

DISCUSSION ITEM

Letter to the City re: parking on Valley Dr. in
front of bldgs. 601-608

From: bob2@comcast.net
To: [Dave Bush](mailto:Dave.Bush@Parkfairfax.org); [Board of Directors - Management \(NEW\)](mailto:Board.of.Directors.Management@Parkfairfax.org)
Subject: Re: Parking on Valley Drive
Date: Saturday, January 10, 2026 9:13:12 PM

Aloha everybody,
Susan Pollack's summary largely coincides with the TLUC report which Dana received last Thursday, and should be in the Board Book for 21 January meeting. However, also discussed was allowing daytime parking for school faculty in our MC Pool (and/or tennis court) parking lots, and allocating about 20 spaces in the Parc East lot. I thought the Parc East arrangement had been agreed to, but apparently not. I've contacted the President of the Parc East Condo Association a few days ago and am awaiting a response - will advise.

As for adding parking behind the school, I recused myself a few years ago when asked to support that idea. I remain PERSONALLY opposed to paving over Parkfairfax-controlled greenspace for convenience parking. When I suggested that there is frequent bus service with a stop adjacent to the school, the reaction of two former Board members was abject contempt! I have no problem with changing signage and exploiting existing parking areas, but I do not support sacrificing permeable greenspace to locate parking super close to the school. Sorry about that. And I don't understand Ms. Pollack's closing comment about the "triangle park" (traffic island) between Valley and Martha Custis. That island, and the street parking that abuts the island are controlled by the city, not Parkfairfax. I pointed that out at our TLUC meeting.

Bob

On 01/10/2026 09:36 HST Dave Bush <akhetequus@earthlink.net> wrote:
I urge the Board to follow through on this proposed letter to be signed by the President and to that end place this matter on the agenda for the January meeting. The Board should remember that in 2021 I appointed a special committee composed of Board Members Eberwein and Clancy to begin to deal holistically with the problem of parking in this area. The results of three years of work was to send two letters to the School Board with no further action. We need to begin to resolve this matter and this would be a good start. I would also recommend that the President appoint a special committee composed of residents of the 600 block to once again tackle this thorny issue, in the hope they can accomplish what we have been unable to accomplish.

On 1/10/2026 2:12 PM, Susan Pollack wrote:

To the Board of Directors and Management of Parkfairfax:

I am Susan Pollack at 1118 Valley Drive. I am writing on behalf of myself and my neighbors in the 1000 and 1100 blocks of Valley Drive. I am requesting that the Board and Management support my petition to the City of Alexandria to remove the parking limitation signs on the Charles Barrett School and Recreation Center side of Valley Drive.

As you may know, parking on Valley Drive is limited to unrestricted

street parking. Parking at the school and recreation center is very limited (the recreation center claims the school lot as theirs as well). Therefore, parking spaces on the residential side of Valley Drive is used by residents, teachers, staff, school and recreation center parents, those doing business with them, and residual parking for residents on Tennessee Avenue and now also W Glebe Rd.

About 7 or 8 years ago, the City, along with the then members of the Charles Barrett PTA, obtained money from the Federal government to change the street, as part of a biking to school initiative. As part of the changes, signs were put up on the school side, limiting parking to 10 minutes between 7 and 9 am and 2 and 4 pm. After a few years, teachers, residents, and others went back to parking in this area, without getting ticketed. Parents still dropped their children off, teachers parked on this side, closer to their employment, and parking on the residential side, while still very tight, was a bit more accessible. This went on for several years. About a month and a half ago, however, parking enforcement ticketed all the cars parked on school/recreation center side. Now everyone is competing for parking on the residential side. My neighbors and I can no longer find parking during the daytime or at night.

Last week, I and my neighbors, the Bruns, went to the Transportation and Land Use Committee meeting to ask for support and assistance. They suggested that along with the petition to the City, I compose a letter from the Board, showing you support our efforts. This is not a new fight. It has been going on for years, but we have not had the Boards' support, and therefore, have not been very successful to help improve the parking conditions on our street. Here's my attempt:

To the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services:

The Board of Directors of Parkfairfax is writing in support of a petition sent to you to remove parking limitation signs on the North side of Valley Drive, in front of the Charles Barrett Elementary School and the Charles Barrett Recreation Center. These signs, put up several years ago, have created undue burdens to our residents in the 1000 and 1100 blocks of Valley Drive. These residents have no other parking places, except along this stretch. Before the signs, limiting parking to 10 minutes between 7am and 9am and again between 2pm and 4 pm, residents could park along both sides of the street. Charles Barrett Elementary School does not have enough parking spaces in their parking lot, and the teachers, staff and visitors must also park in this area. The Charles Barrett Recreation Center also uses the street parking for their staff and parents.

Over the past several years, people began parking again on the North side during the daytime without incidence. However, several weeks ago, everyone parked on that side got ticketed. Now everyone is competing for the parking spaces on the residential side. Homeowners can no longer find anyplace to park. Exacerbating this

situation is the increased use of Valley Drive for parking by residents of Tennessee Avenue and W Glebe Road, once their parking spaces at their residences are full.

Removing the signs would not be disadvantageous to the drop off and pick up at the school. As already mentioned, people have been parking where the signs are over the past few years without creating a problem. Parents could still drop off and pick up in this area, and also have access to the school's parking lot kiss and ride, which is much safer and less disturbing to the traffic flow on the street. Parents also park further up Valley Drive along the 3700 block of Valley Drive to drop off and pick up. The school has increased the number of children riding buses to school to reduce the congestion during this time. All of this points to the fact that the signs are not necessary and, in fact, removal would be beneficial for the school, the recreation center, and our homeowners.

Sincerely,

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Another issue we discussed at the T&LU meeting was the area behind Charles Barrett. My understanding is that Parkfairfax still controls this land. Whenever I speak with anyone at the school, I'm always told Parkfairfax will not allow them to build more parking there. At the meeting, we all agreed that there really is no use of that area to Parkfairfax, and it would be a good idea to give this over to the school. This would also eliminate any excuses for not improving their parking situation. I learned at this meeting that the board recently did this with the triangle park between Valley and Martha Custis. It would really be a good idea to do this.

Thank you,
Susan Pollack

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