

Parkfairfax FORUM

The Official Newsletter of the Parkfairfax Unit Owners Association
www.Parkfairfax.org

September 2023
Volume 45, Issue 9

History of Parkfairfax: The New Community and Early Tenants

Third in a Series

By Janet Schrader

The construction of Parkfairfax was completed in early 1943 and the complex was ready for tenants. In April the monthly rent scale was announced: Monthly rent for one-bedroom apartments averaged \$61.25; two-bedroom apartments averaged \$78.75; and three-bedroom apartments averaged \$90.00. All rents included gas, electricity, and refrigeration. Prospective tenants were asked to apply to the leasing office in writing so that appointments for interviews could be arranged. Because Metropolitan Life wanted the community to be inhabited primarily by families, prospective renters were asked to bring pictures of their families to rental interviews.

The first lease was signed May 1, 1943, by an Army major employed at the Pentagon, who had been living with his family in Baltimore and spending four hours a day commuting by train and bus. The first families moved in on October 1, 1943, and three months later, the complex was fully leased. Occupations of early tenants included "...lawyers, economists, engineers, analysts, secretaries, examiners, statisticians, and accountants employed in government agencies, as well as many families of officers of the Army, the Navy, the Air Corps, the Marine Corps, the WACS, and the WAVES."

To achieve a sense of stability and quality within the community, a number of rules were drafted. No dogs or cats were permitted. Tenants could only grow flowers, and not vegetables. Single people were not allowed, except for a few widows. There were even strict rules about what types of families could occupy which units. For example, a married couple with one child was not permitted to rent a one-bedroom apartment; if a married couple renting a one-bedroom apartment decided to have a child, they were required to move to a two-bedroom apartment. Adherence to these restrictions did contribute to the stability, as well as the homogeneity, of the development.

According to early residents, a staff of 80 Metropolitan Life employees maintained both the buildings and the grounds to the highest standards. Parkfairfax even had its own greenhouse, which supplied plants for use throughout the neighborhood.

Metropolitan Life was committed to creating a community that would prosper, as well as one that would be financially successful, and took strides to provide the amenities necessary to assure their tenants a good quality of life. At the request of the City of



Popular event at this Virginia housing development is the visit of the Alexandria Dairy "Cruiser" and their salesman-driver friend. This is Park Fairfax, Va., housing development; salesman driver, Vernon Lancaster.

Alexandria, the company donated a parcel of land on Martha Custis Drive on the edge of the complex, along with a cash gift of \$50,000, to be used for the construction of a public elementary school. In October 1943, the first Charles Barrett School opened with forty children and four teachers in attendance. This white,

See **Historic Parkfairfax** continued on page 3.

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Parkfairfax Condominium Unit Owners Association

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Website: www.Parkfairfax.org

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*If you need to contact all Board
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board members and our manage-
ment team at once, email us at
[boarddirectors-mgmt@
parkfairfax.org](mailto:boarddirectors-mgmt@parkfairfax.org).*

Meetings begin at 7 p.m. at the Association Office. The meeting agenda is posted on the bulletin board outside of the main office. Board package material is available for residents to review at the Association Office and website, www.parkfairfax.org.

The Newsletter deadline is the 10th of each month preceding publication month. Email editorial announcements, commercial and classified ads to Shellie Calloway, calloway@parkfairfax.org.

Publication of advertisements in no way implies an endorsement of the products or services by Parkfairfax Condominium Unit Owners Association or its Board. The opinions of columnists and letter writers are their own and in no way reflect the opinions of Parkfairfax Condominium Unit Owners Association or its Board. *It is up to the advertiser to keep track of when the ad expires. You will not receive notice from Parkfairfax that the ad has expired.*

Letters to the Editor of 150 words or less are welcomed from owners, mortgagees or residents of Parkfairfax. It must be signed and include your unit address and phone number (address and phone number will not be published) and submitted by the 10th of each month preceding publication.

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*Do not hesitate to contact any
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1-866-370-2977

Onsite Police Officer

Brian Fromm
Brian.Fromm@Alexandriava.gov

Barkan Management Co.

8229 Boone Blvd Suite 885
Tysons, VA 22182
(703) 388-1005

August Board Meeting Highlights:

- The Board PASSED a motion to approve the June 2023 Reserve Expenditures in the amount of \$183,225.62 with funds to come from GL 9901.015, Reserve Expenditures.
- The Board PASSED a motion to approve Caldwell & Gregory as the Laundry Service Provider, subject to negotiation between management, legal counsel, and vendor for the best price and options for some larger units.
- The Board PASSED a motion to approve Blue Whale EV to install one dual-port charging station on Martha Custis Drive with cost not to exceed \$25k with funds to come from GL 6730.000 Capital Expenses.

Historic Parkfairfax continued from page 1.

frame, temporary, prefabricated structure, containing six classrooms and a kitchen, was built by the U.S. Works Projects Administration. The school was named for a Marine Corps general killed in World War II, who had graduated from nearby Episcopal High School in Alexandria.

The original portion of the present brick structure was built in 1949 at a cost of \$400,000, and contained twelve classrooms, library, cafeteria, auditorium, shop, home economics department, music room, offices, teachers' lounge, and clinic. This original section is still visible amid numerous later additions. Both buildings existed on the same site until 1955, when the first school was razed.

Parkfairfax proved to be a successful development in terms of tenant occupancy and it also received the attention of design professionals when it was featured in a January 1944 issue of *Architectural Forum* magazine. One feature that made Parkfairfax desirable had less to do with its design than its location. Its easy accessibility to the Pentagon and Washington made Parkfairfax a sought-after residence. The construction of the Shirley Memorial Highway (I-395) only added to the advantages of its location.

The Shirley Highway was designed to connect the newly built Pentagon with Fort Belvoir, and to relieve congestion on Route 1 from Washington south through Alexandria. Completed in 1944, the Shirley Highway significantly improved access to the Pentagon, the Navy Annex, and Washington, D.C., allowing a sparsely settled area to be more intensively developed.

Compiled from various sources

If you or your parents grew up here, or just lived here for a few years, and have memories or photos of the time, please consider sharing. You can send stories and/or pictures to Belinda Jones at bjones@parkfairfax.info.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME *FREE* AT THE LARGEST SALE OF NATIVE PLANTS
IN THE WASHINGTON D.C. METRO AREA!

NORTHERN ALEXANDRIA NATIVE PLANT SALE



Featuring Native Perennials, Shrubs, & Trees for Sun or Shade!

Saturday, September 30, 2023
9 AM – 2 PM

AT

THE CHURCH OF ST. CLEMENT
— EPISCOPAL —

1701 N. QUAKER LANE, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22302
(CORNER OF QUAKER & OAKCREST)

www.NorthernAlexandriaNativePlantSale.org
www.facebook.com/NorthernAlexandriaNativePlantSale

A listing of vendors is available on the native plant sale website above.

Trash Policy & Pick-up:

The Association has received many complaints regarding trash being put out after trash pick-up hours or on non-trash days. Trash should be tightly secured in plastic bags, kitchen bags, or heavy-duty trash bags (please do not use containers/bins) and this is to be placed in front of your unit no later than 7:00 a.m. on trash pick-up days. Please do not put your trash out the night before.

For bulk items please use the maintenance yard for drop-off. Please do not place bulk items or unwanted furniture in the front of the building awaiting pick-up for any reason. As this is against covenants. If you have any questions or would like a copy of the policy, please contact the Covenants Director at [ccalloway@parkfairfax.com](mailto:calloway@parkfairfax.com).

A Remarkable Transformation!

By Christine Payack

Last September, there were many Monarch butterfly eggs on the milkweed plants in my schoolyard. My students and I observed the lifecycle of these beautiful butterflies right before our eyes. The wonder of watching these insects ignites awe, questions, and a lifelong love of the natural world.

Monarch butterflies belong to a group that includes the brush-footed butterflies. Their front pair of legs are reduced and covered with short bristles. These butterflies often look four-legged.

From August to October, huge numbers fly south to hibernate along the mountains of central Mexico. They stop to feed on nectar and roost together at night. At one time, hundreds of millions of butterflies would gather at the protected wintering sites in Mexico, covering the trees with their bright orange wings.

In the spring, Monarchs fly north by themselves. Females lay a single egg on a milkweed plant, often on the bottom of a leaf. Each female might lay 100 to 300 eggs during her life.

It takes two generations to reach the northern United States by June. But the late summer eggs will produce the generation of Monarchs that will journey south.

Monarch metamorphosis from egg to adult is completed in about 30 days. Monarch eggs are about 1 mm long. They are creamy yellow and covered in longitudinal ridges. A very hungry caterpillar, or larva, will hatch in 3 to 4 days.

The caterpillar will feed on the milkweed leaves and grow through a series of molts. Chemicals in milkweed make both the larva and adult distasteful to predators, as advertised by their bright "warning colors."

After the caterpillar stops eating, it hangs upside down from a twig or leaf and molts into a green jewel-like chrysalis. Inside the chrysalis, the caterpillar transforms. According to scientists, the caterpillar digests itself! But certain groups of cells survive, turning the caterpillar soup into eyes, wings, antennae and other adult structures.

Once the adult emerges, the butterfly pumps body fluids into its wings. Males have a black spot on a vein on each hind wing and females do not.

Adult Monarchs visit a variety of flowers to sip the nectar through an unfurled proboscis. If they make it to Mexico, they can survive the entire winter by relying on their stored food energy.

Unfortunately, Monarch numbers are drastically declining. Climate change, habitat loss, pesticide use, and the decline of milkweed are a few of the reasons Monarchs are in critical peril.

What can you do to help this magnificent insect?

1. Do not use pesticides in your garden.
2. Avoid genetically engineered seeds.
3. Plant native milkweed.
4. Buy Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certified wood.
5. Create a Monarch Way-Station.
6. Join the fight to stop climate change.
7. Learn as much as you can about Monarchs and other butterflies and moths.

Sources:

biologicaldiversity.org
www.xerces.org/
bringbackthepollinators/
journeynorth.org
monarchwatch.org
www.saveourmonarchs.org

Photos, top to bottom, left to right:
 The caterpillars eat milkweed.
 The chrysalis. The adult emerges.
 Released in the schoolyard.



MANAGER'S CORNER

Francisco Foschi, CMCA®, AMS®, PCAM®
General Manager

Are You Renting Your Home?

If you are, remember to file a copy of your lease with the Management Office. Association Bylaws require the filing of the lease with the Association. With the new maintenance management software, staff will have the ability in the field to access the system for occupant information. Knowing who is in the unit becomes particularly important in emergency situations where the Association needs to interact with occupants.

Be sure to share the Association By-Laws with your tenants. Your lease should include language in it that states the tenant(s) will comply with all Association Bylaws and Rules and Regulations and have an enforceable clause that enables you as owner to take action against tenants who do not comply.

Contact the office if you are in need of model lease language. The tenants should have a basic knowledge of the these in

regards to issues such as parking, pets, use of our amenities and what to do in case of an emergency.

The Association By-Laws also require that you provide copies of your entry door key (and/or deadbolt keys if one has been installed) for access in the event of an emergency or to access when permission is granted to do any repair work or USP scheduled work.

The last item I mention is extremely important. We have found in numerous situations the tenants are hesitant to call as they are afraid of being charged. It is your responsibility as their landlord to convey to them the need to notify the office immediately for leaks of any kind. By being proactive we can further head off potentially costly and dangerous situations, especially if your unit is above another. Remember that any damages that are caused to the unit below that originated in your unit will be your responsibility. Again please do not hesitate to contact the office with any questions. We will be more than happy to help you and your occupants.

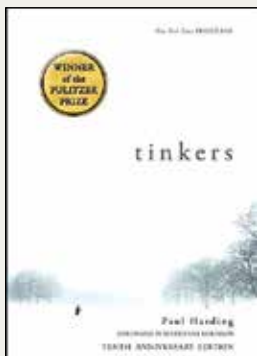
BOOK GROUP

Tinkers

by Paul Harding

Tuesday, September 12, 7 pm

Parkfairfax Board Room (upstairs from the office)



Please note: This is the second Tuesday of the month though usually we meet the third Tuesday of every month.

Winner of the 2010 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. An old man lies dying. Confined to bed in his living room, he sees the wall around him begin to collapse, the windows come loose from their sashes, and the ceiling plaster fall off in great chunks,

showering him with a lifetime of debris: newspaper clippings, old photographs, wool jackets, rusty tools, and the mangles brass works of antique clocks. Soon, the clouds from the sky above plummet down on top of him, followed by the stars, till the black night covers him like a shroud. He is hallucinating, in death throes from cancer and kidney failure.

We meet the third Tuesday of every month; everyone is welcome. Light snacks will be available. Please contact Catherine Kitchell at catherinekitchell@gmail.com to be added to the mailing list or for any additional information.

SEPTEMBER USP SPECIALS



Door Hardware & Locks

Knocker, Mail slot, Peep hole & Mortise lock—LH: \$300.00

Knocker, Mail slot, Peep hole & Mortise lock—RH: \$280.00

Hardware Only: \$180.00

Mortise Lock Only: \$195.00

Dead Bolt Only: \$84.00

Parkfairfax Activities

Presented by the Parkfairfax Activities Committee

2023 Parkfairfax Upcoming Activities

Parkfairfax Activities Committee Event

DOGGIE DIP!!!



**Saturday
September 9th, 2023
12 to 2pm
Lyons Lane Pool**

Doggie Dip

** Dogs must be current with vaccinations and well socialized among groups of dogs**
No adults or children allowed in the pool
Please make sure your dog enjoys being in water
Please no expandable leashes

Community Yard Sale!

**Saturday, September 30th—8am-Noon (set up at 7am)
Parking lot near the intersection of Valley Dr. and Gunston Rd.**

Join in the Parkfairfax Community Yard Sale by signing up using this link:

<https://forms.gle/wiqZbM5Nk7NngSq18>

Tables are 3' x 6' and may be reserved for \$12.00 per table. Payment may be made using Zelle, Venmo or check. Participants will find Information regarding payment in the link above. Like last year, we plan to rent 45 tables and you will be assigned a table and spot. It should be another amazing event!

Questions? Feel free to email px.yardsale2023@gmail.com

The above events are hosted by the Parkfairfax Activities Committee. If you would like to join the Activities Committee, please attend the Activities Committee meeting held the first Tuesday of every month, starting at 6:30PM at the Parkfairfax Party Room (Mgmt Office), 3360 Gunston Road.

CLASSIFIEDS

HOME IMPROVEMENT

Electrical Services, Allegro LLC: Virginia Class A electrical contractor. Electric panels, fans, base-board heaters, recessed lights. Licensed and insured. ALLEGRO LLC 703-314-1287 info@allegrollc.net.

Mario's Home Improvement: Licensed Class A. Interior painting. Drywall and plaster repairs. Wallpaper removal, carpentry, electrical panel. Ceramic tile, complete kitchen and bath remodeling, granite countertops. Free estimates. References available. Over 20 years of experience. Mario Zambrana 703-501-7506 or MZambrana60@yahoo.com.

Home Improvement: Kitchen and Bath remodel. Joel Riggs Home Repair LLC. Class A Lic. And Insured. All types of interior repairs. Paint, drywall, tile and more. Call Joel 703-929-4676.

Home Remodeling and Repairs: From floor to ceiling, we update and remodel kitchens, bathrooms, or any room. Also provide handyman services to include plaster, paint, plumbing, tile and more. More than 20 years of Parkfairfax experience. Great rates! Morning-Star Plumbing Plus, plumbinghopeplus2@gmail.com, 703-869-7552. Licensed and insured. 10% discount for Veterans and Elderly.

DLC Electrical Contractors, LLC: Doing all phases of electrical. Panel box upgrades, installation of new circuits, electrical, plumbing and venting for washer & dryer installations, kitchen & bathroom remodeling. For a free estimate call 703-477-8935, godsblessing4me@gmail.com.

Chelsea Paint and Paper, Professional Painting: 25 years experience painting, plastering wallpaper, and drywall repairs reference

available free estimates license, insured. Steve Chute 571-216-9338.

B&A House Cleaning: We cleaned houses for 40 years and we provide excellent references. We pride ourselves for being honest and having reasonable prices. Call for the free estimate (703)501-9007 or email bc42happy@gmail.com.

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3521 Martha Custis Drive: Renovated and beautiful patio model with every amenity. Washer/dryer, dishwasher, disposer! Beautifully

renovated bath. Easy stroll to any of the 3 pools, 7 tennis courts, volley and basketball courts and all the shoppes/restaurants/library/bank/grocery in Shirlington. The johnANDjohn TEAM of RE/MAX Allegiance. 703-820-9723 www.Parkfairfax.com.

3336 Gunston Road: Be the 1st to live in this highly renovated 2 level/2 bedroom with front porch since renovation. Inlet parking. PRIVATE! Pet ok with deposit. The johnANDjohn TEAM of RE/MAX Allegiance. 703-820-9237 www.Parkfairfax.com.

1603 Fitzgerald Lane: Nestled on a private 1-way, treelined lane so close to the bridge to Shirlington. No car needed, but you can park at your door. Or catch public transportation to The Pentagon, new Amazon campus and Pentagon Fashion Center Mall. Washer/dryer, beautiful views from this tree-house model. Pet ok with deposit. The johnANDjohn TEAM of RE/MAX Allegiance 703-820-9723.

See *Classifieds*

continued on page 8.

Join the Meetings Virtually

A&PB Meetings

Web access: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87615605296>
Phone Dial-In: 301-715-8592
Meeting ID: 876 1560 5296 **Passcode:** 586277

Buildings & Utilities Committee Meeting

Web access: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82057874372>
Phone Dial-in: 888-788-0099 US Toll-free
Meeting ID: 820 5787 4372

Board Meetings

Web access: <https://zoom.us/j/95236782815?pwd=S01RSIZqQzFHODI00ENEWnRpQUtUzZ09>
Phone Dial-In: 877-853-5247
Meeting ID: 952 3678 2815 **Passcode:** 389608

Communications Committee

Web access: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88203254521>
Phone Dial-in: 301-715-8592
Meeting ID: 882 0325 4521 **Passcode:** 215818

Covenants Committee Meetings

Web access: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89947324303?pwd=YmttSjZlbnkZFRU1YaHJaNXMvVnZ2Zz09>

Phone Dial-In: 833-548-0276

Meeting ID: 899 4732 4303 **Passcode:** 336001

Election Committee Meeting

Web access: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88456498117>
Phone Dial-in: 301-715-8592
Meeting ID: 884 5649 8117 **Passcode:** 336001

Finance Committee Meeting

Web access: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/96204170334>
Phone Dial-in: 888-788-0099 US Toll-free
Meeting ID: 962 0417 0334 **Passcode:** 586277

Landscape Meetings

Web access: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86074068749?pwd=MGRnZG5ibDJCeIFzQm43QytDSFM1dz09>
Phone Dial-In: 888-788-0099
Meeting ID: 860 7406 8749 **Passcode:** 484695
Find your local number:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kesSVslfLD>

Transportation & Land Use Meeting

Web access: <https://zoom.us/j/91204298577>
Phone Dial-in: 877-853-5247 **Meeting ID:** 912 0429 8577

CLASSIFIEDS, cont.

3525 Valley Drive: Tree-lined sidewalk in front of this bay front 2 bedroom/1 level ground level home. So light! Washer/dryer in separate closet. Granite counter-tops and stainless steel appliances. Free Dash Bus nearby and pedestrian bridge to Shirlington! The johnANDjohn TEAM 703-820-9723 RE/MAX Allegiance.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

We get calls/emails every week wanting to know what property is coming up next. Let the next one be YOURS! Email/call The johnANDjohn TEAM of RE/MAX Allegiance. We've sold and continue to sell more Parkfairfax homes than anyone. We want to put our experience to work for you to get the best price, terms and conditions for your sale. The johnANDjohn TEAM 703-820-9723 www.Parkfairfax.com.



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Kathy Norwine
MSW, LCSW, LICSW

SEPTEMBER 2023

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1336 Martha Custis * Tastefully Updated Jackson Patio
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Parkfairfax is Talking ...

"Terry was fantastic to work with, he was very positive and aggressive about the price point. Terry knows Parkfairfax and the buyers who fit our unique property."

A. Fernezian

"Terry Rader consistently goes above and beyond, effectively leveraging his impressive network to deliver stellar results, and a record breaking sales price. This is why he is single handedly raising the sales prices in Parkfairfax."

Katie S & Shervin J

Terry Rader is the finest Real Estate Professional I have worked with in 20 years, the hardest working, best prepared Realtor in Northern VA."

A. Higgins

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LONG & FOSTER
REAL ESTATE

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HISTORIC DISTRICT

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- New Heating systems.
- Cooling system check up.

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ahmedbrothers@hotmail.com

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Call or email us today at
703-778-0667 | info@nxtshell.com
to Book a free consultation!

If you are currently represented by another brokerage/firm, this is not an attempt to solicit.

5600 General Washington Dr B214 Alexandria Va 22312 | 703-778-0667

www.Parkfairfax.com

Simply the BEST way to find out what is "For Sale", "For Rent" or "SOLD" in Parkfairfax. **Call us today (703) 820-9723**



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September 2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1 Employee Luncheon Office Closing Noon – 1 pm	2
3	4 Labor Day! Office Closed	5 Activities Committee Meeting, 6:30pm Landscape Committee Meeting, 7 pm	6	7 Finance Committee Meeting, 6:30 pm	8	9 Office open 9 am – Noon
10 Newsletter Submission Deadline	11	12 Covenants Committee Meeting, 7 pm Book Club 7 pm	13 A&PB Committee Meeting, 7 pm Building and Utility Committee Meeting 7 pm	14 Large Item Pick-Up	15	16
17	18	19	20 Board Meeting 7 pm	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Communcations Committee Meeting 7 pm Large Item Pick-Up	29	30
1	2	3	4	5	6	7

Please see "Join the Meeting" section inside for Zoom and call-in details. Please call office if you have any questions, (703) 998-6315.