Parkfairfax FORUM

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

September 2024 Volume 46, Issue 9

History of Parkfairfax: The New Community and Early Tenants

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. As in many neighborhoods at that time, African-Americans and Jews were not welcome.

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.



Parkfairfax Houses, 1943, Gottscho-Schleisner, Inc., Library of Congress

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 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, 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.

See History continued on page 7.

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Parkfairfax Condominium Unit Owners Association

3360 Gunston Road, Alexandria, Virginia 22302

Phone: 703-998-6315 Fax: 703-998-8764

Website: www.Parkfairfax.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Scott Mulrooney, President At-Large Representative smulrooneyatlarge@ parkfairfax.org

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At-Large Representative
akhetequus@earthlink.net
Finance Committee
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Ward 3 Representative
jlisanick@hotmail.com
Transportation & Land Use
Committee

Term Expires: April 2026

Meetings begin at 7 p.m. at the Association Office and is also available via Zoom. 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.

Scott Buchanan

Ward 4 Representative sbuchananward4@ parkfairfax.org Covenants Committee

Term expires: April 2026

Caitlin Counihan

Ward 5 Representative ccounihanward5@ parkfairfax.org

Term Expires: April 2025

Amanda Mullan

At-Large Representative mullan.atlarge@gmail.com Activities Committee Term Expires: April 2025

Jim Wicker

At-Large Representative jwickeratlarge@parkfairfax.org Recreation Committee Term Expires: April 2027

If you need to contact all Board members at once, you can email them at boarddirectors@ parkfairfax.org. To reach all board members and our management team at once, email us at boarddirectors-mgmt@ parkfairfax.org.

COMMITTEE CHAIR CONTACTS

Activities Committee
Joyce Frank
jafrankdesign@hotmail.com

Architecture and Planning Board Ann McCord ann@mccordandco.com

Building and Utilities Committee

Lydia Riabtsev

Communications Committee Mark Lamont marklamont17@gmail.com

Covenants Committee
Eric Keber

covenants@parkfairfax.org

Elections Committee

Lisa Harger elections@parkfairfax.org

Finance Committee
Greg Drone
Gdrone@comcast.net

Landscape Committee Scott Knudsen cscottknudsen@gmail.com

Recreation Committee Kristen Mowery kristen.mowery@gmail.com

Transportation and Land Use Committee Bob Gronenberg bob2@comcast.net

MAIN OFFICE:

Do not hesitate to contact any management team member for comments, concerns, questions, and complaints.

General Manager

Francisco Foschi, ext. 101 ffoschi@parkfairfax.org

Assistant General Manager Dana Cross, ext. 104 dcross@parkfairfax.org

Covenants and
Communication Director
Lora Reynaud, ext. 102
covenantsdirector@parkfairfax.org

USP/Service Coordinator Guy Andrew, ext. 103 gandrew@parkfairfax.org

Management Assistant Lolita Clark, ext. 106 lclark@parkfairfax.org

Accounting Coordinator Tamara Kanouff, ext. 108 accounting@parkfairfax.org

Administrative Assistant Winee Tyson, ext. 100 wtyson@parkfairfax.org

Hours:

Monday - Friday: 8 am - 5 pm 2nd Saturday: 9 am - 12 pm

MAINTENANCE OFFICE:

Director of Operations

Alonzo Alexander AAlexander@parkfairfax.org

Jennifer Jett-Bowling jjett-bowling@parkfairfax.org

1200 W. Glebe Road Phone: 703-578-3427 Fax: 703-578-9785

HOURS:

Monday - Friday: 7 am - 3:30 pm After Hours Emergency Number: 1-866-370-2977

Police Officer

Sergeant Derek Santos Derek.Santos@alexandriava.gov

Barkan Management Co. 8229 Boone Blvd Suite 885 Tysons, VA 22182 (703) 388-1005

The Newsletter deadline is the 10th of each month preceding publication month. Email editorial announcements, commercial and classified ads to Lora Reynaud, covenantsdirector@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.

Insurance and Disasters

Are You Adequately Insured?

Condominium owners sometimes assume that the association's master insurance policy is all the coverage they need. The master policy only covers the building, not your personal belongings, or any upgrades you've made to your unit. For example, upgraded flooring, new cabinets or appliances, or renovations are generally not covered by the master policy. Neither does it cover parts of the building that are used only by you—like the patio or the pipes that feed into your unit from the main pipes.

All residents need their own insurance for the insides of their units, their belongings, and any damage that might be caused by something within your unit (such as a leaking toilet). In a few rare cases where coverage is provided under the master policy, you will still be responsible for the deductible. To have your personal belongings and any deductibles covered, you need to invest in a condominium owner's insurance policy, available from most carriers. If you rent your unit be sure to ask about "loss of income" coverage. Please remember the even after a fire or other catastrophic event, your monthly assessments must still be paid. These policies generally cost only a few dollars each month and are well worth it! Be sure to ask about water or sewer backup coverage. Sewer backups are not unheard of, and a standard policy won't cover the damage to your unit without a sewer backup rider.

See **Insurance** continued on page 4.

Community Yard Sale

Saturday, September 21

8:00 am - 12 noon Valley Drive Parking Lot*

*located between Gunston Road and Holmes Lane on Valley Drive 22302



Used - new - creative items

*RAIN DATE SEPT 22

SEE YOU THERE! PIC. COLLAGE

Friendly Reminders Regarding Unit Rentals

If you are renting your home, please remember to file a copy of the lease agreement with the Management Office. Association By-Laws require the filing of the lease with the Association. The maintenance software the office staff utilizes, enables team members 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 and unit occupants need to interact.

Be sure to share the Association's By-Laws with your tenants. Your lease should include language in it stating the tenant(s) will comply with all Association By-Laws as well as Rules and Regulations.

By-Laws of the Parkfairfax Condominium Excerpt

Article V. Section 8 (6)

"No residential Unit shall be rented to transient or hotel purposes or in any event for an initial period of less than six months...No unit owner shall lease a Unit other than on a written form of

lease requiring the lessee to comply with the Condominium Instruments and Regulations, ... Each Unit Owner of a Condominium shall, promptly following the execution of any lease of a Condominium Unit, forward a conformed copy thereof to the Board of Directors.

Additionally, the lease should have an enforceable clause enabling the owner to take action against a non-compliant tenant(s).

Feel free to contact the office if you are in need of model lease agreement language. When preparing for your Tenant(s), please ensure inform she/he has basic knowledge of steps to take in case of an emergency such as a water leak, securing an access card, policies pertaining to pets, parking, insurance, unit alterations, and trash/recycle pick-up days.

Last, but certainly not least please remember that the Association By-Laws require that unit owners and tenants provide copies of the entry door (and/or deadbolt keys if one has been installed).

Maintenance team members will need to access the unit when permission is granted to complete interior repair work, to close out USP scheduled tasks, and in the event of an emergency.

BOOK CLUB

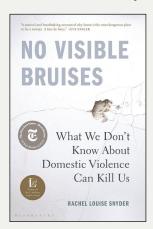
We usually meet the third Tuesday of every month but are adding an additional evening this month as some members wanted to read a longer book—see details below.

No Visible Bruises

by Rachel Louise Snyder (336 pages)

Tuesday, September 17, 7 pm

Parkfairfax Community Room (next to the office)



The book that changed the conversation about domestic violence-an award-winning journalist's intimate investigation of the abuse that happens behind closed doors, now with a new afterword by the author.

We call it domestic violence. We call it private violence. Sometimes we call it intimate terrorism. But whatever we call it, we generally do not believe it has anything at all to

do with us, despite the World Health Organization deeming it a "global epidemic." In America, domestic violence accounts for 15 percent of all violent crime, and yet it remains locked in silence, even as its tendrils reach unseen into so many of our most pressing national issues, from our economy to our education system, from mass shootings to mass incarceration to #MeToo.

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.

Demon Copperhead

by Barbara Kingsolver (560 pages)

Tuesday, September 24, 7 pm

Parkfairfax Community Room (next to the office)



Set in the mountains of southern Appalachia, *Demon Copperhead* is the story of a boy born to a teenaged single mother in a single-wide trailer, with no assets beyond his dead father's good looks and copper-colored hair, a caustic wit, and a fierce talent for survival. Relayed in his own unsparing voice, Demon braves the modern perils of foster care, child labor, derelict schools, athletic success, addiction, disastrous loves, and crushing

losses. Through all of it, he reckons with his own invisibility in a popular culture where even the superheroes have abandoned rural people in favor of cities.

Many generations ago, Charles Dickens wrote *David Copperfield* from his experience as a survivor of institutional poverty and its damages to children in his society. Those problems have yet to be solved in ours. Dickens is not a prerequisite for readers of this novel, but he provided its inspiration. In transposing a Victorian epic novel to the contemporary American South, Barbara Kingsolver enlists Dickens' anger and compassion, and above all, his faith in the transformative powers of a good story.

Insurance continued from page 3.

If you have any questions regarding what type of coverage you need, please contact your insurance agent. The association's agent is also very familiar with the type of coverage condominium owners need and can help you avoid double coverage or gaps in coverage between your personal insurance and the association's master policy.

Be Prepared for Disasters

According to a previous NAIC national survey, about 48 percent of homeowners and renters said they did not have an inventory of their possessions. Of those who reported having a checklist, 32 percent had not taken any pictures and 58 percent had no receipts validating the cost of their possessions. In addition, 44 percent of respondents acknowledged that they had not stored their inventory in a separate location. The NAIC website offers a tool for creating a home inventory.

USP YEAR-ROUND EVERYDAY SPECIALS

Toilet Tune Up (fluid-master, flapper, supply line, and/or flush lever): \$65.00

Photocell, Brass, Wall-Mounted Light Fixture w/Bulb: \$85.00

Battery Powered Smoke Alarm: \$40.00

Alarm Battery Only: \$25.00

Special Trash Pick-Up (Per Pick-Up Truck Load): \$70.00

Gas Shut-Off: \$45.00

Products are subject to availability, and prices are subject to change

https://content.naic.org/consumer/home-inventory

MANAGER'S CORNER

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

New to Parkfairfax? A Few Tips to Help You Settle In

Welcome to Parkfairfax—a historic community with a significant future!

Parkfairfax is a unique community of 1,684 units carefully nestled into 132 landscaped and wooded acres. This community began as rental units constructed to meet wartime civilian housing needs. Many notable Washingtonians have chosen our community as their first homes when coming to Washington to serve their nation, including Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford.

In 1978, Parkfairfax was converted to a condominium and is now home for people of all interests, occupations and ages. Among the amenities Parkfairfax offers are three swimming pools, an exercise facility, tot lots, tennis courts, a car wash, maintenance yard, laundry rooms and woodland trails.

First Steps as a Parkfairfax Resident

- **Read a recent issue** of the condominium newsletter, the *Parkfairfax Forum*.
- Confirm that the front office has a working copy of the key(s) to your condominium (for maintenance and emergency use).
- **Get your facilities pass.** This picture ID provides access to the maintenance yard, pools, and fitness center. There is a nominal fee to obtain this pass, and owners must show settlement papers; renters must show a lease agreement.
- · Register your pets.
- Register your bicycle(s) if you plan to store them in the laundry/storage rooms. They must be locked to the available bike rack.
- Keep your front light burning at night, for safety. Photosensitive outdoor light fixtures are available for installation through the USP program. For more tips on living in Parkfairfax, go to https://www.parkfairfax.info/community-info/ new-resident-information/.

Join the Meetings Virtually

Architectural & Planning Board Meeting

Web access: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87615605296

Phone Dial-In: 301-715-8592

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 of Directors Meeting

Web access: https://zoom.us/j/95236782815

Phone Dial-In: 877-853-5247

Meeting ID: 952 3678 2815 **Passcode:** 389608

Communications Committee Meeting

Web access: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88203254521

Phone Dial-in: 301-715-8592

Covenants Committee Meeting

Web access: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89947324303

Phone Dial-In: 833-548-0276

Election Committee Meeting

Web access: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88456498117

Phone Dial-in: 301-715-8592

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 Committee Meeting

Web access: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86074068749

Phone Dial-In: 888-788-0099

Meeting ID: 860 7406 8749 Passcode: 484695

Find your local number:

https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kesSVslfLD

Recreation Committee Meeting

Web access: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5991395308

Phone Dial-in: 301-715-8592

Meeting ID: 599 139 5308 Passcode: 336001

Transportation & Land Use Meeting

Web access: https://zoom.us/j/91204298577

Phone Dial-in: 877-853-5247 Meeting ID: 912 0429 8577



2024 Parkfairfax Upcoming Activities Mark your calendars now for these exciting events!



Save the Date!

Parkfairfax Yard Sale Open to Parkfairfax Artists and Entrepreneurs Too!



Saturday September 21st, 2024 [rain date Sunday, Sep 22nd] 8am-12pm Set up starts at 7am

Valley Dr. parking lot near the intersection Gunston Rd.

To sign up, please visit:

https://forms.gle/6XbGnGLsq3hYXAAT9



Holiday Tree Lighting with the Alexandria Choral Society



Saturday December 7th, 2024 6-7pm

The Island at the corner of Preston Rd. and Valley Dr.

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 Community Room (Mgmt Office), 3360 Gunston Road.

Safety Tip: Clean Your Dryer Vent



According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission there were 15,600 fires associated with clothes dryers in just one year, of those fires 20 resulted in death and 370 in injuries. It's been determined that fires can occur when lint builds up in the dryer or in the exhaust duct. Once lint has blocked the flow of air, heat may then build-up, resulting in a possible fire.

To help prevent fires please follow this advice:

- Clean the lint screen/filter before or after drying each load of clothes. If you find that your clothing is still damp at the end of a typical drying cycle or drying requires longer times than normal, this may be a sign that the lint screen or the exhaust duct is blocked.
- Clean the dryer vent and exhaust duct periodically. Check the outside dryer vent while the dryer is operating to make sure a flow of exhaust air is escaping. If it is not, the vent or the exhaust duct may be blocked. Removing a blockage in the exhaust path, may require disconnecting the exhaust duct from the dryer. Remember to reconnect the ducting to the dryer and outside vent before using the dryer again.
- Clean behind the dryer, where lint can build up. Have a
 qualified service person clean the interior of the dryer chassis
 periodically to minimize the amount of lint accumulation. Keep
 the area around the dryer clean and free of clutter.
- Replace plastic or foil, accordion-type ducting material with rigid or corrugated semi-rigid metal duct. Most manufacturers specify the use of a rigid or corrugated semi-rigid metal duct, this type of duct provides for maximum airflow. The flexible plastic or foil type duct can more easily trap lint and is more susceptible to kinks or crushing, which can greatly reduce or stop airflow. Following the above advice will help insure that the possibility of fire resulting from accumulated lent is kept at a minimum.

History continued from page 1.



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; salesmen driver, Vernon Lancaster.

The original portion of the present brick structure was built in 1949 at a cost of \$400,000, and contained twelve class-rooms, 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

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

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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.

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.

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MISCELLANEOUS

Meditation—Virtual Group and Individual Sessions: Experienced meditation teacher with 16 years of Tibetan training. Teaching meditation for 11 years at George Washington University, Milken Institute, School of Public Health. For more information, email Mimi at mmmalfitano@comcast.net or call or text 703 201 3923.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

3470 Gunston Road: Fully renovated, 2 bedroom, 2 level end-unit. 930 sq. feet on quiet courtyard setting with off-street parking. The johnANDjohnTEAM of RE/MAX Allegiance: 703-820-9723.

3538 Martha Custis Drive: Inviting, renovated open kitchen with lots of storage and counter space.

Handsome neutral carpeting in living areas. Light infused Southern exposures. Bedroom with rarely seen walk in closet. The johnAND-johnTEAM of RE/MAX Allegiance: 703-820-9723.

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

1603 Fitzgerald Lane: Sunny 750 sq. ft. end-unit 1 bedroom.
Renovated kitchen with granite, tile flooring, handsome wood cabinets, stacked washer dryer. Sparkling refinished hardwoods. neutral paint. Updated bath. Easy parking on 1 way street. Short stroll to Shirlington. Pet welcome on a case-bycase basis with deposit. See photos: www.Parkfairfax.com. The johnANDjohnTEAM of RE/MAX Allegiance: 703-820-9723.

3336 Gunston Road: Beautiful completely renovated, 2 bedroom home with covered front porch, inlet parking, washer/dryer in linen closet, pets OK with refundable deposit. The johnANDjohnTEAM of RE/MAX Allegiance: 703-820-9723.

Marlene Hall HOMES

- ► Air Force Veteran
- ► Parkfairfax Resident
- ▶ 5 Star Zillow Rating

"Marlene was very helpful from day one. She's responsive and quick and even felt like a friend during the process. She showed us the house we ended up getting on such short notice because we saw the listing and was curious. Highly recommend Marlene!" — Zillow client review





SOLD

43186 Farringdon Sq, Ashburn, VA 20148

Represented buyer



SOLD

3223 Valley Dr Arlington, VA 22304

- Represented buyer
- Parkfairfax



UNDER CONTRACT

1911 N Quaker Ln Alexandria, VA 22302

- Represented the buyer
 - Cash offer

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Ashley H Smith

VP, Mortgage Loan Originator | Truist NMLSR #529694 703.629.7020 | ashley.smith@truist.com 46175 Westlake Drive, Ste 350 Potomac Falls, VA 20165



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



When it comes time to buy or <u>sell</u>, having the RIGHT knowledge can mean thousands of dollars more in your pocket. We have the inside "scoop", we live here. Our insider knowledge can MAKE or SAVE you a BUNDLE! We look forward to working with you.



John Welch Associate Broker

John Meyer Associate Broker

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Interested in placing an ad?

Interested in placing an ad? Real estate and personal business ads are \$11/month for Parkfairfax Residents and \$20/month for all other persons. Ads for items for sale or lost and found are free to Parkfairfax residents and \$11 for all other persons.

Display Ads are also available with discounts for long-term placement.

Email Lora Reynaud at CovenantsDirector@parkfairfax.org for prices and any questions you may have!







Dr. Jeff Borenstein

Dr. Steven Trauben



Chiropractic
Wellness Center

703.578.1900

Bradlee Office Building (Behind the Safeway) 3543 W. Braddock Rd Suite 200 Alexandria, VA 22302



Parkfairfax Condominium Unit Owners Association 3360 Gunston Road Alexandria, VA 22302

September 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1	2 Labor Day! Office Closed	Activities Committee Meeting, 6:30pm Landscape Committee Meeting, 7 pm	4	5 Finance Committee Meeting, 7 pm TLUC Committee Meeting, 7 pm	6	7 Doggie Dip Lyons Lane Pool Noon – 2 pm
8	9 Recreation Committee Meeting 7 pm	Covenants Committee Meeting, 7 pm Newsletter Submission Deadline	A&PB Committee Meeting, 7 pm Building and Utility Committee Meeting 7 pm	12 Large Item Pick-Up	13	Office open, Walk-Ins Only 9 am – Noon
15	16	Book Club 7 pm	Board Meeting 7 pm	19	20	Parkfairfax Yard Sale Valley Drive Parking Lot 8 am – Noon
Parkfairfax Yard Sale Valley Drive Parking Lot Rain Date	23	Finance Review Town Hall, 7 pm Book Club 7 pm	25	Communications Committee Meeting 7 pm Large Item Pick-Up	27	28
29	30	1	2	3	4	5

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