

**Monthly Newsletter Format
Discussion Worksheet**

Date: January 15, 2014

Board Communications Liaison Rich Moha has proposed making changes to the type size used in the newsletter as well as other possible changes.

Attached are copies of the January issue of the Forum newsletter with one at the current print size and one at the size proposed by Director Moha.

The larger sized newsletter print will increase printing costs by approximately \$300/issue or \$3,600/year, depending on the number of pages in each issue actually printed.

Jan Schrader, one of the Communications Committee members has offered to serve as an Editor of the newsletter and management recommends that she be assigned that responsibility and to possibly task her with looking at any changes to the current newsletter layout and content.

If the Board elects to go with the larger print size, the FY 2015 printing budget would need to be adjusted accordingly.

Alexandra Cornwell

From: John Brown <jbrown@globalprinting.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 08, 2014 12:21 PM
To: Alexandra Cornwell
Cc: mili@globalprinting.com
Subject: RE: Proposal

Hi Alexandra,

The price for 2200 copies of 36 pages is \$2350.00. The price for 40 pages is \$2545.00

I will have Mili to send you the formal proposal with these two quantities when she get back.

Thanks!
John B.

From: Alexandra Cornwell [<mailto:ACornwell@parkfairfax.info>]
Sent: Wednesday, January 08, 2014 9:20 AM
To: John Brown
Subject: Proposal

Hello John!

I still have not heard from Milli and today is our deadline. This seemed to have happened the last time as well. Anyway to get us the prices today or is that out of the question?

Thanks!
Alexandra

Proposal

10/7/2013

Alexandra Cornwell

Parkfairfax Condominiums Unit Owners Assoc.
3360 Gunston Road
Alexandria, VA 22302

Dear Alexandra,

It is a pleasure to submit this proposal based on the following specifications:

Description: Newsletter
Estimate #: 71560-59-61
Quantity: 2200
Pages: 20, 24, 28, 32 pages
Stock: 70# coated
Ink/other: 2/2
Bleeds: none
Final size: 8.5 x 11
Finishing: saddle stitch
Artwork: electronic files
Proofs: digital color
Packing: cartons
Delivery: local

Pricing:

20 pages = \$1588.00

24 pages = \$1737.00

28 pages = \$2050.00

32 pages = \$2128.00

Thank you for considering Global Printing. Please let me know if you have questions.

Best regards,

Mili Parra
mili@globalprinting.com
+1 7039328389

Parkfairfax FORUM

The Official Newsletter of the Parkfairfax Unit Owners Association

January 2014

www.Parkfairfax.info

Volume 36, Issue 1

BOARD BEGINS FY 2015 BUDGET REVIEW

On Saturday, January 25, the Board will hold its annual budget workshop to thoroughly review Management's Working Draft of the FY 2015 Budget. The Board will also discuss the recommendations of the Finance Committee, which has already reviewed that Draft.

The meeting begins at 9 a.m. in the Board Room at 3600 Gunston Road. Interested residents are encouraged to attend. The meeting usually ends by mid-afternoon. A copy of the current draft budget is available on the Association Web Site at www.parkfairfax.info and an inspection copy is available in the Management office.

Management's draft budget proposes a 3.95% increase in condo fees beginning June 1, 2014. Finance Committee recommendations lower that amount to 2.8%. The final increase will depend on the Board review and updated numbers during the six week period before a final budget is adopted in early March, following a public hearing on the final draft. Key issues to be addressed include the level of contributions to reserves along with the targeted level of reserve expenditures; potential costs of settlement building repairs for future years; replacement of aging Association vehicles; a proposed increase in the number of Association plumbing staff; and a proposed new 3-year program to do long-term exterior maintenance repairs to nearly all of the buildings on the property.

Also under consideration is the staffing level for the landscape maintenance program.

Management of reserves continues to have a major item in budget level requirements along with the Association's insurance premiums. It is hoped the Association's property and liability insurance, which accounts for nearly 5% of the budget, can be reduced this year based on our continuing low claims record.

Based on the Board review at the Budget Review Workshop, Management will prepare an updated draft for discussion at the February 19th Board meeting. At that Board meeting, a final version of the FY2015 Budget will be adopted for presentation at a public hearing on the evening of March 12. At the end of the hearing, the Board will hold a special meeting to adopt the final FY 2015 budget. All meetings are open to the public.

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK SESSION

Open to All Residents

January 4 – 9 – 11 a.m.

This is your chance to ask questions about the Parkfairfax Community and to express concerns or comments about the Association. Residents are encouraged to send in their questions in advance to BoardofDirectors@Parkfairfax.info to assist in assuring information is available to address questions being posed. Questions should be submitted no later than 48 hours before the Community Feedback Session.

Hope to see you there!

4th Annual PARKFAIRFAX GOT TALENT AND CHILI COOK-OFF

Time to mark your calendars for the 2014 Parkfairfax Has Got Talent and Chili Cook-Off. The event will be held Sunday, February 9, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the party room of the Association Office on Gunston Road.

The talent part is open to anyone in the community who is a visual artist. This group includes photographers, painters, fabric artists, and those with other talents such as woodworking, creative boxes, jewelry making or metalworking. (If you have shown in the past, you must bring new work). The talent exhibit is also open to writers who have produced books. If you're curious if you qualify, ask.

The Chili Cook-Off has been a lot of fun in the past with eight entries each time. The first prize is \$75; the second, \$25. There will be some changes to the judging this year based on feedback from persons with experience in cooking contests.

To enter either part of the event, contact Kay Quirk at kayquirk@mac.com or call with questions (703-379-9448). Space is limited so don't wait too long to register.

9-54

Parkfairfax Condominium Unit Owners Association

3360 Gunston Road
Alexandria, Virginia 22302
Phone: 703-998-6315
Fax: 703-998-8764
www.Parkfairfax.info

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Barbara Turpyn, At Large, President ♦ TurpynB@aol.com ♦ 703-960-5960 ♦ Term Ends 2014
Lyle Drew, Ward I, Vice President ♦ lyle_pfax_ward1@yahoo.com ♦ 571-765-0910 ♦ Term Ends 2015
Rich Moha, At Large, Secretary ♦ Richmoha@yahoo.com ♦ Term Ends 2015
Kathy Schramek, Ward III, Treasurer ♦ Kathy.PF.Ward3@gmail.com ♦ 703-998-5771 ♦ Term Ends 2014
Anna Fernezian, Ward II ♦ Anna-Parkfairfax@comcast.net ♦ Term Ends 2016
Robin Woods, Ward V ♦ RobinBWoods@comcast.net ♦ Term Ends 2016
Dave Bush, At Large, ♦ Akhetequus@earthlink.net ♦ 703-998-5235 ♦ Term Ends 2015
Randy Sparks, At Large ♦ RSparks.PKFX@comcast.net ♦ Term Ends 2016
Ralph Heinze, Ward III ♦ heinze.ralph@yahoo.com ♦ Term Ends 2014

*All Board Members, the General Manager and the Assistant General Manager can be contacted by emailing BoardofDirectors-Mgmt@Parkfairfax.info

*All Board Members can be contacted by emailing BoardofDirectors@Parkfairfax.info

Upcoming Board Meetings: January

Meetings begin at 7 p.m. at the Association Office. A residents' forum is held at the beginning of each meeting. 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 on the website.

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Activities Committee Chair: Karen Rugg - krugg@karlynnne.com
Buildings and Utilities Committee Chair: Jarrod Grimsley - Jarrodgrimsley@gmail.com
Communications Committee Chair: Barbara Wilmer - BAWilmer@yahoo.com
Covenants Committee Chair: Scott Buchanan - scbuchanan@gmail.com
Finance Committee Chair: Karla Horn - Karlahorn@yahoo.com
Greenscape Committee Chair: Alex Lathers - alexlathers@aol.com
Recreation Committee Chair: Lynn Humphries - 703-820-0543
Technology Committee Chair: Looking for a Volunteer
Transportation and Land Use Committee Chair: Greg Cota: 703-931-0981 grcota@hotmail.com
Website Governance Group: Looking for a Volunteer

The Newsletter deadline is the 10th of each month preceding publication month. Email editorial announcements, commercial and classified ads to: Newsletter@Parkfairfax.info.

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.

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.

Community Management Corporation (CMC)

4840 Westfields Boulevard, Suite 300 Phone: 703-631-7200
P.O. Box 10821 Fax: 703-631-9786
Chantilly, VA 20153-0821 www.cmc-management.com

MAIN OFFICE:

General Manager
George Gardner, ext 101
GGardner@Parkfairfax.info

Assistant General Manager
Sarah Clark, ext 102
SClark@Parkfairfax.info

Covenants Director
Jennifer Jett-Bowling, ext 107
jjett-bowling@Parkfairfax.info

USP Director
Guy Andrew, ext 105
GAndrew@Parkfairfax.info

Executive Assistant/Newsletter
Alexandra Cornwell, ext 104
ACornwell@Parkfairfax.info

Service Coordinator
Michelle Byers, ext 103
MByers@Parkfairfax.info

Service Coordinator
Sharron Greenfield-Tanner, ext 106
SGreenfield-Tanner@Parkfairfax.info

Receptionist
Beth Purdy, ext 100
BPurdy@Parkfairfax.info

HOURS:

Monday - Friday: 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
2nd Saturday: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

MAINTENANCE OFFICE:

Maintenance Director
Brian Barnard
BBarnard@parkfairfax.info

Assistant Maintenance Director
Alonzo Alexander
AAlexander@parkfairfax.info

Landscape Director
Neal Howlett
NHowlett@Parkfairfax.info

Maintenance Assistant
Loretta Samuels
LSamuels@Parkfairfax.info

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

HOURS:

Monday - Friday 7:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

After Hours Emergency Number:
1-866-370-2977

Onsite Police Officer - Brian Fromm:
Brian.Fromm@Alexandriava.gov



MANAGER'S CORNER

George Gardner,
General Manager:
AMSO, PCAM©

January is a busy month for the Association. High on the list of priorities is the January 25 Budget Workshop with the Board addressing the FY 2015 budget. It will be an all-hands meeting of senior management staff with the Board as we work our way through the budget proposals line by line.

Interested residents are welcome to attend.

Attic Inspections will begin in January. These are done every two years to check for roof leaks, electrical problems, and other issues that may be present in the attics.

Maintenance also undertakes a major effort to check the Association's storm sewer system to identify and remove any blockages or to find any broken or damaged drain lines.

The Association's new Covenants Director, Jennifer Jett-Bowling, came on board December 16 and is already tackling duties related to that very critical staff position. Residents with covenants-related issues can reach her at 703-998-6315 x 107 or at JJett-Bowling@parkfairfax.info

Negotiations with the Employee Union concerning contract renewal are ongoing. The task this year is particularly challenging with all of the Affordable Care Act issues swirling around and potentially affecting the health benefits program in future years.

Vola Lawson, City Leader and Parkfairfax Resident, Remembered

Editor's Note:

Vola Therrell Lawson, former Alexandria City Manager and resident of Parkfairfax, died Tuesday, December 10, at the age of 79. She was Alexandria's first female City Manager, serving for 15 years, from 1985 to 2000. During her term, she helped guide the City through the financial issues of the 1980s; managed the development of a diverse, professional City workforce; and supported efforts to modernize the Alexandria Police Department. An animal lover, Lawson helped establish the City's contract with the Animal Welfare League to operate the animal shelter that was ultimately named in her honor. In the 1990s, Lawson, a breast cancer survivor, formed a group comprising representatives from Inova Alexandria Hospital, the City's Office on Women and Commission for Women, Office on Aging, the City Manager's Office and the Alexandria Health Department to raise funds to provide education and funding for mammograms for lower-income women and founded the annual Walk to Fight Breast Cancer. (Complete obituary at www.alexandriava.gov.)

Before Lawson was an advocate at the city level, she was involved in the issues facing her community, Parkfairfax. Dave Bush, a member of the Board of Directors, shares his remembrance of her and her love of Parkfairfax.

"It All Begins and Ends in Parkfairfax"

On many occasions over the years that I knew her, Vola made that prophetic comment. In our little garden patch of Parkfairfax, we have a more parochial and proprietary view of Vola Lawson than the rest of Alexandria. She was one of us and we were a part of her and it is a comfort to know that she was with us as she passed into the ever-loving arms.

She first came to know Parkfairfax as a student when she sublet a unit on Martha Custis Drive from then-Congressman Hebert of Louisiana. In that moment, she came to love the open space and park-like setting, valuing it so much that when she and her husband, David, began married life, they moved here to set up their home on Valley Drive at the base of Mount Eagle woods.

The woods of Parkfairfax played a foundational part in her early political life. When Arlen Incorporated leased the land and purchased the buildings and began plans to bulldoze the woods and level the buildings, replacing them with a series of high-rises like Parc East, she and David founded the Parkfairfax Citizens Association to bring community pressure to bear on the decision-making process. David was adamant that "his" woods along Valley Drive (known now as the 600 Woods) would not be leveled and that this wonderful community would not cease to exist, being replaced with cookie cutter sky high living.

Continued from pg. 3

The results of this endeavor are all around us today. The success of the community pressure brought to bear, first under David and Vola, and then by succeeding leaders in the Citizens Association, is that we have a home which is on the Register of Historic Places and continues to be an oasis of green in a sea of concrete. I am proud to say that my Mom was one of the first to join Vola in this endeavor, being a founding member of the Citizens Association Board. I was a late-comer to the effort when, in the mid 1970's, I joined the successor to that Board and helped to plan and guide the Parkfairfax Power political effort which culminated in the City Council, by the narrowest of votes, creating a height limitation zoning district for Parkfairfax that saved the buildings and the wide open space and woods for posterity. That gave Vola great happiness.

Vola returned time and again to Parkfairfax as she traveled up the ladder of leadership in government. She seemed to find solace here – a walk in the garden to clear the mind and refresh the soul. And, in the end, as she said, she returned here in retirement to live across from the woods so loved by David, so that she might gaze daily on them and find serenity.

Those who knew her will miss her smile, her laugh, her kindness, her wisdom and her constant willingness to serve and volunteer in the effort for equal rights and environmental security. I believe she now walks hand-in-hand with Nelson Mandela over the Rainbow Bridge to “white shores and beyond them a far green country under a swift sunrise.”

Please Keep Lights On At Night!

It is that time of year when the days get shorter and daylight savings time ends. It can get very dark in the neighborhood, especially if you are walking to units not bordering a street light. Be a good neighbor and help keep our community safer by turning on your unit outside lights every night to keep our surroundings well lighted. Lighting can reduce potential stumbling in the dark for residents and visitors. Keeping your lights on can also help deter crime if shrubbery or other cover near buildings is exposed, reducing places to hide. Consider using long-lasting energy-saving bulbs if your fixture can accept them. Another option: maintenance staff can replace your outside light with a solid brass fixture with a photocell--so you can leave the switch turned on and your outside light will automatically come on when it gets dark and turn off during daylight hours.

Annual Meeting

Parkfairfax will hold its Thirty-Sixth Annual Meeting and Election of the Members of the Board of Directors on Wednesday, April 16, 2014 at the Charles Barrett Elementary School. The election will fill three seats on the nine-member Board: the Ward Three position, the Ward Four position and one At-Large position.

The nominees for these seats must be a Unit Owner from the Ward and fulfill other qualifications as outlined in Article II of the Bylaws and Section 55-79.78(a) of the Virginia Condominium Act. Each petition must be accompanied by a brief biographical sketch, a 2”x3” photo, and a statement of willingness to serve if elected. All petitions and biographical material must be submitted by 5:00 p.m., Friday, February 28, at the Management Office.

Election ballots and candidate statements will be mailed on Friday, March 14, to every Parkfairfax Unit Owner. The meeting be held in the Charles Barrett Elementary School auditorium. Your attendance in person or by proxy is vital. Without a quorum(25 percent of the total Percentage Interest) we cannot hold the meeting or election. This will require the meeting to be rescheduled, costing the Association unnecessary expense. There are three ways to submit your proxy to the maintenance office: electronically through VoteNet, mail, drop off at the Management Office, fax to 703-998-8764 or you can scan it and email it to sclark@parkfairfax.info.

Christmas Tree Disposal

The Landscape Crew mulches all discarded Christmas trees through the “chipper” at the Maintenance Yard. This keeps disposal costs down, and makes pine chips available for landscape uses (e.g., erosion projects). Please bring your tree down to the Yard if you can and look for the area next to the chipper (with the other Christmas trees—or yours can be first!). If you are not able to bring your tree to the Yard, leave it curbside near your building by 1:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Newsletter Volunteers are Needed!

The volunteer system saves the Association a lot of money in mailing costs and ensures a more timely delivery of your newsletter. We need to keep this system running! So please volunteer!

There are two types of volunteers that are needed:

- A Distributor Volunteer picks up a box of newsletters from the office and delivers sets of newsletters to the doorstep of a delivery volunteer – usually 5 per Distributor Volunteer.
- The Delivery Volunteer delivers the newsletters door-to-door to each of their assigned buildings.

Delivering the newsletter takes about 20 minutes, once a month. It's an easy way to make a difference! If you are interested in helping out, please contact Alexandra at acornwell@parkfairfax.info.

The buildings listed below by building number need Delivery Volunteers to drop off sets of newsletters:

926-928-930-932-934-936-938-940
303-305-307-309-311-313
607-608

The buildings listed below by building number need Distributor Volunteers to drop off sets of newsletters:

215-217
404 (temporary distributor for December and January)
504
608
705-723-725
822-837
901-905-910-919-920

January USP Special

All Monthly Specials from 2013
at Prices Shown

You can find a list of the USP specials from this past year at
<http://www.parkfairfax.info>



Cathy Condo Answers Your Questions

Dear Cathy,

I don't have a question as much as an alert to residents. Sewage backed up into my tub—a horrifyingly unsanitary condition and very high on any Ick Factor Scale. I called Parkfairfax maintenance; they were immediately responsive, and the staff member snaked the pipes in my bathroom. It turns out that the clog was created by lots of ... how shall I put this? ... non-organic materials. Apparently some residents in the building were using the toilet as a garbage receptacle. So a warning to the community: don't flush anything but toilet paper and human waste down your toilets!

Currently Cringing at Toilet Flush Sounds

Dear CCTFS,

Thanks for bringing up this issue; wastewater agencies here and in high-density areas across the country have been cautioning inhabitants for months about items that compromise sewer pipes' efficient operation. Nothing man-made should go into the toilet, apart from its obvious and intended purpose.

Those "personal" wet wipes advertised as flushable? They are not. Wipes are not for pipes—and nor are sanitary napkins, disposable diapers, paper towels. Dental floss? Absolutely not. Bandages? Nope. Hair trimmings, plant trimmings, kitty litter, cigarette butts, paint chips? No, no, no to all of these items. Materials like those contribute to a condition called "ragging," the tendency to clump together and snarl up pipes.

Residents: please use your wastebaskets—toilets are not trashcans.

Hope this helps,
Cathy

Parkfairfax FORUM

The Official Newsletter of the Parkfairfax Unit Owners Association

www.Parkfairfax.info

January 2014

Volume 36, Issue 1

BOARD BEGINS FY 2015 BUDGET REVIEW

On Saturday, January 25, the Board will hold its annual budget workshop to thoroughly review Management's Working Draft of the FY 2015 Budget. The Board will also discuss the recommendations of the Finance Committee, which has already reviewed that Draft.

The meeting begins at 9 a.m. in the Board Room at 3600 Gunston Road. Interested residents are encouraged to attend. The meeting usually ends by mid-afternoon.

Continued on pg. 3

COMMUNITY FEEDBACK SESSION

Open to All Residents

January 4 – 9 – 11 a.m.

Attending will be Board members

Ward I – VP Lyle Drew

Ward IV – Ralph Heinze

Ward V – Robin Woods

This is your chance to ask questions about the Parkfairfax Community and to express concerns or comments about the Association. Residents are encouraged to send in their questions in advance to BoardofDirectors@Parkfairfax.info

to assist in assuring information is available to address questions being posed. Questions should be submitted no later than 48 hours before the Town Hall.
Hope to see you there!

4th Annual PARKFAIRFAX GOT TALENT AND CHILI COOK-OFF

Time to mark your calendars for the 2014 Parkfairfax Has Got Talent and Chili Cook-Off. The event will be held Sunday, February 9, from 2 to 4 p.m. in the party room of the Association Office on Gunston Road.

The talent part is open to anyone in the community who is a visual artist. This group includes photographers, painters, fabric artists, and those with other talents such as woodworking, creative boxes, jewelry making or metalworking. (If you have shown in the past, you must bring new work.)

Continued on pg. 3

Continued from pg. 1

A copy of the current draft budget is available on the Association Web Site at www.parkfairfax.info and an inspection copy is available in the Management office.

Management's draft budget proposes a 3.95% increase in condo fees beginning June 1, 2014. Finance Committee recommendations lower that amount to 2.8%. The final increase will depend on the Board review and updated numbers during the six week period before a final budget is adopted in early March, following a public hearing on the final draft.

Key issues to be addressed include the level of contributions to reserves along with the targeted level of reserve expenditures; potential costs of settlement building repairs for future years; replacement of aging Association vehicles; a proposed increase in the number of Association plumbing staff; and a proposed new 3-year program to do long-term exterior maintenance repairs to nearly all of the buildings on the property. Also under consideration is the staffing level for the landscape maintenance program.

Management of reserves continues to have a major item in budget level requirements along with the Association's insurance premiums. It is hoped the Association's property and liability insurance, which accounts for nearly 5% of the budget, can be reduced this year based on our continuing low claims record.

Based on the Board review at the Budget Review Workshop, Management will prepare an updated draft for discussion at the February 19th Board meeting. At that Board meeting, a final version of the FY2015 Budget will be adopted for presentation at a public hearing on the evening of March 12. At the end of the hearing, the Board will hold a special meeting to adopt the final FY 2015 budget. All meetings are open to the public.

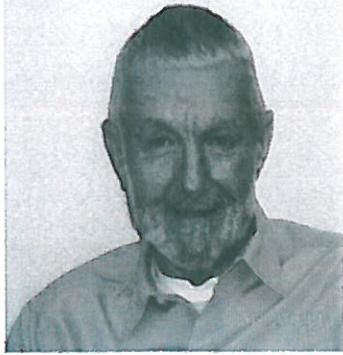
Continued from pg. 1

The talent exhibit is also open to writers who have produced books. If you're curious if you qualify, ask.

All items on display are for sale by the creator participating. The committee does not charge a commission. All artists/artisans must live in the community.

The Chili Cook-Off has been a lot of fun in the past with eight entries each time. The first prize is \$75; the second, \$25. There will be some changes to the judging this year based on feedback from persons with experience in cooking contests.

To enter either part of the event, contact Kay Quirk at kayquirk@mac.com or call with questions (703-379-9448). Space is limited so don't wait too long to register.



MANAGER'S
CORNER
George Gardner,
General Manager:
AMS©, PCAM©

January is a busy month for the Association. High on the list of priorities is the January 25 Budget Workshop with the Board addressing the FY 2015 budget. It will be an all-hands meeting of senior management staff with the Board as we work our way through the budget proposals line by line. Interested residents are welcome to attend.

Attic Inspections will begin in January. These are done every two years to check for roof leaks, electrical problems, and other issues that may be present in the attics.

Maintenance also undertakes a major effort to check the Association's storm sewer system to identify and remove any blockages or to find any broken or damaged drain lines.

The Association's new Covenants Director, Jennifer Jett-Bowling, came on board December 16 and is already tackling duties related to that very critical staff position. Residents with covenants-related issues can reach her at 703-998-6315 x 107 or at JJett-Bowling@parkfairfax.info

Negotiations with the Employee Union concerning contract renewal are ongoing. The task this year is particularly challenging with all of the Affordable Care Act issues swirling around and potentially affecting the health benefits program in future years.

Community Announcements:

Vola Lawson, City Leader and Parkfairfax Resident, Remembered

Editor's Note:

Vola Therrell Lawson, former Alexandria City Manager and resident of Parkfairfax, died Tuesday, December 10, at the age of 79. She was Alexandria's first female City Manager, serving for 15 years, from 1985 to 2000. During her term, she helped guide the City through the financial issues of the 1980s; managed the development of a diverse, professional City workforce; and supported efforts to modernize the Alexandria Police Department. An animal lover, Lawson helped establish the City's contract with the Animal Welfare League to operate the animal shelter that was ultimately named in her honor. In the 1990s, Lawson, a breast cancer survivor, formed a group comprising representatives from Inova Alexandria Hospital, the City's Office on Women and Commission for Women, Office on Aging, the City Manager's Office and the Alexandria Health Department to raise funds to provide education and funding for mammograms for lower-income women and founded the annual Walk to Fight Breast Cancer. (Complete obituary at www.alexandriava.gov.)

Before Lawson was an advocate at the city level, she was involved in the issues facing her community, Parkfairfax. Dave Bush, a member of the Board of Directors, shares his remembrance of her and her love of Parkfairfax.

"It All Begins and Ends in Parkfairfax"

9-12

Continued on pg. 5

Continued from pg. 4

On many occasions over the years that I knew her, Vola made that prophetic comment. In our little garden patch of Parkfairfax, we have a more parochial and proprietary view of Vola Lawson than the rest of Alexandria. She was one of us and we were a part of her and it is a comfort to know that she was with us as she passed into the ever-loving arms.

She first came to know Parkfairfax as a student when she sublet a unit on Martha Custis Drive from then-Congressman Hebert of Louisiana. In that moment, she came to love the open space and park-like setting, valuing it so much that when she and her husband, David, began married life, they moved here to set up their home on Valley Drive at the base of Mount Eagle woods.

The woods of Parkfairfax played a foundational part in her early political life. When Arlen Incorporated leased the land and purchased the buildings and began plans to bulldoze the woods and level the buildings, replacing them with a series of high-rises like Parc East, she and David founded the Parkfairfax Citizens Association to bring community pressure to bear on the decision-making process. David was adamant that “his” woods along Valley Drive (known now as the 600 Woods) would not be leveled and that this wonderful community would not cease to exist, being replaced with cookie cutter sky high living.

The results of this endeavor are all around us today. The success of the community pressure brought to bear, first under David and Vola, and then by succeeding leaders in the Citizens Association, is that we have a home which is on the Register of Historic Places and continues to be

an oasis of green in a sea of concrete.

I am proud to say that my Mom was one of the first to join Vola in this endeavor, being a founding member of the Citizens Association Board. I was a late-comer to the effort when, in the mid 1970's, I joined the successor to that Board and helped to plan and guide the Parkfairfax Power political effort which culminated in the City Council, by the narrowest of votes, creating a height limitation zoning district for Parkfairfax that saved the buildings and the wide open space and woods for posterity. That gave Vola great happiness.

Vola returned time and again to Parkfairfax as she traveled up the ladder of leadership in government. She seemed to find solace here – a walk in the garden to clear the mind and refresh the soul. And, in the end, as she said, she returned here in retirement to live across from the woods so loved by David, so that she might gaze daily on them and find serenity.

Those who knew her will miss her smile, her laugh, her kindness, her wisdom and her constant willingness to serve and volunteer in the effort for equal rights and environmental security. I believe she now walks hand-in-hand with Nelson Mandela over the Rainbow Bridge to “white shores and beyond them a far green country under a swift sunrise.”