# 2 FAIRLINGTON BULLETIN





www.fca-fairlington.org

**SEPTEMBER 2013** 

Volume 39, Number 9

# Congressman Jim Moran will speak, answer questions



At the association meeting on September 11, the FCA will welcome the Honorable Jim Moran (D), currently serving his twelfth term as U.S. Representative for Virginia's 8th congressional district (composed of Alexandria, Falls Church, Arlington County, and portions of Fairfax County). A senior member of the House Appropriations Committee, Congressman Moran also serves as the ranking member on the Subcommittee on the Interior and Environment and he serves on the Defense and Legislative Branch Subcommittees. Fairlingtonians and nearby neighbors will have the opportunity to hear remarks from Mr. Moran, an

acknowledged expert on regional transportation issues, and then pose questions to our elected official.

Mr. Moran's knowledge of transportation challenges is also quite local: At an FCA meeting in 2011, when discussing streets, intersections, and rights of way near Fairlington, Mr. Moran brought to the discussion the added authority of having served as mayor of Alexandria (1985-90) before being elected to Congress. He recalled that, going back decades, there had been many proposals for re-design or improvement for the Braddock/King/Quaker intersection. For example, one plan from the 1990s proposed a rotary (traffic circle) for B/K/Q, but the owners of Apple House nursery (as it was then known) were unwilling to sell property necessary for the project. (The city's current improvement plans involve enhanced signage for vehicles turning at that intersection. Additional improvements are on hold until completion of the Safeway redevelopment project.)

Mr. Moran's attendance at the September FCA meeting is subject to change—if, for example, he were called away for a floor vote. For more information, go online to https://moran.house.gov. From the Web site, you can subscribe to an e-mail newsletter and e-mail updates. You can also contact Congressman Moran at two offices, by phone or postal mail (the numbers are on the Web site). The phone number for his local office in Alexandria is 703-971-4700.



Arlington County Board member Libby Garvey greets Mr. Moran at the 2011 meeting. Photo, Gretchen Fallon.

#### FCA monthly meeting

Wednesday, September 11, 7 pm FCC 3308 S. Stafford St.

#### Labor Day

Monday, September 2

#### First day of school

Tuesday, September 3 Arlington Public Schools

#### Street sweeping

Tuesday, September 10, 7:30 am – 3 pm Fairlington

#### **Fairlington Diners**

Tuesday, September 10, 6:30 pm T.H.A.I. Restaurant Shirlington

#### **MOMS Club**

Wednesday, September 11, 4:30 pm FCC

#### **Fairlington Diners**

Monday, September 23, 6:30 pm Ramparts burger-night Alexandria

#### **Book Group**

Tuesday, September 24, 7:30 pm FV community center

See Neighborhood News on page 25 and related articles for details about calendar events.

## 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.

#### September 11 agenda:

A finalized agenda for the monthly meeting will be posted on the FCA Web site the Sunday before the Wednesday meeting.

**Presentation:** FCA will welcome Congressman Jim Moran, U.S. Representative for Virginia's 8th congressional district for remarks and a question-and-answer session.

#### Regular business meeting:

- Approval of agenda
- Approval of August minutes
- Officer and committee reports
- Unfinished business
- New business

#### **Online resources:**

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



Find us on Facebook at Fairlington Appreciation Society.

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

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

#### **USEFUL CONTACTS**

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Police, Arlington (non-emergency)	703-558-2222		
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Dominion (power outages)	888-667-3000		
Fairlington Community Center	703-228-6588		
Metrobus Complaints	703-228-7929		
Miss Utility	811		
Pothole Patrol Hotline	703-228-6485		
Shirlington Library	703-228-6545		
Street Light Hotline	703-228-6511		
www.arlingtonva.us/departments/Environmental			
Services/dot/traffic/streetlights/index.htm			
Helicopter Noise Complaints	Bob Laser (FAA)		

#### **Fairlington Citizens Association**

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#### All Fairlington Bulletin

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

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**Back to school:** On Tuesday, September 3, we'll see the return of students walking and biking to school and school buses picking up and letting off children. Let's all help keep the kids safe: Observe the speed limits. Watch for kids crossing the street. Slow down.

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Some images in this publication may be digitally enhanced.



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

As ringing school bells replace the sound of pool splashes ("Marco! Polo!"), it's a good time to take stock of what FCA has been working on this summer and what's on tap for the fall.

Last month we capped off more than six months of presentations, discussions, and resident feedback by recommending that Arlington County lift the overnight residential parking restrictions along Quaker Lane. FCA vice president Kent Duffy coordinated this effort, which responded to resident requests for additional parking as a result of the loss of some parking spaces when the county repaves and repaints Fairlington's streets.

An intrepid group of Fairlington volunteers, ably led by Melissa Beene and Lane Erwin and assisted by former resident Rob Swennes, has been scoping out a potential Fairlington farmers market. They've worked through all sorts of options—locations, market days, parking, restroom facilities, vendor arrangements—and will outline a proposal to the community in early October. Once residents weigh in, FCA will vote on a recommendation to the county.

Our inaugural summer intern, Kate Barton, has expanded our use of social media through her videos and blog posts. A student at Bishop Ireton, she has brought a fresh perspective on the richness of Fairlington. Check out her blog at http://fairlingtonintern.tumblr.com/.

The fall offers an equally full menu. Leading the list will be the Park Shirlington redevelopment. The developer is expected to file a rezoning request with the county soon, and we will be scheduling a session to brief the community on the latest proposal. In addition, a special FCA task force will delve into the details and make recommendations.

We also expect to look at strengthening our ties to Abingdon School. Abingdon is an important part of Fairlington, and even residents who don't have children enrolled there have an interest in the success of the school.

We are working with the Fairlington Historical Society to continue the 70th anniversary celebration, with the planting of a commemorative tree slated for late October.

And Santa has already expressed an interest in again visiting Fairlington by fire truck in December—always a popular event.

These activities are done by volunteers—you and your neighbors. All of us are in their debt. But we need more people to help. If you have a spare hour—or have suggestions on how we can enhance your Fairlington experience—let us hear from you.

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





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# Quaker Lane proposal would offer additional overnight parking for Fairlington residents



FCA board member Mark Jones, vice president Kent Duffy, and president Guy Land. Photos, Gretchen Fallon.

At the August association meeting, the FCA board approved the proposal to request that Arlington County change the parking restrictions on Quaker Lane to permit overnight parking for private automobiles there. The proposal was drafted by FCA vice president Kent Duffy, who led the effort over the past year to explore the issue with county parking staff and with Fairlington residents. His work was commended from the floor and it received the thanks of FCA president Guy Land.

Mr. Duffy's research into the current restriction on overnight parking on Quaker ("No Parking, 1 to 3 am") was occasioned by the loss of parking spaces on S. Stafford Street and other nearby streets in south Fairlington after the county's seasonal street repaying work in the area

#### FCA getting new phone numbers

FCA is setting up a new phone-contact system to receive residents' voicemails using Google Voice. The new numbers are:

General contacts: 571-403-1943 *Bulletin* ads: 571-403-1942

The current phone numbers, printed on page 2 of the *Bulletin*, will be operational this month. After that, the new phone numbers will go into effect, exclusively, for FCA phone contacts.

last year. The street, curb, and sidewalk improvements triggered an assessment of appropriate parking signage, particularly at corners, crosswalks, and bus stops. As a result, when the parking signage was updated to bring it into compliance with state and federal regulations, several spots that had been used for residents' parking, on an already crowded street, were removed.

At the January association meeting this year, in response to residents' inquiries, the county parking managers agreed to consider a change to the parking restrictions on Quaker if Fairlington residents wanted it and the civic association proposed it. The neighbors were reminded that the current restrictions had been put in

place more than ten years ago at the request of the Fairlington community—at that time, the community sought relief from a Quaker Lane curb that had become a de facto parking lot for large vehicles and non-resident cars.

One resident at the August meeting described the unsavory Quaker scene in the "bad old days" of the 1990s: Semi-tractor trailers would pull off I-395 and park overnight with their generators running all night; large



Quaker Lane.

commercial trucks and vans used the Quaker curb for long-term parking; boats on trailers were warehoused

Continued on page 17

#### 2014 FCA board election

Gearing up for the December election of FCA board members for 2014, the association board will appoint a nominating committee and chair at the FCA meeting on September 11. The committee will solicit and nominate candidates for the 2014 board. Anyone interested in serving on the board may express that interest by sending e-mail to president@fca-fairlington.org. It is expected that a slate of candidates will be published in the November and December *Bulletins*, and/or the slate will be updated and posted on the FCA Web site at least 10 days before the December 11 meeting and election.

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## Meeting to discuss plans for a Fairlington farmers market, October 3



If current plans bear fruit, it's possible that Fairlington will host a farmers market next year. As it is now envisioned in the planning stages, the market would be held at the Fairlington Community Center on Sundays, 9 am to 1 pm, running from April through November.

On sale would be fruits and vegetables from vendors within a 125-mile radius, which is the signature element of a locavore market. There also might be locally-sourced meat and dairy, breads and bakery items, flowers, and more. (Vendor arrangements have not yet been determined.) You can learn more about plans for the market at a community meeting that will be held on Thursday, October 3, 7 to 8:30 pm, at the FCC, Room 118.

The market is an idea that received near unanimous support from respondents to the FCA's online activities survey early this spring, and planning meetings have been ongoing since then. Much spadework has been done by the market's founding committee, chaired by residents Lane Erwin and Melissa Beene; committee working groups have begun researching county regulations, exploring an affiliation relationship with an established market organization, investigating site options, and compiling much information about the governance and operation of a farmers market.

Nevertheless, even given residents' expressed enthusiasm, launching a farmers market, and putting in place its ongoing management, is a large and complex undertaking. The market remains in the proposal stage, while the committee continues to flesh out operational details. FCA will consider and vote on a finalized proposal after Fairlington residents have had an opportunity to review the plans and offer feedback.

Find out more about market plans and the proposal timeline by joining neighbors at the October 3 meeting. To volunteer to help or to receive updates on the committee's plans, send your name and e-mail address to fairlingtonfarmersmarket@gmail.com.

#### CaBi rolls on



In August, a maintenance crew from Capital BikeShare checked out the bikes and docking station on the bridge location in Fairlington. CaBi crews travel around to all stations, servicing each station about once every two weeks. They check each bike for ride-ability, testing the tire pressure, handlebar alignment, seat locking adjuster, and chain guard, and they perform on-site adjustments if needed. Equally important, they check the station's docking mechanisms to ensure they will properly release and receive bikes. For more information about how the program works, go online to BikeArlington.com or CapitalBikeShare.com.

In addition to the two Fairlington stations, on the bridge at S. 36th Street and at the community center, another CaBi station is planned for S. 31st Street at S. Woodrow. (None of the Fairlington sites involves private property.) CaBi is also adding stations along Walter Reed and Four Mile Run, which could increase usage in the Fairlington-Shirlington area. Of local inter-



Photos, Gretchen Fallon.

est: Although Alexandria, too, is participating in CaBi expansion plans, Bradlee is not likely to be on the city's schedule for at least a couple of years, in part because King Street is not bike-friendly.



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## Paul Ferguson says farewell to Fairlington and thanks for the memories











A long-time Fairlington resident, Paul Ferguson is currently the Clerk of the Court for Arlington and Falls Church, and formerly a president of the FCA and member and chairman of the Arlington County Board. On the occasion of his moving, Mr. Ferguson offers the following farewell letter to Fairlington.

As mentioned in the last FCA newsletter, my family is moving to a home in south Arlington near the center of Arlington. My family and I are grateful for all that Fairlington friends and residents have done for us over the years. We will miss you but hope to stay in touch.

It is difficult for me to leave Fairlington after 35 years. My Fairlington homes were on S. 28th St., (1977-88), S. 35th St., (1988-94), S. Buchanan St., (1995-97), S. 36th St., (1997-2002), and 3428 S. Utah St., 2002 to the present. From teenage years attending Wakefield High School, to living with friends after college, to buying my first home, getting married, and then having my own two sons, Fairlington has given me so much. My family will miss the pool, basketball courts, fitness center, walks around the neighborhood and to local restaurants—but most of all, we'll miss the people.

Most people in Fairlington care about their neighbors and help maintain the community. Our courtyards, walking paths, and sidewalks give us more interaction than many other neighborhoods. Whether people are walking for exercise, walking their dogs, gardening, waiting for a bus, or just sitting outside their home, we have many opportunities to talk to each other. With strong condo association and civic association leader-

Photos, Guy Land.

ship, we have additional services that many neighborhoods don't have.

I sincerely credit Fairlington for the success I have had in local politics. At a young age, the Fairlington Citizens Association allowed me to serve as president (1994-95). When I was a first-time

candidate for the Arlington County Board (1995), the turnout percentage in Fairlington was by far the largest in Arlington, enabling me to offset other areas of the county where I did not win. The encouragement I received from so many of you throughout the years was just as important as the votes on Election Day.

I enjoyed partnering with the civic association on many projects: The renovation of the Fairlington Community Center with the new fitness center; Shirlington's branch library, grocery store, and bus transit center; increased police enforcement to prevent vehicle theft; defeating the Alexandria proposal for a Route 7/Beauregard St. overpass; additional neighborhood conservation funding; and, although not everyone likes them, four-way stop signs and other traffic calming requested by the civic association. It was the inability of the civic association to get a four-way stop sign at 31st and South Abingdon Street that caused many to encourage me to run for the County Board in 1995.

I am honored to continue serving you as Arlington's Clerk of the Circuit Court. I hope to see some of you for jury duty or when you have a need to visit the courthouse.

We are renting our Fairlington home, which will allow us to maintain a connection to the community. I hope that one or both of my sons, Tim and Daniel, decide to make Fairlington their home again one day.

—Paul Ferguson



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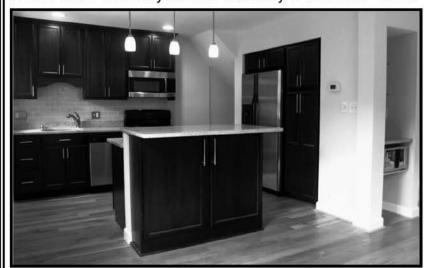
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# ->> Fairlington at 70 ->>

### Reminders of 1861

A century and a half ago, before there was a Fairlington or an even an Arlington, Alexandria County occupied a great swath of northernmost Virginia, abutting the federal city across the Potomac to the northeast. Where our homes stand now was then part of a vast, predominantly rural area, made up mostly of forests, with a few scattered farmhouses, a few roads, and the developed, Colonial-era settlement of the city of Alexandria along the river-what we call "Old Town" today.

When the Civil War began in 1861, with Virginia joining the

Confederate rebellion, Alexandria County's nearness to President Lincoln's seat of government was cause for alarm. To protect Washington City from rebel incursion, Union soldiers guarded the western approaches to Alexandria along Leesburg Pike and at Bailey's Crossroads and, to deny the hills of present-day Arlington to Confederate artillery, the Army of the Potomac took up garrison positions on high ground surrounding Washington. The defense of Washington fortifications



Fort Reynolds Park is tucked away behind Abingdon Elementary and between Fairlington and Park Shirlington. Trees planted in the last few years will eventually provide shade. Photos, Gretchen Fallon.

(built mostly of earthen work and timber) consisted of 68 major enclosed forts, housing soldiers and storing artillery and other supplies, and an additional 93 prepared (but mostly unarmed) batteries for field guns.

Present-day Fairlington is home to two sites that were part of this ring of fortified positions around Washington—Fort Reynolds and Battery Garesché (*Gah-reh-SHAY*; sometimes printed without the accent aigu over the final E, the name is pronounced in the Anglicized fashion, *Gah-RESH*).

Fort Reynolds (at S. 31st and S. Woodrow Streets) was a 12-gun field fortification made of earth with a 360-yard perimeter. Nearby, about 200 yards away (at roughly what is now S. Abingdon Street and S. 30th Road), Battery Garesché was a smaller outpost with eight guns, designed to protect the fort against attack from Seminary Ridge to the south. Today, nothing remains of the two Civil War positions, which are designated by historical markers.









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## Tom Corbin welcomes garden visitors







The Women's Hiking Group toured Tom Corbin's garden on S. 34th Street. Photos, Gretchen Fallon.

On a beautiful fall-like day in August, Tom Corbin's Fairlington garden, in the 4600 block of S. 34th Street, was admired by a group of women hikers from the D.C.-metro area. The WHIGs, Women's Hiking Group, with members from D.C., Alexandria, Fairfax, Vienna, Bethesda, McLean, and north Arlington, had arranged the special outing to admire Corbin's flowering borders—one group member, whose turn it was to organize the hike, has family who live in Fairlington. But most

# County's tree distribution program next month—plan now for tree picks

The county's popular free tree giveaway program is designed to support renewal of Arlington's urban canopy. Sponsored this year by the Tree Canopy Fund, the tree distribution is scheduled for Saturday, October 26, but now is the time for individuals, neigh-



borhood groups, and condo associations to make choices about what kind of tree they want and where to plant it.

Starting in early September, when the tree distribution Web site is launched, more details will be known about the procedure, the time, the place, and the native tree species that will be available in one- to three-gallon containers. For more information, go online to the county Web site, arlingtonva.us, and search tree distribution program.

group members, including the Arlingtonians, were unfamiliar with Fairlington's park-like setting and lush landscaping.

Corbin gladly answered the group's questions, many of which he has come to expect—not just from tour-goers but also from passing neighbors who see him out watering or from people who knock on his door and want to know "What kind of plant is that?" Answer: That's a butterfly bush. "Where do you buy your plants?" All over. "Do you have a plan?" No. The hiking group agreed—The begonias are huge! And who knew coleus came in so many different varieties?

**Rain Barrel Workshop:** Wednesday, September 25, 6:30 to 8:30 pm, at the Fairlington Community Center. You'll make a rain barrel to collect rainwater for use in your yard and garden. The cost is \$55 per barrel; limit of two barrels per household. Pre-registration is required. To register, go online to www. arlingtonenvironment.org/barrel.

Master Gardener training: There are a few spaces available in the 2013 Master Gardener training class, which starts September 10 and runs through November 21. Classes are held Tuesday and Thursday mornings, 9 am to noon, at the Fairlington Community Center, plus two Saturday morning field trips to area gardens. The fee for the program is \$225 for residents of Arlington and Alexandria (\$275 for other jurisdictions). For more information, go online to mgnv.org. To register, call the horticulture Help Desk at 703-228-6414 or send e-mail to mgarlalex@gmail.com.

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## FINS season wrapped up







Photos, Brandi DeBono and Traci Gravelle.

The Fairlington swimming instructional program, FINS, wrapped up its 2013 season with 48 children gaining aquatic skills and many new families participating for the first time this year. FINS coordinators Brandi DeBono and Nicole Van Hooey send special thanks to head coach Angus Walsh in his last season teaching Fairlington kids to swim.

FINS will field a great combination of new and returning coaches next year—look for information about next season in the May 2014 *Bulletin*. Questions about the program can be directed to FINS coordinators as next year's sign-up approaches, at fairlingtonfins.swim@gmail.com.

**CERT training:** Fall classes for CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) training are scheduled to begin on September 12 and 17 and available seats will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. Advance registration is required. If you'd like additional information or would like to sign up, please send an e-mail to ArlingtonCERT@gmail.com.

#### It's still hurricane season

Atlantic hurricane season, which officially began June 1, has another three months to run (until November 30). The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicts for this year a 70% chance of having about 20 named storms with wind speeds of 39 miles per hour or higher. It's an inexact measurement, of course, since destructive tropical storms occur outside the seasonal window and many named storms that form in the Atlantic never become hurricanes—wind speeds over 100 mph.

But NOAA still forecasts an active 2013 hurricane season, with possibly 13 to 20 named storms, 7 to 11 of which will become hurricanes, and 3 to 6 of those include major hurricanes (Category 3 or higher). For more information about storm predictions and hurricane preparedness, go online to NOAA.gov.



Tree damage on S. 28th Road from an early summer thunderstorm. Photo, Gretchen Fallon.

#### Bike thefts up

The Arlington County Police Department reported last month that bicycle thefts have reached an "all-time high" in Arlington. Police offer these best anti-theft tips:

- Always lock your bike's frame and wheels with a high quality, modern U-lock.
- Register your bike with ACPD; go online to the county Web site, www.arlingtonva.us > Police > bicycle registration. The decal you receive may be a visible deterrent to theft.
- Take a photo of your bike and record the serial number, in case your bike is stolen.



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4850 31st Street South, Suite A Arlington, VA 22206 (703) 671-1001 FairlingtonDental.com Quaker Lane, continued from page 5

there; cars with Maryland and D.C. plates were parked there for weeks or months at a time with "For Sale" signs in the windows; derelict and abandoned cars were left along Quaker to rust and collect debris.

The problem was addressed a decade ago with the requested overnight parking restriction. In the meantime, the county parking code was amended to prevent large commercial vehicles from parking along residential streets and nearby streets, including Quaker. Thus the amended code should prevent the Quaker curb from ever again becoming a long-term parking lot or warehouse for commercial vehicles even if the overnight restriction is lifted. Doing so, however, could provide additional overnight parking for Fairlington residents and guests—particularly those who do shift work or come home late and must search for parking spaces two, three, and four streets away from their homes on S. Stafford.

Since the January meeting, the *All Fairlington Bulletin* has published several articles outlining the history of the Quaker Lane parking situation and the proposal to lift the overnight restrictions so that private cars could park there. In an online survey seeking residents' opinions that Mr. Duffy posted this summer, nearly 80% of respondents supported the proposal. Thus the FCA board approved the proposal and forwarded it to Arlington County for parking management staff review.

At the August meeting, it was noted that the current "No Commercial Vehicles" signage on Quaker would remain in place to reinforce the message already codified in county parking regulations. In addition, it was noted that the FCA, Fairlington residents, and county enforcement officers would act cooperatively to swiftly address any parking or noise issues that might become a concern in the future. (The most direct way to register a complaint about illegal long-term parking is for individuals to call and report the violation to the police non-emergency number, 703-558-2222.) Moreover, residents were reminded that the updated county parking code permits some large vehicles, such as RVs, motor homes, and trailers, to park legally on residential streets for five days.

Lastly, it was noted that the parking quandaries of S. Stafford Street residents may be repeated along other Fairlington streets with any seasonal repaving project in the future. This summer, for example, South Abingdon Street in north Fairlington was repaved and resurfaced. At the time of the August meeting, the street had not yet been newly marked, painted, or signed for parking.



North Fairlington street work: During the hottest, 90+ degree days of mid-July, the milling and repaving project on north Fairlington streets got underway along S. 31st Street, S. 32nd Road, and S. Abingdon Street. The improvements





Photos, Gretchen Fallon.

included concrete curb and gutter repair and sidewalk repair. As part of the project, according to the Department of Environmental Services, "the county will paint parking lines that will delineate no-parking areas in front of fire hydrants, the entrances to parking lots, and bus stops." With the resurfacing completed, the paint markings had not yet been applied to the streets in mid-August.

**Street sweeping in Fairlington:** The county requests that you make every effort to move your car from the curb on Tuesday, September 10, when Fairlington's streets are scheduled for street sweeping. Fairlington is in Zone 2; sweeping will occur between 7:30 am and 3 pm. To view the schedule, go online to the county Web site, www.arlingtonva. us > Department of Environmental Services > street sweeping.

**The new Wakefield High School**, on S. Dinwiddie Street, will be open to the public at a dedication and open house on Sunday, September 22, 1:30 to 4:30 pm. The new \$113 million facility, replacing the 1950s-era building, incorporates cutting edge technology, including a geothermal system for heating and cooling.

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## Back to school for pets

The start of the school year can be a fun, exciting, crazy, and nerve-wracking time for your family, including your pets. Because pets thrive on a routine, they can get confused and lonely at the change and not having the family around as much. Some pets may act out or become destructive as they deal with being home alone for much of the day. Here are a few tips to help you and your pet adjust to the new school year and schedule:

- 1. Try not to make the change in routine abrupt. Make little changes towards the end of summer to prepare your pet for something new. Be consistent with feeding and walking times and align them more closely to match the school routine.
- 2. Make sure your pet gets enough exercise when the family is home. Walk or play with your pet to enjoy quality time together. Include the pet in your family's daily activities.



- 3. Minimize separation anxiety by making your children's departure and arrival from school as stress free as possible. Keep goodbyes brief, calm, and positive; for example, have your kids give your pet a special treat before heading out. Don't go overboard with greetings upon returning home.
- 4. Make pet care part of your children's routine when they come home. Teach and encourage them to take care of the pet as soon as they get back from school.

Remember, pets are sensitive and changes to the family routine can affect them too. With a little extra effort, your pet will adjust to the new routine and enjoy quality time with the family.

—Christine M. Chirichella, Assistant editor

## **Fairlington Community Center News**

#### Fall classes

Pick up a copy of *Enjoy Arlington* at the FCC or go online to www.arlingtonva.us/dpr to find complete class listings. For registration or questions, call 703-228-4747.

**September is National Senior Center month**, and the Arlington County Office of Senior Adult Programs for a variety of programs designed to help seniors maintain health and get engaged in the community. For more information go online to www.arlingtonva.us/dpr and search senior center month or call 703-228-4744.

Youth fitness and wellness expo, September 29: Arlington County will host a FREE expo for all ages on Sunday, September 29, 5 to 8 pm, at the Thomas Jefferson Community Center. The expo features sports and fitness demos, inflatable moon bounces and

slides, a rock-climbing wall, an obstacle course, live performances, and more. Visit the interactive information tables to get the latest on classes and workshops, sports organizations, dance/theater groups, and community groups. Sign up for the award-winning Arlington Teen Fitness Challenge. For more information, go online to www.arlingtonva.us/dpr.

#### Get help for problem plants:

You can call, send e-mail, or visit the Virginia Cooperative Extension/Master Gardener Help Desk at the FCC for help with an insect or disease that's infesting your garden plants. All services are free. Take fresh samples of problem plants, weeds, or insects to ensure the accurate identification of pests.VCE recommends carrying samples in plastic bags or clear containers. The VCE/MG Help Desk is staffed 9 am to noon, Monday through Friday, year round; call 703-228-6414 or

# 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.

Get a complete description of classes online, www.arlingtonva. us > DPR or call 703-228-4747.

contact mgarlalex@gmail.com. For more information, go online to the VCE Web site, www.ext.vt.edu.

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"I've been using GMG exclusively for the last 15 years for 4 different projects. Other than my bathroom, they have totally renovated my entire condo including a recent complete renovation of my downstairs bathroom. I have absolutely no reservations using them again and am chomping at the bit to have them renovate my bathroom next year. They do outstanding work, always finishing on budget and just as Importantly, on time... I can honestly say, when comparing experiences with my friends on contractors, I've never been able to offer any of the horror stories they always have..."

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# DOWN TO EARTH patio gardening



# Fairlington asks gardening questions. Bill Sullivan answers.



Photo, Gretchen Fallon.

Why aren't my "Knockout" roses blooming? Because they bloom in cycles. After one bloom cycle, petals crumple and fall, leaving behind just the spent bud. The "Knockout" blooms in pink, red, white, and yellow, and its appeal is a bloom cycle that runs into December. The "Knockout" branches and foliates to the ground, so you don't notice the brown, thorny stalks of the signature rosebush. "Knockouts" are more rounded in habit (4 feet wide by 4 feet tall) than upright in habit. And, they are droughttolerant. Deadheading can increase a "fuller" bloom appearance, as it can with geranium and other annuals. Flowering trees can be pollarded (or pruned radically), which will increase flowering (as with crape myrtle trees).

What are the differences between brick, stone, and pavers for a patio? Brick matches the buildings of Fairlington and is textured/patterned due to its small size (4 by 8 inches). With bricks, mortar can be used or the bricks can be laid against each other (side by side thus eliminating gaps). Flagstone typically is gray, but it also comes in maroon, plum, and light blue. With flagstone, there are geometric shapes (1 or 2 inches thick) or amoeba-shaped stones that are beveled on top and curved on the edges. Like bricks, flagstones can be laid against each other (geometric shapes) or spaced with mortar on the sides. It's best to look at patio samples or to determine which suits your taste. As for cost, a stone mason contractor would provide price differentials regarding labor and materials. Pavers come in standard brick size or squares in brown, salmon, or charcoal. Pavers have beveled edges on top, which serve as a conduit for water drainage. They usually are laid side by side without mortar.

#### How often do I water plants?

Often during summer! Hydrangeas are watered three times a day at nurseries. Like tender annuals, the leaves of a hydrangea will become limp when the plant needs water. It's best to water in early morning or in early evening. If you water plants at noon or early afternoon, the water in the root zone quickly will evaporate. Water your plants too late at night and fungus as well as powdery mildew may manifest on the foliage.

What are the rules for transplanting? Doing so in summers is a no-no. Immature plants with small root balls have a better chance of surviving the move. More established specimens have extensive root systems, which, when unearthed, will have the longer roots torn. Azaleas have shallow root systems and readily handle a transplant. Hydrangea, however, will be stressed (evidenced by all leaves wilting) when moved. If you transplant, do so with annuals, perennials, or young shrubs.

How does mulch differ? Shredded is the most popular for home fronts. But when it is laid too thickly, it will harden in large clumps. Large-chip mulch (Silver Dollar) tends to gray on the edges. The pieces are so large that, when laid on the soil, they will provide a haven for nesting critters. The small-chip mulch (Virginia Fines) has a cinnamon color while providing an interesting texture. The chips are small enough that they do lay flat over the soil surface. Pine needle mulch is good for acid-loving evergreens (boxwood, holly, azaleas, rhododendrons, yews, and laurels). Cedar mulch is dyed reddish-orange or black, and it is the most expensive option (\$6 - \$7 a bag). It provides vivid color, but it is damp and clump-like, so it doesn't cover as much ground when spread in the garden.

Continued on page 27

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# ABING School news



#### Principal Uyeda leads Abingdon into new school year

Abingdon Elementary principal Joanne Uyeda is excited to welcome students and families back for another great school year after a very busy summer. In addition to the standard preparations undertaken by Principal Uyeda and her dedicated staff, there were more this year: the recruitment of new teachers, integration of a new language component, adjusting for the newly added relocatable classroom pod, and accommodating the continued expansion of Kindergarten enrollment. Changes include:

Faculty/staff additions: Julia Winkler, Kindergarten teacher; Brielle Heslep, 1st grade teacher; Kimberlee Pooler, 1st grade teacher; Kimberlee Pooler, 1st grade teacher; Maria Grabowsky, 2nd grade teacher; Lisa Oshinsky, 5th grade teacher; Emily Wade, additional art teacher one day a week; Michael Kraige, additional PE teacher one day a week; Matthew Tosiello, science teacher; Deirdre Hicks, special education teacher; Elizabeth Yaffe, special education teacher; Kristin



Abingdon strings teacher, Kristin Gomez, directs current student and alumni musicians before a large outdoor audience in Shirlington. The August 5 performance was the culmination of the PTA-sponsored summer strings program. Photo, John Downey.

Drabyk, special education teacher; Madeline LaSalle, social worker; Ellen Frazen, attendance secretary, half time; Khadija Chaoui, clinic aide. An additional guidance counselor position will be filled for one day a week.

**Facilities updates:** A pod of four relocatables has been installed in the corner rear of the building. Three 2nd grade classes and one 5th grade class will be housed in the relocatable pod.

**Curriculum additions:** Kindergarteners and first graders will receive Spanish instruction for 90 minutes each week. And there are newly painted hopscotch and four square games for outdoor recess activities.

# PTA supports school's technology focus

The Abingdon PTA is pleased to be able to aid the school's focus on technology by purchasing 30 Apple TV devices and adapters for all classrooms, at a cost of nearly \$5000. "One of the goals of our PTA is to support the school's academic programs, which includes technology improvements," said Dana Andy, Abingdon PTA Co-President. "The purchase of the Apple TVs was a logical choice since it will reach every student and every classroom in the school." According to Abingdon's Instructional Technology Coordinator, Darryl Joyner, the new devices will "allow teachers and students to wirelessly mirror their work (from another Apple device) and project it through a SMART board or projector." All classrooms, including the four instructional spaces in the new relocatables, are



Darryl Joyner, Abingdon's Instructional Technology Coordinator, in the school's computer lab with 30 new MacBook Pro laptops, 30 new AppleTV devices, and 30 new iPads. Photo, Dana Andy. equipped with SMART boards or projectors that allow instructors to project images, like computer programs or videos, onto a screen or white board. In addition to the new technology purchased by the Abingdon PTA, Arlington Public Schools funded the purchase of 35 new Apple MacBook Pro laptop computers for student use, 30 new iPads, and 30 new Apple Mac Mini computers and monitors for the computer lab. The existing iMac desktop computers will be redistributed throughout the school and will be used to create mini computer labs in the science lab, Spanish wheel, and gifted services classroom spaces.

# School garden yields produce for AFAC

Abingdon's school garden, also known as the "Outdoor Classroom," has continued to provide fresh vegetables to the Arlington Food Assistance Center this summer. As of mid-August, the garden's summer crop has yielded 181 pounds of produce, including more than

Continued on page 27



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# neighborhood news

#### **Book Group**

George Orwell went to Spain in 1936 intending to report on the civil war but decided instead to join a leftist militia against the Fascists. *Homage to Catalonia* is Orwell's classic account of his battle experiences, including a near-fatal wounding, and the harsh effects of the war and its unforgiving politics on the Spanish people. Join us to discuss the book on Tuesday, September 24, at 7:30 pm in the Fairlington Villages Community Center at 3005 S. Abingdon St. For more information, please contact Terry Gough at tjgough@verizon.net.

#### **Fairlington Diners**

Fairlington Diners is a group that gathers for relaxed dinners nearby. We focus on having a good meal and an opportunity to chat with neighbors. In September, we'll have the following events:

Tuesday, September 10, 6:30 pm, T.H.A.I., 4029 Campbell Ave., Arlington 22206, 703-931-3203. A long-time favorite in Shirlington with imaginative Thai dishes prepared with fresh, local ingredients.

Monday, September 23, 6:30 pm, Ramparts Restaurant, 1700 Fern St., Alexandria 22302, 703-998-6616, www. rampartstavern.com. This is a local favorite that we usually visit monthly. On Mondays, they offer half-price on burgers with the purchase of a beverage, and the rest of the menu is also available.

Please call Carol at 703-379-6840 if you plan to attend, and leave a voice-mail if you don't reach her—include your name and how to contact you the day of the event, in case plans change. If you'd like to be on our e-mail list to receive notice of our events a couple of weeks in advance, please send your e-mail address to carol\_dabbs at yahoo.com.

#### Card players wanted

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.

#### **MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington**

Members and their children of the MOMS Club of Arlington-Fairlington VA© chapter of the International MOMS Club participate in fun activities, service projects, Parent's Night Out, meetings with interesting speakers, 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 11, at 4:30 pm at the Fairlington Community Center. Children are always welcome. For more information about the club, the meeting, or membership, contact our Membership VP at fairlingtonmomsclub@gmail.com or visit www.fairlingtonmomsclub.com. Annual dues of \$25 support our club activities and charitable projects.

#### Fairlington Babysitting Co-op

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

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

To request an application or for more information, Fairlington residents can send e-mail to the coordinators at fairlington.babysitting@gmail.com.

**Two Wheel Tuesdays, biking information sessions in September:** Go online to BikeArlington.com for more information.

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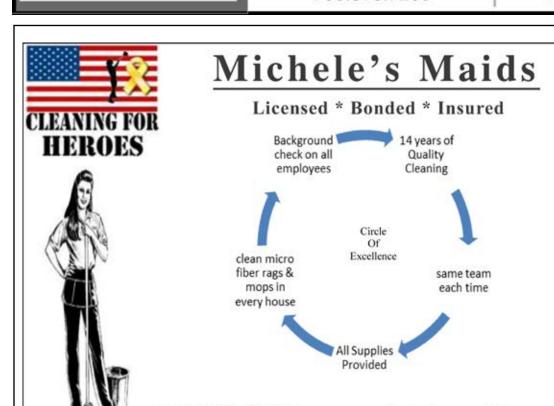


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Why are mulberry trees so prevalent? It's because birds love the fruit. Most mulberry trees root at the base of fence lines. Birds and squirrels snatch the fruit off a branch and then perch on the fence top to eat—and then the waste product produces a new sapling. Mulberry bark is mustard in color and its leaves have deep lobes and serrated edges. There is a cluster at the Fairlington Sunoco gas station on Quaker Lane. I once knew a mechanic there who would "pick" his dessert from those trees.

What plants best tolerate our humid summers? Check out the corner garden at the 7-11 on Quaker Lane. It features a crape myrtle tree flanked by barberry (maroon-leafed) shrubs. These specimens thrive in all-day sun.

Falsecypress, juniper, azalea, dwarf English boxwood, "Knockout" rose, holly, euonymus, miscanthus grass, photinia, and ligustrum also are heat-tolerant.

So many flowering shrubs and trees lose their leaves. Which ones are evergreen? Magnolia, including the "Little Gem" cultivar is the most stately of evergreen flowering specimens. "Little Gem" grows only 16 feet tall with an 8-foot spread. Other specimens to consider are camellia, pieris, mahonia, nandina, skimmia, cotoneaster, abelia, star jasmine, Carolina jessamine, encore "Azalea," liriope, and rhododendron.

— Bill Sullivan, www.sullivanslandscaping.net 80 pounds of cabbage. The school has also donated green beans, tomatoes, green peppers, jalapeno peppers, lettuce, and cucumbers and expects to harvest many more tomatoes, green peppers, and eggplant, according to parent volunteer Debbie Staren-Doby. Community members interested in volunteering in the school's garden can call 703-671-3460 or send e-mail to abingdonelementarypta@gmail.com.

#### **Coming events:**

Sept. 2, 4 – 6 pm, Back to School Picnic sponsored by the PTA Sept. 17, 7 pm, Back to School Night Sept. 23, 6:30 pm, Scout Information Night Sept. 24, 6:30 pm, PTA Meeting in the school library

—Dan Branch, PTA co-president

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# Mini-ads

#### **For Sale**

**SOFTWARE.** Windows 8 Professional operating system software. Brand new. Never used. Never installed. \$150. (Retails for \$199.99) Call Barbara 703-517-0510.

#### **Child Care**

**CHILD CARE.** Warm home setting and nurturing environment. FT/PT. Experienced and licensed. Spanish speaking. Excellent references. Please call 703-824-0385.

#### **Services**

**INCOME TAXES.** We can prepare your Federal and State Income Taxes. New home-owners and all-50-state taxes our specialty. Electronic Filing. Convenient Baileys Crossroads location, evening and weekend hours. 30% discount for Fairlington Residents. Visit www. cpa-coker.com for more information, directions. Call for appointment. FREE Retirement Check-up during your appointment. (703) 931-3290.

**WELLNESS.** Yoga, meditation, breathing techniques, infant massage, Children's massage, reflexology, reiki & more. Private Sessions or Create a Class. Gift certificates available. www. moorethanyoga.com. 703-671-2435.

#### FOOT MASSAGE - REFLEXOLOGY.

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**INFANT MASSAGE.** Learn to massage your baby. Monthly classes. Certified Fairlington resident. www. moorethanyoga.com, 703-671-2435.

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

**PHOTOGRAPHER.** Wedding photographer/family photographer. Call or e-mail for prices. 703-967-4265. Tedsta15@gmail.com.

### Gardening/ Landscaping

**SULLIVAN'S LANDSCAPING.** Now in its 21st year, Sullivan's Landscaping will tend to your patio in a variety of ways: a new planting design, removal of existing shrubs, weeding, mulching, pruning and hardscapes as well. If you'd like a new flagstone or brick patio over the existing concrete patio, email or call Bill Sullivan at 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.

#### 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

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**DOOR SOLUTIONS.** A Fairlington doors expert. 1,000's of pleased customers. For contact, scheduling, and useful door information, please visit: www.doorsolutions.biz

**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.

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**SENIOR CRAFTSMEN, INC.** Biff Henley, bonded and insured. 703-403-5354. Seniorcraftsmen@verizon.net.

### CLIMATROL HEATING & COOLING CORP 703-981-6664 www.climatrolh-

**CORP.** 703-981-6664. www.climatrolhvac.com. Only \$79.95. Serving all Fairlington citizens. Family owned, operated, licensed and insured business. Our staff is reliable, trustworthy, punctual and detail oriented. Our prices are extremely competitive, and our service is thorough. Have us professionally perform residential heating or cooling system inspection. Or if you currently have a problem, we will be happy to diagnose it. We can also inspect the accessory equipment including the electronic air cleaner, programmable thermostat, condensate pump and hot water heater at no extra charge! Read real reviews from satisfied Climatrol customers at Angie's List, Get 10% discount on repairs with this ad. We also perform FREE second opinion and heat exchanger and compressors.

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**TION.** Serving Arlington and Alexandria since 1989. Services include Home Improvement Remodeling and Hardscapes, new patios and water falls. Now we include painting, drywall repairs, bathrooms and kitchens. Call for free estimate. 703-898-4723 matias. alberto7@gmail.com.

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# Mini-ads

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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

**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.

#### FAIRLINGTON MAID SERVICE.

Serving Fairlington since 1978. Family owned and operated. Call for our Fall special. 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 for a free estimate. 703-820-8635.

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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.

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#### PET & PLANTCARE BY GERRI.

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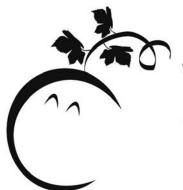
**DOG WALKER & CAT SITTER - REASONABLE RATES.** Special rates for regular walks. Mature, responsible, reliable and dependable woman with excellent Fairlington references. Suzanne Mitchell: Pal4Paws.Suzanne@gmail.com or call 703-868-8894.

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#### ALL WAYS CARING PET

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# STILL THE AREA'S BEST WINE SHOP!



The Curious Grape may have moved around the corner and added a world class restaurant, but it's **still the area's best wine shop!** Shop our selection of nearly 400 hand-picked wines from all over the world **or enjoy them in our wine bar or restaurant!** 

**Looking for value?** Look for **BIN 20** for the absolute best wines we can find under \$20!

Of course, you'll also find the area's best chocolate selection and fabulous cheeses at prices up to 1/3 less than comparable shops!

Grape Grape

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Between the Post Office &
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Please include the following information with all ads-



#### NOTICE TO ALL ADVERTISERS

Due Date for All Ads: 6 pm on 10th of the preceding month (Sep 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. The FCC is closed Sunday. Open 8 am – 9 pm M – F, and 8 am – 5 pm Saturday.

#### 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).

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Arl/Fairlington — Popular 1BR Braddock model, Updated kit. & bath, \$249,900 Call Britt Grouby



Arl/The Arlington-2BR condo w/ fireplace & balcony. Mins. to shops. \$287,000 Call Doug Luzik



Arl/Virginia Gardens-Spacious 4BR/4.5BA brick frt. end 4 Ivl TH. HDWDs, eat-in kitchen, & large fenced-in back yard. Great location \$3,300 per month, Call Barbara Wood



Clifton-Beautiful 5BR/4.5BA w/2 car garage & front porch. On 1.5 acres. \$849,900 call Juliet Flory



Arl/West Village at Shirlington — Gorgeous 1BR w/patio, Over 800 sq.ft. \$289,000 Call Juliet Flory

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