

all FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN



www.fca-fairlington.org

SEPTEMBER 2011

Volume 37, Number 9

What we've heard lately about real estate development in the area

FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, September 14, 7 pm

First day of school, K-12

Tuesday, September 6
Arlington Public Schools

Fair Golds business meeting

Thursday, September 8, noon
FCC

Fairlington Diners

Sunday, September 11, 6:30 pm
Indigo Landing
Alexandria

MOMS Club meeting

Wednesday, September 14, 4 pm
FCC

Fair Golds program

Thursday, September 22, noon
FCC

Native plant sale

Saturday, September 24
9 am – 2 pm
Parkfairfax

Invasive plant pull

Sunday, September 25 (tentative)
9 am – noon
S. 32nd Road tree stand

Fairlington Diners

Monday, September 26, 6:30 pm
Ramparts half-price burger night
Alexandria

Join your neighbors at the FCA meeting on September 14 for a discussion of recent talk about nearby real estate developments—plans, proposals, realities, and rumors. This is an opportunity for residents to hear what's known, what's being said, and what's probably not true. Voice your concerns about what you see as potential problems or indicate what kinds of development you might even welcome. The FCA has been monitoring published reports and comments about development over the summer, and will serve as Fairlington's forum for an open airing of views.

BRAC-133



One development we know is coming for sure is the opening of the BRAC-133 buildings at the Mark Center, at Seminary Road and Beauregard Street in Alexandria adjacent to I-395. This influx of more than 6,000 federal workers to an area not served by mass transit has many people worried all along the Beauregard Street corridor—they fear traffic gridlock and residential streets overtaken by commuter parking.

Last month, the City of Alexandria issued a press release saying that employees had begun moving into the Mark Center: "According to the proposed schedule, approximately 2,300 employees will move in between now and September 15; 2,500 employees between September 15 and December 31; and 1,600 employees by December 31, 2012." At the same time, band-aids were applied to the traffic concerns: Governor McDonnell announced plans to establish a VDOT task force to "monitor traffic management" in the area. And new bus routes were started: "Alexandria's DASH bus is adding a new express route providing service from the King Street Metro directly to Mark Center. Metro will add bus service between the Pentagon and Mark Center, and some DoD employees may be able to ride free by showing their Mark Center identification card. The federal government is paying 100% of costs for the new bus routes, as well as for additional shuttle service."

Fairlington residents are in a wait-and-see mode. If neighborhood streets begin to fill to an unacceptable level with commuter cars, residents have recourse through Arlington's Residential Permit Parking Program (see the *Bulletin* story, August 2011, page 9).

Continued on page 3

Continued on page 5

Coming up ...

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

Preliminary agenda:

7 p.m. Speaker/presentation: FCA board members will report what is known about development plans in and around the community, and neighbors can discuss what they have heard and what they anticipate regarding the impacts of development on Fairlington.

8 p.m. Regular business meeting:

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

Sign up for updates

Visit www.fca-fairlington.org to sign up for neighborhood news delivered right to your inbox.

AFB on the Web

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

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

USEFUL CONTACTS

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Dominion (power outages)	888-667-3000
Fairlington Community Center	703-228-6588
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Pothole Patrol Hotline	703-228-6485
Shirlington Library	703-228-6545
Street Light Hotline	703-228-6511
www.arlingtonva.us/departments/Environmental	
Services/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm	
Helicopter Noise Complaints	Bob Laser (FAA) bob.laser@faa.gov

Fairlington Citizens Association

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

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COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING RATES

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

Ad Size	Height	Width	Rate
1/8 page	2 3/16 in.	3 5/8 in.	\$47
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Calendar, cont.

Book Group

Tuesday, September 27, 7:30 pm
North Fairlington CC

See Neighborhood News on pages 23 – 24 and related articles for details about calendar events.

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Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Fairlingtonians,

Fairlington residents are very lucky to live where we do. We have access to great schools, we can rely on well-run fire and police departments, and so much more that comes with living in Arlington. On the flip side, transportation will always be an issue in Northern Virginia, and development is one of the biggest factors in making transportation better or worse.

The *Bulletin's* front page story this month gives an overview of what we have been hearing recently on the subject of development, and development will be the focus of our FCA meeting on September 14. We want to hear input from all Fairlington residents, and we want to serve as a conduit for information, so that all residents are kept up-to-date.

I haven't been shy about expressing my views on some of the projects discussed here. I've made plain that I think the location of the BRAC 133 project was a bone-headed decision, and that it should have been sited near public transportation. The elected officials who should have known better *did*, in fact, know better; and still they failed to do their jobs. That having been said, the project is not going away, so now we have to figure out how to minimize cut-through traffic and overflow parking. This will be an important part of FCA's job for the next several years. I wrote about the potential for a Walmart coming to the area last month, so I needn't go over that again.

One project I have not discussed yet is the Battery at Fairlington. First of all, I don't know if the owners of the land are anywhere close to making their redevelopment plan a reality, so it may be a non-issue. But what if it is a genuine plan? What would be the impact on Fairlington, then? How would it affect our quality of life?

Roz Jordan, the FCA Vice President, is in the process of trying to meet with the owners of the land and find out more about their thinking and their plans. As I said before, FCA wants to be a conduit for information—reliable information. We also want to make sure there is a way Fairlington residents can have input into something happening in our neighborhood. We are hopeful the land owners and potential developers will join us in that effort.

Some residents will think that having shops, cafes, and other retail outlets nearby could be a good thing, if handled properly. Others will think that the potential for increased traffic offsets any hoped-for benefit. Personally, I'm not sure what to think until I know more, but I'm trying to stay open-minded.

Reed Franklin
president@fca-fairlington.org



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The Battery



Closer to home for Fairlingtonians, there is the possible redevelopment of the commercially zoned land parcel on the Frosty's site next door to the firehouse on S. Abingdon Street. The development—which goes by the name of the Battery at Fairlington—has engendered lots of talk but little enlightenment. Discussion first surfaced on the FCA Facebook page (Fairlington Appreciation Society) in May when a resident found and inquired about the Web site, www.thebatteryatfairlington.com. Many commenters responded negatively to the prospect of development—they expressed concern about increased traffic and an impact on property values. Others noted that the proposed construction, as outlined on the Web site, was in keeping with Fairlington's visually distinct character; that the plans provided for underground garage parking; and that new retail shops and cafes in that location might actually serve the needs of residents who could comfortably walk to them. The FCA

AFAC volunteer opportunities in September

September is Hunger Action Month at AFAC, the Arlington Food Assistance Center. There are many volunteer opportunities, which are great activities to do with a group of friends or family.

- Gleaning. Saturdays, September 3, 10, 17, and 24, about 8 am to noon
- Safeway food drives. Saturday, September 10 and Sunday, September 11, 10 am to 4 pm
- Shred for Bread. Saturday, September 17, 10 am to 1 pm

For more information, go online to the AFAC Web site, www.afac.org. You can sign up for activities by using the online calendar. First, you'll need to register in the online system by completing the volunteer profile form.

board contacted the owners/developers of the parcel, Corinthian Contractors and Abingdon Partners LLC; so far they have been unable to meet due to scheduling conflicts, but look forward to an informational meeting in the future.

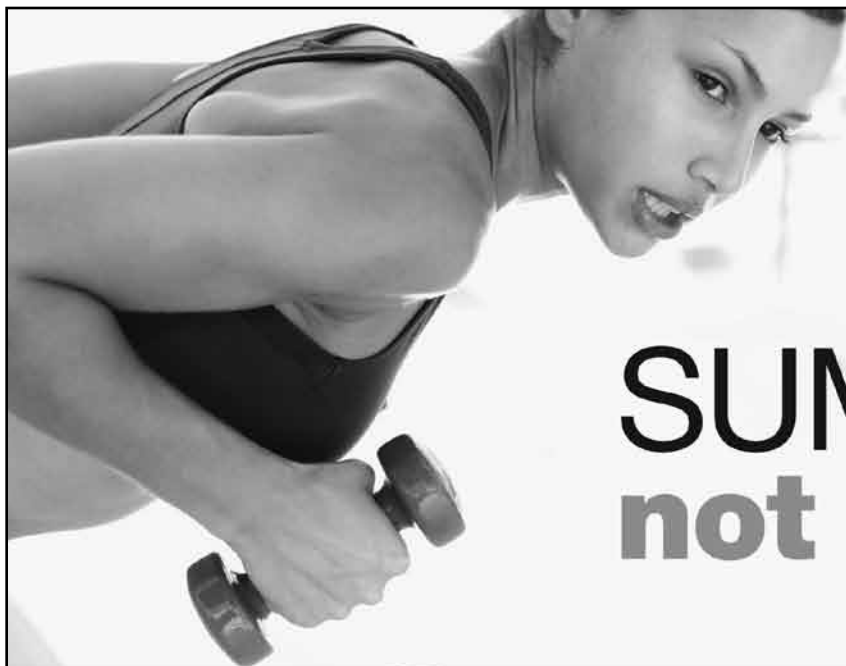
Walmart

Perhaps most contentious of all recently rumored developments is the story going around that Walmart has expressed interest in building an urban-style store on an industrial site near Shirlington. In late July, the hyper-local blog ARLnow.com noted Walmart's possible plans at the same time it reported that the Arlington County Board had proposed a change in zoning ordinance language. The change would require big-box commercial developers to secure from the board a special exemption use permit before proceeding with construction. The amended language says the board must review and approve development meeting certain specifications—a ground floor area of more than 50,000 square feet and/or 200 or more parking spaces.

County staff, in the Department of Community Planning, Housing & Development, have stated that the county is not opposed to Walmart, per se, nor to any other large retailer. Rather, the county seeks to review each proposed big-box development, on a case-by-case basis, to assess its impacts on traffic and infrastructure. There will be public hearings on the proposed zoning ordinance amendment at the Planning Commission meeting on September 6 and at the County Board meeting on September 17. These meetings are open to the public.

In addition, it was announced recently that CPHD staff will undertake a two-phase study and planning effort focused on the Shirlington Crescent/Four Mile Run Area. Staff will study the area and develop policy guidance for three industrial properties (the concrete batching plant, the lumber distributor, and the vacant car storage lot) located within the southernmost portion of the Shirlington Crescent (bounded by Shirlington Road and I-395, and south of 24th Road S.). After the study, staff will develop a comprehensive plan for the area, which will “address key planning issues including height, density, use mix, urban design, open space, affordable housing, transportation, and environmental sustainability.” The process is expected to take about two years.

Arlington alerts: You can sign up for electronic emergency notifications and updates (via e-mail, cell, text, or pager) at www.arlingtonalert.com. It's a free county service, but your service provider may charge fees for receiving wireless device messages.



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Letters to the Editor

Fairlington resident bitten by off-leash dog

For about 25 years, I have taken a daily exercise walk through Fairlington and adjoining neighborhoods without any problem. But on the evening of August 1, I had an unsettling and scary incident. I was bitten by an unleashed dog in south Fairlington as I was walking past a group of three people with three off-leash dogs on a courtyard sidewalk. The smallest of the dogs ran after me and bit me in the calf. The wound started bleeding immediately. The dog's owner, shocked and apologetic, helped with first aid supplies, provided information about the dog's health status, and drove me home. As is recommended in such cases, I went to an emergency room for wound treatment and later, as instructed by the written hospital materials, reported the incident to the local Animal Warden.

I urge all dog owners: Leash your dogs! Off-leash dogs are not allowed in our neighborhood for good reason. If your animal attacks someone, you are responsible for what happens. Also, for all residents out on the streets, sidewalks, and grassy areas, I recommend you know the date of your last tetanus shot, and be sure to visit a medical facility immediately if bitten by a dog or cat. As for me, I am once bitten, twice shy. If I come across an unleashed dog in the future, I will remind the owner that it is not acceptable to disobey the rules. People can and do get hurt.

Barbara Rosenbaum
Fairlington Villages

Editor's note: The county's leash law is clear: When off the owner's private property, all dogs in Arlington must be leashed and under the control of the owner/responsible person. The only exception occurs in a county-sanctioned, fenced dog park. In Fairlington (excepting your patio/balcony), the "outdoors" is common property, not the private property of any individual resident.

The All Fairlington Bulletin welcomes letters to the editor and will print them as space permits. However, the opinions expressed are those of the writers and do not represent endorsement by this publication or the FCA. In addition, the AFB reserves the right to edit letters for length or clarity, and the AFB may refuse to print letters that are not appropriate for a community newsletter.

FINS finishes swimmingly



Photographs by Dana Andy.



Fairlington's FINS (Friends Interested in Neighborhood Swimming) summer swim program rotated among south Fairlington pools for four weeks in July—thanks to the condo associations at the Arbor, Mews, Meadows, and Glen for welcoming fifty Fairlington children to

their pools. This year FINS families added a community-service element to the swim program, by donating more than 65 pounds of boxed cereal to the Arlington Food Assistance Center. To join the e-mail list for information about FINS 2012, contact Dana Andy at theandyfamily@comcast.net. Or watch for registration information in the April 2012 *Bulletin*.

Farmers market reins in dogs

The Columbia Pike Farmers Market, which is open on Sundays, 9 am to 1 pm, at the corner of the Pike and Walter Reed Drive, has always welcomed dogs (most markets do not). But enthusiasm has dimmed, says the market's coordinator, due to a complaint about dogs lodged with the Arlington County Health Department. As a result, market-goers are asked to "think twice about bringing your pooch along" when you shop. If you bring your dog, market organizers make this reasonable request: "At the very least we'd appreciate it if you would keep them out of vendor booths and away from tables that have food on them."

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News from the S. 32nd Road tree stand

Undesirable plants that threatened to overwhelm the S. 32nd Road tree stand are slowly giving way to the diligence of a small band of volunteers who have turned out on weekends throughout the spring and summer to pull English ivy, Japanese honeysuckle, and other invasive plants. Brown, leaf- and natural mulch-covered ground has begun to reappear where unwanted greenery has been removed; in spots, in fact, the woodland sports a slightly denuded appearance. To remedy the situation, weed-pull organizer Lenny Bankester hopes to supply some perennials for planting this fall. The goal is to reintroduce native plants, like Rudbeckia in purple and yellow, (commonly called cone-flowers and black-eyed-susans), which are known as landscape “workhorses.” Bankester reviews the benefits: “They sprout and grow easily, they’re drought-tolerant, they’re native, and they attract wildlife like ruby-throated hummingbirds, goldfinches, and many butterflies.”



The next invasive plant pull at S. 32nd Road is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 25, from 9 am to noon. (Check the FCA Web site closer to the date for updates or changes.) At this time of year, the fall migration begins to pick up, so weed-pullers can hope for some interesting bird sightings in September and October. Usually we can expect to see a number of raptors coming through the neighborhood, says Bankester. “Last year, I saw a sharp-shinned hawk land on the chain-link fence near here.”

Bankester is optimistic about what’s been accomplished so far. “Things are progressing better than I’d hoped. We’ve had a small group of dedicated volunteers that has really put a dent in the weeds in the area. I’d estimate that we’ve gotten rid of 90 percent of the ivy and honeysuckle. There will be some follow-up needed next spring, but this summer’s efforts will go a long way toward getting these two species under control. I think this project is a good example of what a little community service can accomplish.”

Parkfairfax native plant sale, Saturday, September 24



This nearby, twice-yearly sale features native perennials, shrubs, and trees for sun or shade. It’s the largest native plant sale in the D.C. metro area, and it’s organized and run entirely by volunteers. At least fourteen vendors will be on hand from Virginia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and South Carolina

on Saturday, September 24, 9 am to 2 pm, in the tennis courts parking lot at 3601 Valley Drive in Parkfairfax. A list of the vendors can be found on the sale Web site, www.ParkfairfaxNativePlantSale.org.

The Fairlington Homecoming

This annual celebration of life in Fairlington welcomes everyone who has ever called Fairlington home. This year’s event, on Friday, October 28, will celebrate the many ways volunteers enrich our community. Before then, share your stories of volunteering at www.fairlingtonhistoricalsociety.org. Tell us what you’ve done; what motivated you; what were your most challenging and most gratifying moments. We’ll share wine, cheese, a light supper, and volunteer stories at homecoming. If you can help with homecoming, e-mail us via the “contact us” link at www.fairlingtonhistoricalsociety.org or call Patty Clark, 703-820-7328.

Shirlington Library news: For complete program descriptions, go online to the library Web site at www.arlingtonva.us/departments/Libraries/LibrariesEvents.aspx. See also <http://shirlingtonlibrary.wordpress.com>.

Where were you?

Fairlingtonians share memories of September 11, 2001



Photographs: Department of Defense

In the immediate aftermath of the attacks, some Fairlingtonians were in France or Norway seeking flights out; others made their way along Glebe Road or Wilson Boulevard. What many remember now, ten years later, is the mix of the mundane and the surreal on that day, the temporary bonding of strangers, and a sense that things had changed. And the desire to get home.

★★★★

After a call from my daughter to turn on the TV, my unit shook. Earthquake? I wondered. Little did I know I was experiencing an event that would change the U.S. and the world forever. Tuned to CNN all day, I was alternately shocked, disgusted, and sad. Kudos, though, to the 24/7 workers who repaired the Pentagon with lightening speed.

—Molly Kirby

★★★★

I was home sick, sleeping, on 9/11 when my niece called asking me if I was OK. Fine, just had a bad cold; I was surprised she knew I was sick. She said she wasn't calling about that, and told me to turn on the TV. I saw repeated scenes of a plane hitting a building with a voiceover about a Pentagon attack. I banged on my neighbor's door to ask the time of the attack. 9:30 am. So my husband should be okay. I felt dazed but alert as I realized there was nothing I could do. What had happened happened. I could only wait. Phone calls to my husband weren't answered. The cell phones we had just bought were useless—we hadn't charged them yet. Post-9/11 we've never been without them.

—Jo Amato Burns

★★★★

The conference room TV blared graphic images from New York. I noticed smoke billowing in the distance and said, "Something's happening here, too!" People began to scurry about Freedom Plaza, cell phones to their ears; gridlock formed on every downtown street. Our young intern asked, "What should we do?" as though a seasoned D.C. worker would know the answer. I said, "I honestly don't know."

I decided to wait out the traffic, but found all restaurants closing. The seven-mile walk home was surreal, as radio news reports leapfrogged out to me from each stopped car I passed. We fellow walkers bonded—an airline pilot, an Intelligence Committee staffer, a woman who gave me Band-Aids for my blistered feet. Finally reaching Shirlington hungry and thirsty, I relaxed before trekking up the big hill. Thanks, Luna Grill, for staying open on 9/11.

—Karen Anderson

★★★★

Working at DOT just south of the Mall, I thought it was just a work-related tidbit when someone said a plane had crashed into the World Trade Center. Then I heard a second plane had hit—this was no accident. We heard other reports: the Executive Office Building had been bombed; the Capitol had been hit; a plane had crashed on the Mall; a plane had crashed into the Pentagon; and, scariest of all, yet another plane was headed

towards Washington. Of all the reports, two turned out to be true; the others were products of the state of panic and confusion we all were in. Dismissed from work, I walked to the Mall—other than the jets flying overhead, things looked normal. With my regular Metro commute through the Pentagon blocked, I headed to Ballston. Subways and buses were crowded. The bus route home along Glebe Road was clogged with traffic diverted from Arlington Boulevard to allow emergency vehicle access to D.C. After a long ride, a faint whiff of smoke greeted me on the Abingdon Street bridge.

—Eugene Burns

★★★★

My bicycle offered a unique vantage point on 9/11. When federal workers were dismissed around 11 am, a colleague and I pedaled from our office on the Mall toward the TR bridge. As the only open bridge, it was clogged with hundreds of anxious, wary people, staring at the black smoke pouring from the Pentagon into that unforgettably glorious blue sky. I recalled a childhood comic book's rendering of H.G. Wells' *War of the Worlds* (remember Classics Illustrated?), where Londoners streamed from the city in a panic as the Martians invaded. From Rosslyn, I biked along Wilson Boulevard, dodging stalled cars and shoeless women and tieless men. Reaching Ballston, I saw frantic people calling on their useless cell phones. Turning onto an empty Glebe Road, I reached Fairlington about 1:30 pm, where I glued myself to the TV to digest the horror of the day.

—Carol Goodloe



★★★★

We were in Normandy, visiting the Caen Peace Museum, as the towers and Pentagon were hit. Not until the next morning did our B&B host with limited English try to tell us, who had limited French, what had happened.

Getting home to Fairlington from London Heathrow on September 18—the first day flights were allowed into the U.S.—involved waiting in the car park; being escorted in groups to security; and having bag, book, and body searched three times before boarding. Posted in shop windows across London was the American flag, printed by newspapers in support of the U.S.

—Alan Bow and Margaret Windus



★★★★

I learned about the terrorists' attacks while on a Smithsonian art study tour in the south of France. Our study leaders made this chilling announcement as we left the Picasso Museum on the shore of the Mediterranean: "The United States is under attack." There was mass confusion because of the unfolding news, but hearing details that night on the BBC, I knew the exact location of the attack at the Pentagon. I had driven past it for over 30 years on my way into D.C. After being unable to leave France for four days, the cab driver here had to avoid Route 110 driving from Dulles to Fairlington. However, from I-395, I could see the smoke and lights where the plane had crashed. Being unable to return to the U.S. at a time of national disaster was very disturbing—you realize how important your country is to you. By the way, the French people were exceptionally kind to us, going out of their way to express sympathy because, they said, of "what you did for us in WW II."

—Cheryl Hollins

★★★★

I was at the Foreign Affairs Training Institute on George Mason near Route 50. After the Twin Towers was hit, we spontaneously evacuated the building, fearing our building might be a target. As I was one of the few trainees with a car, I was in the parking lot offering rides to other

Continued on page 13



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Pictures depict an actual Fairlington Village kitchen recently remodeled by GMG



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Continued from page 11

trainees when we heard the plane explode after hitting the Pentagon. I loaded up as many passengers as possible, dropped them off at their hotels, and made it safely back to my south Fairlington residence. We went to work at the Institute the next day.

—Craig Olson



★★★★

We came to the beach for a late summer vacation. Five days, no work, no commute through the Pentagon Metro station, not a care in the world....until. "Pentagon attacked, World Trade Center demolished." Glued to the tube for hours, I cannot bear to hear the word "unbelievable" uttered one more time. I walk to the beach and find another vacationer contemplating the American flag waving furiously, unrelentingly in the wind. In a poignant gesture, he lowers the flag to half staff. My heart sinks as deep as the ocean. I shiver and wonder, Will I ever feel carefree again?

—Carol Ann Linder

★★★★

My friend Terry and I, both Fairlington residents, were in Norway on 9/11. After a day of sightseeing we returned to our hotel and stopped in the bar. The waitress asked if we had heard about the plane that crashed into a building in New York. I asked if it was an accident, and she said she didn't think so. I don't recall any sense of panic or excitement in the hotel bar—the atmosphere was more or less business as usual. I happened to be sitting where I could see patrons at the bar closely watching what looked to be a news broadcast on the TV, but neither of us sensed that anything truly catastrophic had happened. Drinks finished, we made dinner reservations at the hotel restaurant. Then, it was only after we

turned on the TVs in our rooms that we began to realize the magnitude of what had happened—we spent the evening watching events unfold on the English language news channel. Deciding it would not be appropriate for Americans to be seen dining out, I telephoned the restaurant to say that it would be necessary to cancel our reservations. The Norwegian lady who took the call said something to the effect of, "Yes, of course I understand." I think she may also have said that she was sorry. I don't recall any special reaction on the part of the few Norwegians with whom we interacted that day, but somehow they seemed to have intuited that Terry and I were Americans. By the next day, the hotel staff was very solicitous. In fact, a bouquet of flowers with a note expressing the condolences of the staff and management was waiting for us in our room when we returned on the 12th. After more days in Europe, checking transatlantic flights, we finally arrived at Dulles after a long and emotional flight over the Atlantic. We queued up for the usual Customs inspection, but the inspector was simply waving everyone through. As we walked past he said, "Welcome home."

—Greg Hetzler

★★★★

September 11 is my birthday. Ten years later, most people still react with shock—my birthday, forever aligned with a national tragedy. It took years to get over feeling upset about ubiquitous references to "9/11." What happened to "Patriot Day"? In 2001, I had taken the day off work and was home using dial-up when the planes hit, so my phone rang busy. Once offline, a friend called to cancel lunch in D.C. and told me the news. My mother called frantic, because I lived near the Pentagon. On the phone with my sister, I heard and felt the Pentagon implode. She urged me to drive to Vienna to be safer, but the instant gridlock on the roads prevented this. To cheer myself up, I visited the animal shelter to spread some love. Dinner reservations cancelled, two friends came over with takeout to "celebrate" and help try to make sense of the day. My birthday, and the country, will never be the same.

—Christine Chirichella

★★★★

In the evening on September 11, the wind shifted, now blowing from the still-smoldering Pentagon toward Fairlington. When I went outside, the air had the smell of a dump fire.

—Victor Slabinski

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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



The plant doctor is in

Now that summer is almost over, and we've seen what plants lived, died, or befuddled our expectations, let's play "plant doctor."

Why didn't my clematis bloom?

The summer and fall-blooming vine can take up to three years to present blooms. Actually, the plant takes five years to fully mature, so early flowering is sporadic. One year, my mother's vine on South Stafford Street had zero blooms. The next year, it was filled with large, lavender flowers. Clematis blooms in full sun and or heavy shade. If yours is in sun, the roots need to stay cool—so place small rocks around the base of the plant or mulch thickly over the root zone to keep the roots moist. Try not to fertilize, since excess nitrogen ensures foliage but not flower production. And be careful when pruning, because clematis (like hydrangea) flowers on both new and old branches.

Some plants in my green "screen" thrived while others died. Why?

Some plants are just weaker than others in a cellular sense. What else would explain it when every other condition in a row or cluster of plants is constant: soil pH, natural rainfall, sun exposure, proximity to nearby tree roots, shade, air pollution, and even wind. I see this situation daily, where a row of pines, cypress, cryptomeria, or arborvitae bears lush, green specimens together with totally brown ones. Besides being "weaker," plants that died could have con-



Slow-maturing clematis prefers a cool, moist environment for the roots. Photograph by Corey Hilz, www.coreyhilz.com.

tracted an airborne pathogen at the growing nursery or during transport to your local garden center. It's hard to pinpoint the reason. To prevent your healthy plants in the green-screen grouping from dying, remove dead plants by the root, expand the width of the hole, add loam (soil conditioner) in the planting hole, and try planting again.

My liriopie died. I thought these lived forever?

That's what I thought, too. This plant almost never perishes. But I saw a cluster of liriopie gone totally brown in Del Ray in early August, and two reasons explain why: 1) a cherry tree in the center of the bed had a thick network of roots that stretched across most of the soil underneath its canopy; and 2) the liriopie was starved of irrigation since it didn't receive natural rainfall due to the densely

foliated tree branches above. When I extracted the dead liriopie, the roots were tangled in the cherry tree roots and the root balls were dry. No wonder all the liriopie leaves were brown.

What should I do with my mums?

Plant them in the ground, but do so before Thanksgiving so roots can meander before the second hard frost the second week of December. Prune the branches in May so the plant doesn't become leggy. Mums look best with globelike shapes (like they are presented at the nursery). I saw four mum plants re-foliate this summer after being kept in plastic pots all winter and during July's high heat indexes. And a bonus: the mum's perennial leaves can be steamed and used as greens in salads.

— Bill Sullivan,
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Animal Talk

On the catwalk

One of my neighbors recently adopted a cat from a rescue group that required it to remain an indoor cat. This posed a dilemma: cats enjoy the outdoors, yet being outside unleashed in a busy area like Fairlington puts the cat at risk of getting lost, injured in traffic, or into scuffles with other cats or wildlife. So leash training seemed the safest way for my neighbor to let her cat enjoy some outdoor time.

Not being a cat person, I did a little research, and discovered that cats can enjoy walking on leash, but getting a cat to go along with the idea and get used to it—especially if it is skittish—can take a lot of time and patience. Move too quickly, and you may inadvertently discourage your cat from leash walking forever.

Preparation is key, and bribery with treats may work if the cat doesn't want to cooperate. Purchase a harness and leash designed especially for cats and sized correctly—walking with just a collar might make it too



Mia and owner Judy Fristik enjoy some fun in the sun. Photograph by Christine Chirichella.

easy for the cat to slip out. Bring the harness and a leash inside so the cat can sniff them and get used to them for a few days. Next try to put the harness on—typically before a meal so the cat gets distracted and asso-

ciates the harness with something positive. Keep the harness on the cat for a short time each day until it gets comfortable. Then hook the leash on and let the cat walk around supervised with the leash trailing behind. Again, try this for a few days and move at your cat's pace.

When you think your cat is ready, pick up the leash and lead the cat on a very short walk around the house. Over time, work your way outdoors, perhaps just sitting outside with your cat for a bit each day to let it get used to the noises. Gradually increase the time spent outside and the distance of the walks.

Things like dogs on leash, kids on bikes, or people walking by might take some time to get used to, so be sure to supervise your cat carefully to keep it out of harm's way. Hopefully with a bit of time and patience you will both enjoy being on the catwalk.

—Christine Chirichella, AFB Assistant Editor

Fairlington Community Center

Hours and contact info

Monday through Friday, 8 am – 9 pm

Saturday, 8 am – 5 pm

Sunday, closed.

Get a complete description of fall classes online or go to the FCC to pick up a copy of the fall issue of *Enjoy Arlington*. For questions or registration, go online to www.arlingtonva.us or call 703-228-4747.

For updates and more information, call the FCC at 703-228-6588.

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Abingdon school year starting up soon

It seems like school just ended, but now summer break is winding down and Abingdon Elementary will be back in session before you know it. In the run up to the school year there are several events of interest for new and returning students.

On Thursday, September 1, from 1 to 2 pm, there will be an Open House/Meet Your Teacher event at the school. The primary audience is new students, but all are welcome to attend.

On Monday, September 5, from 4 to 6 pm, the Abingdon PTA will be hosting its annual back to school picnic at the school's back playground. All Abingdon families are encouraged to attend. We hope to see you there!

The PTA, with the support of our local Harris Teeter, will provide chicken as well as all necessary paper goods. The rest is potluck: Families with last names starting with the letters A-J, please bring a side dish. Families with last names starting with the letters K-S, please bring water or other drinks. And families with last names starting with the letters T-Z, please bring dessert. Please RSVP to Brian Efirds, brian@efirds.com, by Friday, September 2, so we know how much food to get.

Of course the big date is Tuesday, September 6—this year's first day of school! There will be some exciting changes to Abingdon this year as the school continues its efforts to integrate a multidisciplinary



Fairlington residents and rising fifth graders Maura Andy and Maya Staren-Doby attended six Summer Strings workshops at Abingdon in July and August. Both girls transitioned from violin to double bass and received instruction from professional musician and bass player Brandon Harris. The Summer Strings program was open to Abingdon students who have completed at least one year in the strings program and was partially funded by the Abingdon PTA. Photograph by Dana Andy.

approach to education, weaving the arts and active learning into the classroom to provide a very positive learning experience for our students. The school received brand new computers from the county this year, and students will arrive to find new Macs throughout the school, big upgrades in the computer lab, and the opportunity for more interactive learning across the curriculum with these improved technological capabilities.

Summer strings at Abingdon

Abingdon doesn't shut down during the summer. One of the great programs available to students was a summer strings program, where students could attend workshops

to improve their violin skills, or expand their knowledge of strings to other stringed instruments. This was a wonderful opportunity over the summer to continue one of the great arts programs integrated into the Abingdon curriculum.

Find the Abingdon PTA on Facebook

Check out the Abingdon PTA's new Facebook page. It is another forum we will use to get the word out about events, changes, or updates and to hold discussions. Find us on Facebook, at [AbingdonElementaryPTA](https://www.facebook.com/AbingdonElementaryPTA)

—Brian Efirds, Abingdon PTA

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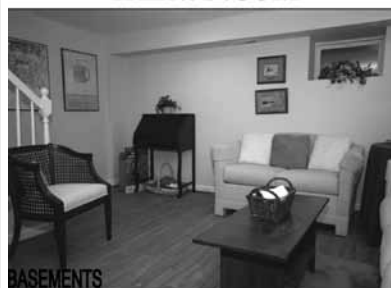
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neighborhood news

Fair Golds

The Fair Golds, a social group in and around the Fairlington area meets at the Fairlington Community Center on the first and third Thursdays of the month at noon (except in August). Regular meetings begin with a brown-bag lunch; dessert and beverages are provided. We always welcome guests and/or new members over 55 years of age. This month, Fair Golds will meet on Thursday, September 8 for a business meeting and on Thursday, September 22 for a social program. For more information, call Gertrude Frankel at 703-931-3759.

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 Diners



Sharon Van Meter, Candace Williams, Carol Dabbs, and Ellen Jones. Photograph by Candace Williams.

Fairlington Diners is a group of Fairlington and non-Fairlington friends who gather for dinner a couple of times a month and focus on having a good meal in great company. If you'd like to be included in our e-mail list, please send your e-mail address to carol_dabbs@yahoo.com.

Sunday, September 11, 6:30 pm, Indigo Landing, 1 Marina Drive, Alexandria, VA 22314, 703-548-0001. We enjoyed the view of the Potomac and the monuments from this restaurant when we had a good crowd there last Labor Day, so we'll try it again. A "modern contemporary" cuisine is served. Please call Carol at 703-379-6840

by 6 pm on Saturday the 10th if you plan to attend, so we can make a reservation.

Monday, September 26, 6:30 pm, 1/2 price burger night at Ramparts Restaurant, 1700 Fern St., Alexandria, VA 22302, 703-998-6616. This is a local favorite that we visit monthly, usually with a large turnout. Please call Carol at 703-379-6840 to let us know if you plan to attend, so we can choose the right size table when we arrive. Please leave a voicemail if you don't reach Carol directly—include your name and how to contact you the day of the event, in case of a change in plans.

Book Group

Death, panic, science, and politics interact in *The Great Influenza*, John Barry's sweeping history of the American experience in 1918-19 during the world's worst pandemic. All are invited to discuss the book on Tuesday, September 27, at 7:30 pm in the North Fairlington Community Center. For more information, please contact Terry Gough at tjgough@verizon.net.

Fairlington Babysitting Co-op currently accepting new members

Fairlington families have been enjoying the benefits of this unique organization for 30 years. The Co-op is a network of Fairlington families who exchange free babysitting services. Parents who are ready for some time away from the kids but don't know who to call should consider joining the Babysitting Co-op. It's perfect for parents who would like to know dependable adults to watch their children and meet other families in the community. Whether a parent is single or married, working or staying at home, the Babysitting Co-op can accommodate diverse schedules and situations.

The Co-op works on a card system, where each member starts out with 15 one-hour cards and can use them to pay for sits. Members send out their own sit requests via the Fairlington Babysitting Google Group. Members then "pay" for sitting services with cards. Sits may be requested during the day, evening or weekend. During the day children are normally brought to the sitter's house, and in the evenings the sitter usually comes to the children's house, however different arrangements

neighborhood news

Continued

may be made. The group introduces its new members at its quarterly meetings/social events.

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

MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington

Are you a parent and looking to connect with other Fairlington moms and dads? The MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington VA© chapter of the International MOMS Club may be for you. Members and their children participate in general monthly meetings, member planned outings/events, Parents' Night Out, and much more. The weekly age-specific playgroups start as young as birth and go up to 3+ years old. Playgroups

are great for kids, but they also offer parents a chance to find support and friendship.

In the last year members have also worked on several community service projects benefitting Abingdon Elementary School and the Arlington Food Assistance Center. Our club also raised donations for and participated in the March of Dimes' March for Babies, which took place in May. We have hosted speakers on topics including separation anxiety, nutrition, early childhood literacy, and positive discipline, and even wardrobe styling for busy moms. Recently we hosted a local author who shared tips on how to help children learn to appreciate a variety of foods and flavors.

Parents and parents-to-be are welcome to join us for our next general meeting on September 14 at 4 pm at the Fairlington Community Center. Children are always welcome. For more information about the club, the meeting, or membership, contact Lauren Bailey (Membership VP) at laurencbailey@gmail.com. Annual dues of \$25 support quarterly group functions and community service projects.



I was first exposed to the American southwest in the summer of 1971. I'd spent a good deal of my life overseas due to my father's professional commitments. The opportunity to travel throughout the United States that summer followed completion of a graduate degree and a desire to see a country that I was shortly to professionally represent abroad as a foreign service (diplomatic) officer with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. I was struck that summer by the immensity of the regions through which I traveled and the country as a whole. But a December 2010 trip back to the region followed a retirement some years earlier and a much more focused concentration on a life-long photography hobby. It was this photographic focus and interest that left me much more affected by the "cathedral-like" quality to much of what I saw and photographed. It is in that spirit that it occurred to me to publish a small collection of images that most evoked this "cathedral quality" to the landscape and other locales in the American southwest.



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following a December 2010 trip to the southwest.



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SAVE MONEY. Share a taxi to and from the airport. It's FREE! Mobile website, iPhone, and Android. <http://www.CabMatch.com>

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

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

CERTIFIED MASSAGE THERAPIST. offering massage in quiet, comfortable home setting in Fairlington. Deep tissue, Swedish, acupressure, reflexology, and more. Best prices in town. Call 703-300-7719 or e-mail emergingplanetaryhealing@yahoo.com

Child Care

CHILD CARE. Professional in-home daycare. FT/PT. CPR and first aid certified. Excellent references. Worked with children for 25 years. Infants welcome. Call Pat at 703-370-2603 or 703-566-7448. www.patkids.com

CHILD CARE. Warm home setting and very nurturing environment. Experienced and licensed. Excellent references. Call 703-824-0385.

Gardening/ Landscaping

SULLIVAN'S LANDSCAPING. will make over your patio with new plantings, pruning, and fresh mulching. Visit: www.sullivanslandscaping.net to learn more. Contact Bill for a free consultation via email billsullivan41@gmail.com or cell 571-213-9567.

Improvements

HANDYMAN. Windows, glass, clogged drains, storm door repairs, fixtures, garbage disposal installation, etc. Dave Pearce. 703-201-6303.

WINDOW REPAIR. Best prices. Quality work. Check my ad on new vinyl windows! Dave Pearce. 703-201-6303.

DOOR SOLUTIONS. 1,000's of pleased customers since 1992. An expert in Fairlington doors. Website: www.doorsolutions.biz (information/prices). Email Bill: bill@doorsolutions.biz.

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

MICHAEL PACHECO CONTRACTING. 40 years experience. No job too small. Interior renovations to include painting, finish carpentry, window and door casings, complete kitchen and bathroom remodeling, and plaster repair. We also remove wallpaper, do tile grouting, kitchen and bathroom floors, and wall to wall carpeting. We install storm doors. We do all types of household repairs. We upgrade electric panels with new code approved panels by a licensed, insured, electrician. We can help you with any of your other electrical needs. We can help you with all your plumbing work. Your home left clean and neat. Old fashioned quality at an affordable price. Call Michael at 703-379-6725.

HOME IMPROVEMENT. Ask to see finished bathrooms and kitchens to compare quality and price. Call Fairlington Maintenance Service. 703-379-7733. fairlingtonmaintenance.com

KITCHEN CEILING. Serving Fairlington since 1978. We have developed several ceiling designs. Talk to us about your kitchen renovation needs. Call Fairlington Maintenance Service. 703-379-7733. fairlingtonmaintenance.com

PAINTING. Professional, neat, clean, reliable, references available. Wallpaper removal/hanging, drywall repairs. Large and small jobs. 25 years experience. Licensed, bonded and insured. Free Estimates. Call Steve Chute at 571-216-9338.

Publication of advertisements in no way implies an endorsement by the FCA or its board members of the advertisers' products or services.

Mini-ads

HOME IMPROVEMENTS AND REPAIRS. Serving Fairlington since 1978. Hundreds of bathrooms and kitchens renovated. Other services include painting, plumbing, window repairs, leak detection and correction, dryer vent replacement, regrouting, recaulking, drywall repairs, etc. Call Vic Sison at Fairlington Maintenance Service 703-379-7733. fairlingtonmaintenance.com

BATHROOM AND KITCHEN. Fairlington Maintenance Service is now on "Angie's List" of contractors. Thanks to all Fairlingtonians who voluntarily recommended us. Company ID 462536. Call 703-379-7733.

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

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

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

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

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

House Cleaning

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

MICHELE'S MAIDS. Reliable, honest & affordable. Specializing in detailed cleaning. Serving Fairlington for over 13 years. LICENSED, BONDED & INSURED. Fairlington references available. No Machines to talk to. 703-820-1808 Visit our website at www.michelesmaids.net

FAIRLINGTON MAID SERVICE. Serving Fairlington since 1978. Family owned and operated. Our staff is reliable, trustworthy, punctual, and detail oriented. Our prices are extremely competitive, our service is thorough, plus we are great with family pets. We have references throughout the neighborhood. Call today for a free estimate. 703-820-8635.

HOUSE CLEANING. Reliable, experienced, good references, flexible scheduling, reasonable rates. We bring our own equipment. Weekly - bi-weekly - monthly - occasionally. One-time, move-in/out, offices. For free in home estimate call Maryen/Raul at 703-321-5335.

ESCOBAR CLEANING SERVICE., LLC. Proudly serving the area of Virginia since 1994. Reasonable rates, trustworthy, free estimates, same crew every time, our work is always thorough and we strive to keep the customer happy. References in your area are available. Call Today, (571) 217-0418 and leave the rest to us.



Get your Fairlington T-shirt

- 100% cotton
- Fairlington on front, FCA logo on back
- Sizes S, M, L, and X-L
- White or hunter green
- \$10, cash or check payable to FCA

To order, come to an FCA-sponsored event or monthly meeting; e-mail president@fca-fairlington.org; or call the FCA at 703-243-1735 to leave your name and phone number. Visit www.fca-fairlington.org for additional details or to find the next FCA event.

Mini-ads

Pet Services

ALWAYS CARING PET CARE. Dog walking, cat sitting. Reliable, flexible, midday, holiday or vacation care for your pets. Serving Fairlington for over 10 years. Excellent references. 703-765-0990.

PET & PLANTCARE BY GERRI, LLC. Reliable, loving care for your dogs, cats, rabbits, birds, or fish. Petsitting, playgroups, walks, feedings, medications. Indoor/outdoor plantcare. Established 1999 by 19-year Parkfairfax resident; bonded and insured. Competitive rates; flexible arrangements. Call 703-379-7719.

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

NOTICE TO ALL ADVERTISERS

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

Payment: BOTH payment and ad copy must be received by the 10th.
Make checks payable to "Fairlington Citizens Association."

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

Mailing Address for All Ads and Checks: FCA-AFB, PO Box 6182, Arlington, VA 22206-0182

Drop-Off Location for Ads and Checks: Drop-Off Box in Fairlington Community Center,
3308 S. Stafford Street

MINI-AD FORM

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

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

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

Please include the following information with all ads:

Name: _____ Phone (h): _____

Address: _____ Phone (w): _____

City, State, Zip: _____ E-mail: _____

Category (see newsletter for options): _____

Mini-Ad Text (please print clearly): _____



Serving Fairlington & all of Northern Virginia
Your Neighbor for over 40 years.

Featured Listings of the Month
For more details or pics, visit our office or our website
703-998-3111 ArlingtonSouthSales.Infre.com

Visit us at our Office at
4800 S. 31st Street

Congratulations to our July 2011 Top Producers



Kristin Usaitis
Top Producer
Top Selling Agent



Dayna Wagner
Top Listing Agent



Rosemont
3 Bedrooms/2.5 Baths
\$989,000
Doug Luzik
Listing Agent



Arlington Village
1 Bedroom/1 Bath
\$269,000
Pat Shannon
Listing Agent



Cameron Station
3 Bedrooms/2.5 Baths
\$600,000
Dayna Wagner
Listing Agent

4800 South 31st Street
Arlington, Virginia 22206
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