BULLETIN





www.fca-fairlington.org

SEPTEMBER 2012

Volume 38, Number 9

FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, September 12, 7 pm FCC 3308 S. Stafford St.



Labor Day

Monday, September 3

First day of school

Tuesday, September 4 Arlington Public Schools

Special election, Va. 45th District

Tuesday, September 4, 6 am – 7 pm Fairlington precincts

MOMS Club

Wednesday, September 12, 4 pm FCC

Fairlington Diners

Thursday, September 13, 6:30 pm Athena Pallas Restaurant Arlington

DPR fall classes begin

Monday, September 17 FCC and elsewhere

Parkfairfax native plant sale

Saturday, September 22, 9 am – 2 pm Alexandria

Fairlington Diners

Monday, September 24, 6:30 pm Ramparts half-price burger night Alexandria

Continued on page 3

Developers to discuss plans for Park Shirlington

Representatives from Home Properties, the REIT (real estate investment trust) that owns the Park Shirlington Apartments, will discuss their early stages planning for redevelopment of the 15-acre property on S. 31st Street at the FCA meeting on September 12. Catherine Moy, Home Properties Director of Development, says that she and her colleagues are working on a development proposal for a completely



Photograph courtesy Home Properties.

re-built rental community. Home Properties is a rental-only company that acquires, develops, and rehabilitates apartment communities. The company now owns and operates 126 rental apartment complexes located primarily in east coast markets, with a recent focus on the Washington metropolitan region. In Alexandria, for example, Home Properties owns Seminary Towers, the Seminary Hill Apartments, and, just across King Street, the Braddock Lee Apartments on Menokin Drive. In May, a company press release announced the acquisition of two apartment properties, both in Virginia—the Woodway at Trinity Centre in Centreville and Hunter's Crossing in Leesburg, renamed The Manor East.

"The Manor East is adjacent to The Manor, a 198-unit apartment community owned by Home Properties since 1999. The two properties are separated only by a chain link fence, which will be removed....Completed in 1964, The Manor East consists of 164 units in fifteen three-story brick garden-style apartment buildings....During the first three years of ownership, the company expects to spend a total of approximately \$2.8 million, in addition to normal capital expenditures, to upgrade individual units and reposition the C-class property, which is in an "A" geographic location....[with] plans to correct deferred maintenance, enhance curb appeal, and upgrade kitchens and bathrooms to completely reposition the property, extend its useful life, and reduce operating expenses."

Currently, the Park Shirlington complex, which was acquired by Home Properties almost 15 years ago, comprises 294 rental units in 14 two- and three-story buildings. The redevelopment proposes to tear down existing structures and rebuild the site with five multi-story buildings, creating 750 rental units

Coming up ...

The FCA Board invites all Fairlington residents to attend its meetings, which occur on the second Wednesday of the month at the Fairlington Community Center (3308 S. Stafford St.) unless otherwise noted. If you would like to discuss a neighborhood issue at the meeting, please e-mail president@fca-fairlington.org or leave a voice-mail message at 703-243-1735 by the Sunday before the meeting. You can find more information on the FCA Web site, www.fca-fairlington.org, and on Facebook at "Fairlington Appreciation Society."

Preliminary agenda:

September 12, 7 pm, Special program:

Representatives from Home Properties, owners of the Park Shirlington Apartments, will discuss plans for the apartment complex's redevelopment.

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

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

Fairlington Citizens Association

PO Box 6182 • Arlington, VA 22206-0182 703-243-1735 • president@fca-fairlington.org

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All Fairlington Bulletin

Published monthly by the FCA Circulation: 3,449 households **Editor:** Gretchen Fallon

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— DEADLINE —

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

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E-mail editorial announcements 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 703-243-1735 #1.

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Fairlington is a National Register and Virginia Landmark Historic District For more information, visit www.fca-fairlington.org

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bob.laser@faa.gov

Calendar, cont.

Book Group

Tuesday, September 25, 7:30 pm North Fairlington CC

Long Branch native plant sale Saturday, September 29, 1 – 3 pm Arlington

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

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Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Back to school. Back to work. Vacation is over.

All three things are true—but we here in Fairlington don't have to lose that lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer feeling just yet. Some pools are still open for a few more days—even as the decorative containers are now filled with autumn blooms. Right now just might be the perfect time of year to play outside, be it tennis, cycling, or running. And if your grilling technique lacks perfection, now is the time to practice!

With the start of September, the FCA gets back to work. At the September meeting, the owners of Park Shirlington will present their ideas for a potential tear down/rebuild of the apartment community. You will want to attend this important meeting and ask questions. (See the stories in the August *AFB* and in this issue for more details.)

The FCA will soon send out the call for candidates for the 2013 FCA Executive Board. If you've ever wondered how to make Fairlington one of the best communities in the area, consider getting involved! Elections are held at the December meeting.

The weeks will go by fast. Before you know it, the holiday season will be here—and that means the return of Fire truck Santa! The FCA will need volunteer elves to help Santa on his rounds, because his elves are going to be a little busy! Watch this space, the Fairlington Appreciation Society's page on Facebook, and @FCAPresident on Twitter for updates.

As always, the FCA represents YOU, the residents of Fairlington. If you like what we're doing, tell us! If you think we've fallen short of the mark, let us know! We can't do it without you.

Yours in service,

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



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Street parking—part two

Our story in the July Bulletin on Arlington County's street parking regulations outlined the following two points: Campers/RVs may be parked on the street for no more than 5 days, and cars may remain parked in the same space without moving for 10 days. The 10-day rule raised the concern of some Fairlington residents, one of whom described her situation thus: She walks. bikes, takes buses, or rides her scooter for the most part; however, she has a sparingly-used car parked on the street—and



Photograph by Gretchen Fallon.

it may sit unused/unmoved for weeks at a time. Does the 10-day rule for so-called "abandoned" or "unattended" cars really apply to her?

The short answer is, yes. The longer answer is, yes, but. The rule applies, but with a healthy dose of common sense and a soupçon of discretion. Every car parked on county streets, whether a rusted out 68 Plymouth or a pristine late-model BMW, is subject to the same "Move it every 10 days" rule. (In Alexandria, the basic rule is 72 hours.) But neither the parking enforcement auxiliaries (PEAs) nor police officers on patrol say they have time to go looking for cars that may not have moved in 10 days. Rather, PEAs routinely respond to a specific complaint about a derelict vehicle—typically, when a neighbor calls the abandoned car hotline about a car that has one tire missing, is covered in two inches of pollen, and has been sitting on the street for a month. That's the car that will get ticketed and eventually towed. At the same time, PEAs take note of whether or not a called-in car seems to belong in the neighborhood. If the car is clearly well-maintained, licensed, and registered, they might go the extra step of knocking on a few doors to see if they can find the owner or a neighbor who knows the car's "story."

ACPD Third District commander, Captain Brett Butler, described the common sense that underlies an extreme measure like towing: A police officer might see a car up on blocks [Butler noted just such a case on the west end of Columbia Pike recently], call it in to parking enforcement, and request that the car be marked and checked again in 10 days—and, then, if it hasn't been moved, have it towed. Captain Butler also recalled times when he responded to a county resident's complaint

that a car was parked across his driveway blocking access—a surprisingly common occurrence on residential streets. On the scene, Butler would call the tow truck, and then wait on the street with his patrol car lights flashing. Sure enough, it often happened that a neighbor would come running to move his violating car. Butler's rule of thumb—because he has the discretion to offer it—is, If you get there before the tow truck, you can keep your car. For perspective, Butler noted that having a car towed is one of a police officer's "most detested" activities. Nothing good comes of it, so it's best for everyone to just avoid the whole thing.

Butler offered this additional tip: If you're going to be away, say, on vacation for two weeks, your unmoved car on the street is probably not in danger of being ticketed by PEAs. Nevertheless, it's just a good idea to have a family member or friend/neighbor move the car every now and then—and not just to avoid parking enforcement. Rather, bad actors may well notice a car that hasn't moved for many days and take that as an invitation to help themselves to anything they can steal. For additional information, contact the police non-emergency number, 703-558-2222, or leave a message at the abandoned car hotline, 703-228-4144.

Developers, continued from page 1

in five buildings, with apartments described as "class A" similar to those of the Delancey in Shirlington. Some units would be designated affordable, and the rest would be market rate.

Even in the early going, the developers say they're aware of the neighborhood's understandable concerns about construction vehicles and traffic congestion; thus, they have already conducted a traffic study of S. 31st Street and will discuss the study results at the September 12 meeting. In addition, as part of the initial planning, they have met with residents of the apartment complex, with the Arlington County Board, and with the FCA board to describe the scope of the redevelopment proposal. Home Properties is seeking to reach out to nearby groups in order to gauge reaction and gather feedback before it decides whether/how to go forward with the project.

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Bond referenda for November 2012

—from an Arlington County press release

In July, the Arlington County Board approved a \$2.4-billion, 10-year Capital Improvement Program to reinvest in aging infrastructure and fund strategic transportation and recreation initiatives. The CIP includes capital investments for fiscal years 2013 through 2022. The Arlington Public Schools adopted its \$438 million CIP in June, bringing the planned CIP investment for both county and schools to \$2.9 billion over the next 10 years.

The CIP is funded largely through contracting debt [borrowing money] by issuing General Obligation Bonds, which are put before voters for approval. Support for a total of \$153 million in bonds will be requested of the voters in four separate questions on the November 6 ballot:

Metro and transportation—\$31,946,000: Includes Metro capital improvements, neighborhood traffic calming, WalkArlington, transportation match, BikeArlington, and paving

Parks and recreation—\$50,553,000: Includes parks maintenance capital, land acquisition and open space, Long Bridge Aquatics, Health & Fitness Facility & Park, and design of Tyrol Hill Park improvements

Community infrastructure—\$28,306,000: Includes neighborhood conservation, facilities maintenance capital, ConnectArlington, and Intelligent Transportation System

Arlington Public Schools—\$42,620,000: Includes the design/construction of new elementary schools, school facility additions, and various school facility projects

Read the complete press release for July 21, 2012 on the county Web site, www.arlingtonva.us.



Safe streets: This month sees the return of students walking and biking to school and school buses picking up and letting off children. To help keep the kids safe: Observe the speed limits. Watch for kids crossing the street. Slow down.

Reminder: Real estate and real property taxes are due October 5

Last month, the county treasurer's office reported that the first installment of real estate taxes that were due June 15 collected a little over 99 percent of what was owed to the county. When the treasurer's office closed the books on first installment payments, there were 1,287 delinquent accounts, totaling some \$3.13 million in unpaid taxes. That sounds like a lot of money, but treasury officials say it's the lowest delinquency rate at mid-year since 2006. The taxes owed will eventually be collected, and for those who did not pay on time, an automatic, by-law 10 percent penalty plus accrued interest are applied to their accounts.

Real estate taxes supply more than half the revenues that go into Arlington's general fund. The second installment of RE taxes is due October 5. Personal property tax (cars and vehicles) is also due October 5. Both bills were mailed out last month. The treasurer's office wants to remind homeowners and vehicle owners that their taxes are due on October 5, regardless of whether or not they received a bill in the mail, and even if they misplaced the bill or forgot about it. Automatic penalties apply for late payments. For more information, go online to www. arlingtonva.us/treas or call 703-228-4000.

Special election, September 4

Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell has set Tuesday, September 4, as the date of the special election for the 45th House of Delegates seat. (Del. David Englin resigned the seat, effective August 31, after public acknowledgement of marital infidelity.) Three candidates are on the ballot: Timothy T. C. McGhee (R), K. Rob Krupicka (D), and Justin R. Malkin (L). The winner of the special election will serve through next year's General Assembly session, and through the remainder of Englin's unexpired term until January 8, 2014. Whoever wins will be on the ballot again in November 2013. The 45th District, although centered in Alexandria, includes five precincts in south Arlington: 003 Aurora Hills, 012 Fairlington, 022 Abingdon, 032 Oakridge, and 042 Shirlington. For more information, go online to arlingtonva.us/vote.

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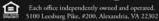
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Fairlington FINS (Friends Interested in Neighborhood Swimming) swimmers show off race ribbons after the final swim meet in late July. FINS organizers are grateful to the Arbor, Mews, and Glen for the use of their swimming pools during July. FINS provides basic swim instruction to Fairlington residents age 5 to 12. If you are interested in being placed on the e-mail list for next summer's FINS program, please send e-mail to fairlingtonfins.swim@gmail. com. *Photograph by Dana Andy*.



Arlington's new virtual town square

Last month the county launched a new Web site called PLACE Space, that's meant to complement PLACE (participation, leadership, and civic engagement), county board chairman Mary Hynes' broad initiative to support community engagement. PLACE, announced in January, aims to update the "Arlington Way" by expanding ways for residents to engage with each other and with government. The new community networking site (currently in beta, or second phase software testing) will serve as a virtual town square, to foster conversation about shared issues, and to connect people, organizations, and businesses from all over Arlington. The PLACE Space site is http://arlington-placespace.us. For more information about the site, go online to http://arlingtonplacespace.us/page/about.

Calling library volunteers: The Shirlington Branch Library is seeking to fill three vacant volunteer positions: 1) Set up the meeting room for the family gaming program on the first Saturday afternoon of every month and monitor activity during the event. 2) Help the youth services librarian with the Monday morning story times by setting up the meeting room, acting as security at the door during the program, and cleaning up afterwards. 3) Keep the library's current newspaper collection in order. For more information, visit the library's volunteer page at http://library.arlingtonva.us/support-your-library/volunteer-opportunities/ or call Barbara Dean, 703-228-7688.

New take-out/delivery deli proposed for King Street

The owner of the nearby Liberty gas station on King Street is asking the City of Alexandria for permission to reopen the old "New York Pizza" shop as a newly named "Delicious" gourmet take-out deli, "serving breakfast, lunch, and dinner, all carry-out and delivery, offering no on-site dining, and no alcohol sales," according to documents submitted in support of the request. The gas station



and restaurant properties are co-located in one existing building, at 4368 and 4370 King; no expansion or construction is requested, although the owners describe plans for a separate entrance and façade for the deli, as well as site enhancements such as a canopy and potted plants. "The Delicious brand is a modified version of the following: Einstein bagel, Panera, Stone hut pizza, and La Madeline. Delicious will be an upscale take-out with a varied menu. To maximize sales and minimize congestion, delivery service will be offered to nearby, walking-distance office buildings via a hand cart (car delivery offered beyond walking distance). Open daily, 7 am to 11 pm (possible request for longer hours on weekends). Will employ 10 to 12 full and part-time employees."

The city Planning Commission will hold a public hearing on the property owner's request for a special use permit on Monday, September 6 (7:30 to 11:30 pm, in the City Hall Council Chamber, 301 King St.). If the application is approved, the City Council will consider the request on Saturday, September 15.

Save the date for Fairlington Homecoming, October 25

The 7th annual Fairlington Homecoming, sponsored by the Fairlington Historical Society, will be held on Thursday, October 25, and everyone who has ever called Fairlington home is welcome. Every year, the FHS Homecoming celebrates part of life in Fairlington—this year's focus is the courtyard, where neighbors sometimes create a unique identity and form relationships that can last for many years. You can share stories or pictures of courtyard life in Fairlington at www.fairlingtonhistoricalsociety.org. See next month's *Bulletin* for more information.



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Derecho aftermath

Following the June 29 derecho storm, the Arlington County Board formally declared a local state of emergency (June 30 to July 7), which allowed officials to pursue federal reimbursement for costs associated with the emergency clean-up/recovery. (About 50 other Virginia jurisdictions did the same.) To be eligible for federal disaster relief funds, a locality must incur more than \$700,000 in expenses. By the end of July, County Manager Barbara Donnellan reported that the storm had caused an estimated \$1.8 million in damage to private property and \$872,000 in damage to public property in the county.

In addition, inquiries into derechorelated electricity outages and 9-1-1 failures yielded the following infor-

mation. In August, the *Washington Post* reported on a Verizon study of the widespread disruption of 9-1-1 service in Arlington and Fairfax Counties after the storm. Verizon acknowledged: That they handled the problem as a routine service complaint rather than as the systemic outage it was; that they failed to correctly identify and fix the problem in a timely manner; and that they failed to communicate effectively with local jurisdictions affected



The derecho-damaged tree will be removed. Photograph by Gretchen Fallon.

by the outages. The delay in restoration of 9-1-1 service was attributed to "drained batteries, faulty generators, and the failure of a technician to thoroughly explore the cause of the problem." Verizon said they have rectified equipment problems that led to the failure of the relay station in Arlington, and they are conducting an audit of systems throughout the metro area to check on similar issues.

The FCA board contacted Dominion Virginia Power to explore the feasibility of connecting the troublesome Circuit 341 to the somewhat more reliable Circuit 794 in south Fairlington. Dominion responded, saying their engineers concluded it was not possible to piggy-back the two cir-

cuits. At the same time, a Dominion spokesperson said: "We do have improvement projects ongoing on both circuits. Also, we continue to monitor the reliability and any operational issues on the circuits. We anticipate the improvement work will be completed in the first quarter of 2013. We will monitor the service once those improvements are made, and then reevaluate performance and loading requirements at that time."

Trail safety tips from walkarlington.com



This summer, a county press release described a tragic bicycle-pedestrian collision on the Four Mile Run trail, resulting in a fatality. A combination of factors contributed to the incident, and both the cyclist and the pedestrian played a part in the outcome. The incident generated much discussion among members of the cycling and pedestrian communities about trail safety and needed communication among trail users, and it underscored

the need to expand safety education among walkers and bike riders. The Arlington initiatives WalkArlington, BikeArlington, and the Car-free Diet put together the following tips about sharing Arlington's trails, sidewalks, and streets back in 2010—and trail use has only

increased since then. For cyclists, walkers, dog-walkers, runners, stroller pushers, roller-bladers, etc.:

- **Keep to the right side** of the trail, except when passing.
- Avoid using earphones or other devices—stay alert.
- Pay attention to trail markings and safety signs.
- When walking, don't stop suddenly or step to the left without first checking behind you. If you want to stop, step off the trail.
- If walking side by side with another person, be prepared to walk single file when necessary.
- If walking a dog, maintain control of the dog and do not permit it to wander across the trail.
- If biking, warn pedestrians at least two/three seconds before passing them. Bells are best—use verbal cues only when necessary, lest you startle the person in front.
- If biking, **slow down** and give pedestrians at least an arm's length of clear space when passing.



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Meet your neighbors: Bob Schaffer

—interview by Christine Chirichella

This occasional column features interviews with Fairlingtonians and offers an inside look at their lives. Today we catch up with Army Lieutenant Colonel William (Bob) Schaffer, USA, recently returned stateside from two years in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, where he served as Chief, Force Integration Division at OPM SANG/USA. A former FCA board member, Bob and his wife Kristen live in Fairlington Villages with a dog and (now) two cats.

On his Army career: I joined the Army 20 years ago as an infantry officer, with the aim of spend-

ing a few years in the service to pay off my student loans. However, the excitement of serving in a variety of worldwide locations and the pride in serving in a multitude of important roles ultimately transformed my short-term plan into a career. As an acquisitions officer, I spent most of the last decade working with defense contractors developing protective equipment to increase the survivability of troops serving in combat zones. While in Saudi Arabia, I served as a primary advisor to the Saudi Arabian National Guard to help modernize their force. And now that he's back? I had seriously contemplated retiring from the Army on returning to the States, but was given an opportunity to continue my service just a few miles down the road in Crystal City. Now, I look forward to doing the activities I missed, such as biking along the Potomac, visiting the Shirlington dog park, spending time with family and friends, and remaining active in the community.

On day-to-day life in Saudi Arabia: Living in Riyadh did have its challenges. While I lived on a large compound that provided many of the amenities we enjoy as Americans, I had to be mindful of the culture when interacting with Saudi counterparts or going into town. Perhaps the most noticeable difference was the segregation of men and women. Every restaurant, coffee shop, and store had two entrances—one for men, the other for women and families. [While there] I became best friends with an Arab named Hani Al-Said, who served as my interpreter, and as a teacher of Middle Eastern life and customs. What I learned from him is that although cul-



Fairlington represents! Former FCA board member Bob Schaffer, sporting his Fairlington T-shirt, is pictured with his Saudi Arabian National Guard counterpart. Photograph courtesy Bob Schaffer/ Hani Al-Said.

tures may be polar opposites in many ways, if you take the time to get to know people, you find that we are all more similar than different. Still, I missed driving home to the oak lined streets of Fairlington every day and feeling the sense of community as you passed friends out walking their dogs or going for a jog.

And the cats? Even though I'm typically a dog person, in Saudi I enjoyed the company of a group of cats that hung out in front of my villa. Since the climate was so extreme, I did my best to take care of many of them. When two kittens were born in the garden next to my front door, I decided I would go through the process of

adopting and bringing them back to the States. One of the adoptees is enjoying life in Florida with my parents, while the other has joined my family here in Fairlington.

Get your Fairlington T-shirt!



At Fairlington Day 2010, FCA secretary Carol Dabbs displays Fairlington T-shirts for sale.

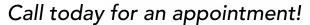
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Native plant sales on two September Saturdays

Long Branch native plant sale, September 22

Cliff Fairweather, Arlington County naturalist, encourages residents to choose native plants that support local songbirds, butterflies, and other native wildlife. "And we recommend planting your new natives in the fall to give them their best start," he says. For that reason, Long Branch Nature Center (625 S. Carlin Springs Road) Center will hold a native plant sale on Saturday, September 22, from 1 to 3 pm.

Fairweather explains why the fall is prime time for planting: First, the plants are going dormant, so they're less susceptible to transplant shock. In the spring, plants are expending a lot of energy on new growth, leaving them with fewer reserves to cope with the stress of transplanting. Second, the temperatures are moderating, so plants suffer less water stress and don't need as much water. (Still, do water them long enough to encourage deep root growth.) Third, fall planting gives your plants three seasons to get established and grow deep roots before they have to endure summer drought. Cooler fall weather is just easier on your plants. In our area, you can plant at least into November with natives.

Parkfairfax native plant sale, September 29

On Saturday, September 29, 9 am to 2 pm, in the tennis courts parking lot at 3601 Valley Drive, Alexandria, the Parkfairfax native plant sale offers native perennials, shrubs, and trees for sun or shade. The sale's more than a dozen vendors from five states (VA, MD, PA, WV, and SC) are listed on the Web site at www.ParkfairfaxNative-PlantSale.org. The sale is organized and run entirely by volunteers. For more information, contact Scott Knudsen at 703-671-8416 or sknudsen@earthlink.net.

FCC hours and contact info

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

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

Tree distribution program, next month—pick your tree now



In an effort to renew Arlington's urban canopy, the county will conduct its popular free-tree-giveaway next month, scheduled for Saturday, October 13. Residents can submit an online request for one of the specimens available, and then pick it up at the county nursery on tree distribution day. More details about the procedure, place, and times can be found, starting in early September when the tree distribution Web site is launched.

FCC kitchen hosts cooking classes in September

Come to the Fairlington Community Center kitchen for two special classes, one on Middle Eastern cooking and one on canning, sponsored by Virginia Cooperative Extension. To register, contact Jennifer Abel, jabel@vt.edu or 703-228-6417.

On Wednesdays, September 5, 12, and 19, 6:30 to 8:30 pm, join Master Food volunteer Janet Al-Hussaini, who shares recipes and cooking techniques from the Middle East. Each class centers on a different meal component (breakfast, appetizers, dessert), and four/five recipes will be prepared each class. Participants will receive a collection of recipes and will enjoy all dishes prepared. Cost is \$30 a class or \$80 for the series.

On Friday, September 7, noon to 4 pm, join neighbors to learn how to preserve favorite summer and fall produce. Other methods of food preservation will be covered, including boiling-water canning, freezing, and drying. Participants will receive a packet of recipes and preservation instructions for use in preserving food at home. Cost is \$20.

Pat Shannon & Kristin (Isaitis

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DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



Plants that stand up to wilting weather



Black-eyed Susans may swoon a bit, but they tolerate the heat. Photograph by Corey Hilz, coreyhilz.com.

Every summer, people can't avoid complaining about—what else?—the heat. This July was the hottest on record, four degrees above average, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. One stretch—10 consecutive days of 95 degrees or higher—broke a record set in 1871 (yes, *eighteen* seventyone). On July 7, it was 105 degrees.

The Virginia Department of Agriculture reported that corn, tobacco, and hay crops suffered the most, while soybeans, peanuts, cotton, peaches, apples, and grapes fared better. The U.S. Department of Agriculture reported the 2012 drought

has been the worst since the 1950s.

Because of high temperatures and little rain, I've noticed many plants suffering. Homeowners water regularly but still see plants drooping. The blue rug juniper is filled with dead, brown branches. The barberry (a maroon-leafed shrub that supposedly loves sun) has petered out in some landscapes. In early August, I noticed dogwood trees with leaf margins brown and brittle. A river birch in south Fairlington was more airy than usual, after it had dropped leaves to conserve energy.

On the other hand, I've noticed some plants that survived this hot, dry spell. Based on these local observations, here is a specimen list you'll want to consider when planting your garden next spring.

Dwarf blue spruce. The blue spruce tree's lower branches turned brown on occasion, but the dwarf remains vibrant with its stiff, Wedgewood-blue branches 12 months a year.

Falsecypress. This pendulous evergreen with a yellowish cast on the leaves remains graceful and thriving throughout Alexandria and Arlington.

Cherry laurel. Its lanced lustrous leaf shows all year and its white, fragrant flowers (that form like fingers on the branch tips) show in summer and, sometimes, autumn.

Rose "Knockout." It bears red, pink, or white flowers from May

into December and grows in a mounded habit, reaching 4 feet tall with a similar width. Floriferous even in brutal heat, the "Knockout" foliates to the ground, thus shielding its unsightly thorny branches.

Azalea "Encore." It has the same bloom period as the Rose "Knockout." The large, individual blossom opens like a bugle and mixes with dense foliating branches, unlike the standard azalea.

Crape myrtle. The cone-shaped flowers in lavender, white, pinks, purple, and red were stout and full throughout July. Sometimes, newly planted trees lose blooms to "transplant shock" in our intense heat, but I've seen no established crape myrtles suffer.

Black-eyed Susan. The Maryland State perennial stands tall (2 feet) with its mustard flower petals, black centers, and gray-green basal foliage. It takes all-day sun, even in a drought, and survives.

Euonymus. The shrub rarely dies in our area and it comes in a variety of growth habits. Some are globose (5 feet tall with similar width), while the ground cover type is a creeper, whose leaves turn a light pink in cold weather. Most species are variegated, either in a striking yellow or ivory. The shrublike cultivars bear red translucent fruit.

— Bill Sullivan, www.sullivanslandscaping.net

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ABING School news



Abingdon kicks off a new school year

The new school year begins on Tuesday, September 4. Fairlington residents should be alert and ready for increased traffic and pedestrians around the school during drop-off and pick-up times. School hours are 8 am to 2:41 pm. There are many exciting events planned to help kick off the new school year:

Students can meet their new teacher and visit their classroom at the annual "Open House" on Thursday, August 30 from 1 to 2 pm. Also, the PTA sponsors its annual "Back to School Picnic" on Monday, September 3, from 4 to 6 pm at the school's rear playground. The PTA will provide drinks and chicken; families are asked to bring a dessert or side dish to share. And, on the first day of school, the PTA will provide coffee and doughnuts for parents as they drop off their children. Stop by the side patio near the school garden for a cup!



APS Superintendent Dr. Patrick Murphy, Abingdon Principal Joanne Uyeda, and students Justin Diller, Olivia and Allison Campbell, Virginia Beasey, and Ben Andy in front of the "Read and Roll Book Bus."

"Back to School Night" is scheduled for Wednesday, September 19, 7 pm. At this popular event, parents can meet the staff and tour their child's classroom. The Abingdon PTA will provide free babysitting as a courtesy. More details will be sent home with students.

All parents and teachers are invited to attend the **first PTA meeting** of the school year on Tuesday, September 25, 6:30 pm in the school library. Free pizza, childcare, and Spanish translation will be provided during the meeting. Prospective parents interested in learning more about Abingdon are always invited to attend the meetings. Fairlington residents Dan Branch and Dana Andy are excited to return for another year as PTA co-presidents. You can reach the PTA via e-mail at abingdonelementarypta@gmail. com or check us out on Facebook at www.facebook.com/AbingdonElementaryPTA. Finally, all families, staff and Fairlington community members can show their support of Abingdon during "Spirit Night" at Johnny Rockets in Shirlington on Thursday, September 27 from 5 to 8 pm. The PTA will receive 20 percent of the proceeds from all purchases at the restaurant that night.

Scout information night:

Abingdon multi-purpose room, September 13, 6:30 – 7:30 pm. For more information, contact Doug Bush at dougbush93@ gmail.com about Cub Scouts and Michelle Marston at michellemarston@gmail.com about Girl Scouts.

—Dan Branch and Dana Andy, PTA co-presidents, and Michelle Marston

Faces of Abingdon



The Brady Family, Jason, Julie, Elliot, and Bronco: "We are ecstatic for our daughter to be attending Abingdon this fall. We have been looking forward to Abingdon ever since we learned of the partnership with the Kennedy Center and love the idea of the architecture class. We are also excited for Elliot to make Fairlington friends."



The Miller Family, Chris, Jane, Hallie, and Brooklyn: "We are so happy to have our youngest daughter Brooklyn start kindergarten this year at Abingdon. Our oldest daughter Hallie will be starting third grade this year, and has loved her time there. We have been so impressed by the caliber of teachers, activities, and parental participation that we truly believe there is no place we would rather have our kids."



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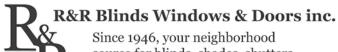
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neighborhood news

Fairlington Diners

Fairlington Diners is a group of Fairlington and non-Fairlington friends who gather for relaxed dinners near Fairlington. We focus on having a good meal and an opportunity to chat with neighbors. This year, we will hold our ethnic dinners on the second Thursday of the month and burger night at Ramparts on the fourth Monday.

Thursday, September 13, 6:30 pm, Athena Pallas Restaurant, 556 22nd Street, S., Arlington 22202, 703-521-3870, www.athenapallas.com. Located in Crystal City.

Monday, September 24, 6:30 pm, Ramparts Restaurant, 1700 Fern St, Alexandria 22302, 703-998-6616. This local favorite offers half-price burgers on Mondays.

Please call Carol at 703-379-6840 to let us know if you plan to attend, so we can make a reservation or choose the right-sized table when we arrive. Please leave a voice-mail if you don't reach Carol directly—include your name and how to contact you the day of the event, in case of a change in plans. To be included in our e-mail list, send your e-mail address to carol_dabbs@yahoo.com.

Card players welcome

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

Book Group

In 1493: Uncovering the New World Columbus Created, Charles C. Mann gives a wide-ranging account of an unplanned collision of unfamiliar animals, vegetables, minerals, and diseases. He explains how the movement of all these between the Americas, Europe, and the Far East brought unforeseen wealth, misery, social upheaval, and interdependence, changing the world forever. Join us to discuss the book on Tuesday, September 25, at 7:30 p.m. in the North Fairlington Community Center, 3005 S. Abingdon St. For more information, please contact Terry Gough at tjgough@verizon.net.

MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington

Are you a parent 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 fun activities, service projects, Parent's Night Out, meetings with interesting speakers and discussions, and groups such as our walking, dinner, and book clubs. Our weekly age-specific playgroups start as young as birth and go up to 3+ years old. Playgroups are wonderful for kids, but they also offer parents a chance to find support and friendship.

Parents and parents-to-be are welcome to join us for our next general meeting on Wednesday, September 12, at 4 pm at the Fairlington Community Center. Children are always welcome. For more information about the club, the meeting, or membership, contact our Membership VP at fmc.membership@gmail.com or visit www.fairlingtonmomsclub.com. Annual dues of \$25 support quarterly group functions and community service projects.

Fairlington Babysitting Co-op currently accepting new members

The Co-op is a network of Fairlington families who exchange free babysitting services. Each member starts out with 15 one-hour cards and uses them to pay for sits. Members send out their own sit requests via the Fairlington Babysitting Google Group. Members then "pay" for sitting services with cards. Sits may be requested during the day, evening, or weekend. During the day children are normally brought to the sitter's house, and in the evenings the sitter usually comes to the children's house; however, different arrangements may be made.

If you are a Fairlington resident, e-mail the fall quarter co-coordinators Erica Brown and Erin Snow at fairling-ton.babysitting@gmail.com to request an application/rules. References will be contacted and the coordinators will come for an in-home interview. Once all steps are successfully completed, you will receive a supply of Co-op cards equal to 15 hours of babysitting.

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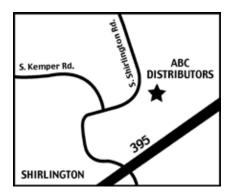
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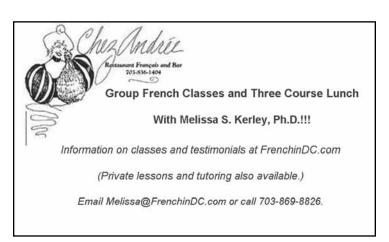


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prepared hundreds of units for sale or rent. Lots of references. Call Fairlington Maintenance Service. 703-379-7733.

FAIRLINGTON BATHROOM. "I

searched for over a year for a bathroom contractor. Finally, my neighbor showed me her bathroom built by Fairlington Maintenance Service. I also found out for myself that they performed high quality work at a reasonable price. I am so happy with my new bathroom." Peggy Gregory – 3456 S. Stafford Street.

DOOR SOLUTIONS. An Expert in Fairlington doors. 1,000's of pleased customers. For contact, scheduling, and Fairlington door information, visit: www.doorsolutions.biz

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

Mini-ads

RENOVATIONS. "My Dominion was sold full-price at \$495,000 a few hours after I signed the listing. The home inspector said that my unit was the nicest unit he ever inspected in Fairlington. The bathrooms and kitchen were renovated by Fairlington Maintenance Service 6 years ago." Nancy Freeman - Fairlington Green

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ELECTRICIAN. Contact Volta Electric for all of your Fairlington home electrical needs. From fan installations, recessed lighting, and full home remodels, to troubleshooting a pesky outlet - we are your one stop shop! We are a veteran owned company, family run and Fairlington residents! Master Electrician with over 10 years of experience, fully licensed and insured. Free estimates always! Call Mason, 703-310-9773 or email voltasystems@gmail.com

THOMAS HANDYMAN SERVICE.

Minor electrical repairs, plumbing, carpentry, tile installation, painting, hardwood or engineered wood flooring installation and repair, floor refinishing. 703-405-9479.

House Cleaning

MICHELE'S MAIDS. Reliable, honest, affordable. BACKGROUND CHECK ON EVERY EMPLOYEE. Window cleaning now available. LICENSED, BONDED INSURED. 13 years in Fairlington. 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.

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.

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.

JADA'S CLEANING SERVICE.

Reliable, experienced and good references. Weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, occasionally, move in/out, windows and offices. Other services: carpets steams cleaned. Call us for free estimates (703) 569-7799.

HOUSE CLEANING. Experienced, honest, detailed cleaning. Excellent references from Fairlington residents. Weekly, bi-weekly, monthly, occasionally, move in/out. Call 703-820-2116 or 703-597-1226.

Pet Services

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.



HOME ALONE FELINES. Loving, professional, in-home care of your special feline. 703-671-5504; homealonefelines@gmail.com

CATS/KITTENS FOR ADOPTION.

See photos www.homealone.petfinder.

ALWAYS CARING PET CARE.

Providing reliable, flexible, and responsible pet care to Fairlington dogs and cats for over 15 years! Daily dog walking, cat sitting, overnite, vacation and holiday visits. Special housebreaking schedule for puppies. Excellent references. 703-765-0990/c 703-405-2775.

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

NOTICE TO ALL ADVERTISERS

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

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Logan Circle/

DC—Spacious 2BR/2BA w/ garage parking. Condo fee inc, all utilities. Roof top pool & patio.

\$384,900 Call

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Palazzo at Park Center/Alex.— 2BR/2BA w/2 garage parking spaces. \$285,000 Call Rob Allen



Random Hills Land Bay/Fairfax— Spectacular 3BR/3.5BA TH. Great loc. \$499,900 Call Pat Shannon



Braddock Heights/Alex.— Charming 3BR stone cottage w/great curb appeal, fplc., HDWDs, yard. Min. to Old Town. \$525,000 Call Rebecca Ward



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Pointe at Park Center/Alex.— Largest luxury 1BR model. Mins. To DC, Shirlington, & Old Town. \$205,000 Call Barbara Kirkland

SERVING FAIRLINGTON

