or commercial waste); watch a video that shows the drive-through, drop-off process. For more information go online to <http://recycling.arlingtonva.us/events/e-care-fall-2015>.

New this year: You can exchange an old CFL lightbulb for a new LED bulb (one per household). The bulb swap is sponsored by AIRE (Arlington Initiative to Rethink Energy), while supplies last.

—Gretchen Fallon

No plastic bags in curbside recycling

Plastic bags—trash bags, newspaper sleeves, dry cleaner bags, or the plastic shopping bags you get at Safeway, Harris Teeter, Target, CVS, etc.—are not recyclable through Fairlington's curbside recycling program. Thus, no plastic bags in the bins and no plastic bags used to hold paper outside the bins. No plastic bags. Period.



A recycling faux pas. Photo by Gretchen Fallon.

All seven condo associations in Fairlington use Capitol Services for dual-stream recycling collection. Days and times may vary among the neighborhoods, but the rules for proper dual-stream recycling (pre-bin sort) are the same for all residents. (See the website, www.capitol-services-of-va.com, for guidelines.)

Plastic bags (plus all film or filament-type plastic) is barred from most dual-stream curbside collection programs because the thin plastic easily rips, shreds, and gums up the waste management company's sorting machines. In addition, when shreds of plastic are bundled (inevitably) with sellable recycled paper, the paper loses value as a commodity and the entire load can be rejected by a commodity buyer.

Grocery bags and store shopping bags can, of course, be reused, used for trash, or returned to the store for proper recycling—in bulk, they can become valuable reclaimed material for industrial waste recovery plants. Most grocers and large retailers now provide drop-off boxes to accept clean plastic bags (plus plastic wrap and film) for proper recycling: Look for a box or bin near the front of the store or go online to check for nearby recycling options—see www.earth911.com for locations and suggestions.

—Gretchen Fallon

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neighborhood news

Fairlington Diners

The Fairlington Diners is a group that gathers for relaxed dinners nearby. We focus on having a good meal and an opportunity to chat with neighbors. In September, we returned to Ramparts for hamburgers, followed by an expedition to enjoy an excellent Chinese restaurant in Alexandria. In October, we'll have the following events:

Monday, October 5, 6:30 pm, Lost Dog Café, 2920 Columbia Pike, 703-553-7770. As an alternate to our usual burger night, let's visit this popular local eatery. An amazing array of sandwiches and other dishes is available; each can be customized. Free parking under the building after 6 pm.

Saturday, October 17, lunch at Saucity, 171 Waterfront St., at National Harbor. We'll plan to take the 12:05 pm water taxi from Alexandria, with lunch at 1 pm at Saucity. Round-trip tickets for the water taxi are \$16, and they may be purchased from the Potomac Riverboat Company either at their office at Cameron and Union St. in Old Town or online. We'll plan to head back later in the afternoon, probably on the 4:50 pm water taxi, which will give us time for a little shopping or a ride on the Capital Wheel (\$15 or \$13.50 seniors, plus taxes).

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 notice of our events a couple weeks in advance, send your email address to carol_dabbs at yahoo.com.

Book Group

Join the Fairlington Book Group in October to discuss *The Man in the Wooden Hat*, a novel by Jane Gardam.

In August the Book Group read *Old Filth*, Gardam's humorous and compelling story of Sir Edward Feathers, a successful barrister and judge, born in Malaya, raised in pre-war England, and now retired. We are continuing this month with the second book in Gardam's trilogy, which follows his wife, Betty, from their courtship "to their final days, revealing a backstory of secret trysts and desires that each concealed from the other during their

long, childless marriage" (from *Publishers Weekly*).

The Book Group welcomes first-time visitors and drop-ins. No commitment required! If you're into literary fiction, join us in October, no strings attached. We are meeting on Tuesday, October 27, at 7:30 pm in the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford Street. We hope you'll join us.

Card players welcome

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

Fairlington Babysitting Co-op

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

Email the coordinators, Danielle Bloom and Tiffany Bittenbender, at fairlington.babysitting@gmail.com to request more information and an application.

Composting workshop at FCC

Virginia Cooperative Extension and Master Gardeners of Arlington/Alexandria will present a fall composting workshop on Tuesday, October 6, from 7 to 8:30 pm at the Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. The program will emphasize how composted material, including leaf litter and kitchen waste, can enrich and improve garden soil. It will provide basic information on how to start composting at home, what to put in a compost pile, how to maintain it so the materials break down properly, and how to use compost. The program is free and open to the public. Advance registration is requested at mgnv.org. Questions? Call 703-228-6414 or email mgarlalex@gmail.com.

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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



The expert answers your FAQs

After years of working the soil in many gardens, I've heard some questions crop up often. Here are the more frequently asked ones:

When is the best time to prune?

It depends on the specimen and the situation. Azaleas are pruned after flowering (May)—pruning late in the year or in early spring negates flowering. Crape myrtle trees can be pruned in March. Butterfly bushes are pruned to 6 inches off the soil in late February.

After that, if shrubby branches block the gate, prune what's necessary so you don't get scratched. If branches block a window, thin out the specimen to allow more light into your home. I prune any branches that lay on the ground. This makes it neater and prevents mildew, mold, and fungus from occurring.

What about watering? This depends on the season, weather, and specimen. Watering in winter is wise if temperatures are above 40 degrees and snow/rain is rare. From mid-May to mid-September, watering is vital. And watering twice daily is prudent—especially with hydrangea and annual plants that have fragile root systems. Sprinklers are okay, but hand-watering is more efficient since you can aim the hose directly at the root zone: Go in circles around the base of the plant for about 10 seconds.

Which plants are drought-tolerant? Juniper, falsecypress, mugo pine, barberry, dwarf nandina, hibiscus,



Numerous crape myrtles bloom throughout Fairlington. Photo by Gretchen Fallon.

roses, euonymus, yucca, boxwood, holly, and mature trees can withstand heat. They still need water, but they don't get as thirsty as other plants. If you travel or just don't like to water, invest in these specimens.

Do ground cover plants get big?

No. They are aptly named because their habit (size at maturity) is small. They take up ground space so your garden doesn't have large swaths of empty mulch. Cluster-plant different ground covers for decoration.

Periwinkle, pachysandra, ivy, blue rug, blue star or blue Pacific juniper, lamium, and ajuga are a few.

Is it smart to plant basically

annuals? It can be since they are affordable, colorful, and easy to plant (needing just a trowel). Purchase annuals in late April and enjoy their blooms into December, when they die in a frost. Don't forget about mandevilla—an annual vine (in our area) that has 3-inch-wide flowers in pink, red, and white, each with a yellow throat. Insert a trellis against your fence so the vine's limp branches have support.

Which mulch should I use?

Mulches differ in color, size, appearance, and cost. Frequently you see black or orange mulch at gas stations. This is *Cedar* and it is dyed/colored. It's also the most expensive at \$6 a bag. Other mulches sell for \$4. I like *Virginia Fines* since it's the size of a quarter, has a cinnamon scent, and keeps its "rust" color the longest. *Rappahannock* is larger (size of a plum); it is brown and more rustic looking. *Silver Dollar* is 3 inches in diameter and tends to turn gray around the edges in the cold. *Shredded Hardwood* is used in front of many Fairlington homes. It's longer (4 to 5 inches) and comes in brown strands. When used in excess, it hardens into clumps and becomes unappealing. If you select this type, spread it modestly.

—Bill Sullivan
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APS Superintendent Patrick Murphy, PTA co-presidents Jen Davies and Andrew Vitols, and school Principal Joanne Uyeda. Photo by Erin Sonn.

Potential impact for Abingdon with siting of new elementary school in South Arlington

For the most part, the Abingdon community, including staff and PTA, has been very engaged in the school's renovation and expansion project slated to begin next spring. They have attended community meetings, participated and served on Arlington Public Schools (APS) committees and spoken out in support of the project at various school board and county board meetings. Participation is expected to continue as the project moves from the design phase to staging for construction. While Abingdon's capacity needs will be addressed in the short term, APS projections still expect the school to be overcrowded by 2019.

This past summer, APS appointed members to the South Arlington Working Group (SAWG). The group has been meeting monthly to discuss options to site a new elementary school in South Arlington. Abingdon PTA President Jennifer Davies and Vice President Jeni Hornback represent the school in this

working group. SAWG participants have been challenged to find viable options that meet criteria in terms of space and boundary considerations with the goal of having a school open by fall of 2019. "For the most part, the Fairlington community will not be directly impacted by the future site of the new elementary school. However, it is possible that some families who attend choice schools such as Claremont Immersion or Montessori might see these programs relocated. Further, I expect that Abingdon's current attendance zone (boundaries) will likely be redrawn," Davies explained.

The re-drawing of boundaries will require another series of meetings and a school community engagement process. The neighborhoods of Claremont, Columbia Forest, and Windgate I and II may well be part of the new boundary discussion. SAWG is expected to present their initial recommendations to the school board in early October. It is fair to say that the Abingdon community will experience some changes over the next several years.

Abingdon welcomed back families at annual Labor Day Picnic



Photo by Jen Davies.

The Abingdon PTA hosted the popular picnic on the last day of summer vacation. The event was well attended by new and returning families. Students painted welcome banners that were hung along school halls. Students and parents also enjoyed some pick-up soccer outside and dodge ball in the gym. Parents were able to review the schematic designs of the school's renovation and expansion project.

Fall Festival scheduled for Friday, October 16



Fall Festival fun and games. Photos by Abingdon Yearbook Committee.

Abingdon's most popular event is back! Whether you come for the moon-bounce, carnival games, face painting, or haunted hallway, students and parents alike are welcome to join the fun. Pizza, popcorn, and cotton candy will be available for sale.

—Jen Davies



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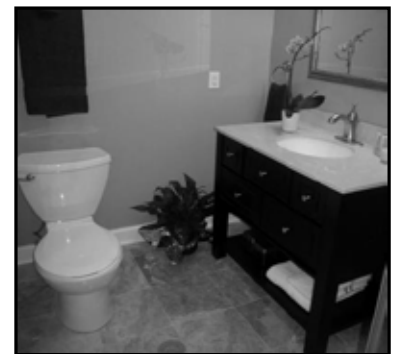
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Mini-ads

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MINI-ADS INSTRUCTIONS

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

- Checks payable to "Fairlington Citizens Association."
- Send mini-ad copy via email, regular mail, or drop off at FCA drop box.
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E-mail: admanager@fca-fairlington.org

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

Drop Box Location: Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford St. (Hours: 8 am – 9 pm, M-F, 8 am – 5 pm, Saturday; closed Sunday.)

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

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Arlington— End unit townhome, 2 BR 2BA. Hdwd floors, brand new granite counters \$387k. Call Neil Kelly



Arlington— Private stunning 4 BR, 3.5 BA townhome with gourmet kitchen in Shirlington \$739k. Call Pat Shannon



Arlington— Lovely two bedroom second floor unit on quiet street in Fairlington. Renovated kitchen and newer carpets. Large separate and private basement. Roomy balcony \$320k. Call Barbara Kirkland



Falls Church— Fully renovated, spacious penthouse living on a budget. Nice finishes in kitchen & baths. SS appliances, granite counters & great views \$212k.



Alexandria—Gorgeous mid-century modern rambler with hardwoods, stone fireplace, and lots of storage. Close to King St metro. Stunning landscaped yard \$699k. Call Julie Flory

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