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# Fairlington Commons Newsletter

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3367 S. Wakefield Street, Arlington, VA 22206

August 2007

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## Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the Fairlington Commons Council of Co-Owners will be held Thursday, October 11<sup>th</sup> in the cafeteria of the Abingdon Elementary School, 3035 S. Abingdon Street, beginning at 7:30 p.m. The purpose of the meeting will be to elect board members and to discuss topics of interest.

One seat on the Board of Directors is up for election, the seat currently held by Patti Burke. Votes submitted by proxy or at the meeting will elect the Board Member. The Board then selects officers from within itself as mandated by our By-Laws. Anyone interested in serving on the Board should notify Secretary Bernie Weaver or President John Sinks by email, telephone, or by a note in the pool mailbox at 3367 S. Wakefield Street no later than Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup> to be listed on the proxy ballot mailed with the meeting notice.

You must be a resident Co-Owner to serve on the Board. For additional information about responsibilities and time commitments, please contact a Board member with your questions. Formal meeting notification and proxy ballots will be mailed to all Co-Owners in the near future.

### Interesting Fact

*Total number of Recreation Passes produced as of this Newsletter – 598!  
Zory, our lifeguard, is sure glad you didn't all show up at the pool at once!*

## Great American Bake Sale Sets Record!

Held Wednesday, July 4<sup>th</sup> in conjunction with the Fairlington Villages/FCA 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade, this year's "Great American Bake Sale" raised an all time record \$1,030 for "Share Our Strength," a non-profit organization dedicated toward ending childhood hunger in America. This was the fifth consecutive year that The Commons has sponsored "The Great American Bake Sale," and the credit for its success goes to Commons resident and event coordinator Cathy Malin.

This year's event doubled the amount raised by any previous sale, a success credited by Cathy to the fantastic weather, a mid-week holiday with most residents at home, the superb efforts by all who donated baked goods, and the generosity of the many patrons who made purchases and donations. Thanks also to the Panera Bread Company, Diversions Cards and Gifts, Great Harvest Bread Company, One Two Kangaroo, One Good Tern, Reunions, Pro Feed, Unwined, Fairlington Pizza, Robcyns, and Ho Chinese Carryout for their donations to the silent auction and Gift Basket drawing.

### Thanks

*To Jeff Phaneuf, who, with his dog "Brady" volunteered to accept stewardship of the "Doggie Depot" adjacent the pool while Judy Barr and "Maggie" maintain the others.*

## Reminders

**Last Day of Full-Time Pool Operation** – The Pool closes at 6:00 p.m. Labor Day Monday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>. Weather permitting, it will be open Saturday and Sunday September 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> and September 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> with an impromptu “Doggie Dip” during the last few hours.

**Season End Pool Party** – Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m. We will provide hotdogs, hamburgers, soft drinks, and condiments. Bring a dish to share. Watch for the upcoming flyer.

**Free Outdoors Yoga Class** - Saturday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at the Commons Basketball Court on the Wakefield Circle from 9 to 10 a.m. Commons resident and Registered Yoga Teacher Kristi Daniels is the instructor. Rain date is Saturday, September 15<sup>th</sup> - same time.

**Watering New Trees** – Please help our new trees survive. They are easily identifiable by the wooden stake anchors holding them in place. After a week of little or no rain, each tree needs 10 gallons of water, administered by bucket (the typical bucket holds four gallons) or hose.

**Agronomic Applications** - remember, dates are tentative, and may need to be adjusted based on weather or other factors. In keeping with Virginia law, signs will be posted in advance advising of actual application dates.

Application Dates:

- **September 18 – Early Fall Application**  
Organic Fertilizer and Strike III Herbicide for Broad Leaf Weed Control
- **November 6 – Late Fall Application**  
Organic Fertilizer

Commons Service Coordinator  
Eric Pamer - 703-379-0027  
[CommonsService@Hotmail.com](mailto:CommonsService@Hotmail.com)

Or drop a note in the mailbox in front of the Pool.

## Pool News

This summer has seen a lot of changes at our pool, starting with the new umbrellas, bases, tabletops, and side tables. Unlike our old umbrellas (aluminum pole, steel ribs, and vinyl covering), the new umbrellas are sturdy fiberglass covered with a UV resistant fabric and should provide many years of trouble-free service and much improved resistance to damage by the sun and thunderstorm winds.

The wading pool filter is also new, and replaces its 20-some-year-old predecessor that announced its demise by spraying a fire hose sized blast of water across the pump well after splitting wide open; much to the surprise of the lifeguard! Many thanks to High Sierra Pools for the quick installation of the new filter!

We’ve had a diverse group of lifeguards this summer from countries including Bulgaria, Chile, the Dominican Republic, Poland, and Russia. All are undergraduate or graduate students with majors in economics, medicine, psychology, geography, accounting, and HVAC (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning).

The flags in the flowerbed are those of Bulgaria and Poland. Zorka “Zory” Sholeva and Elena Peicheva are from Bulgaria, supervisor Robert Walasek is from Poland. While Robert and Elena came to the U.S. this summer intending to work as lifeguards, Zory was supposed to drive an ice cream truck in Philadelphia, and, after a series of misadventures that would make a great movie script, thankfully ended up at our pool!

If you came to our pool last summer or the first part of this one, you probably met Maeve. She was the owner of the huge, green, inflatable alligator, ten years old, everyone’s friend, and the lifeguard and pool manager’s helper. Maeve and Beatrice (her mother) moved to their native

Germany. We'll miss you Maeve – the pool is just not the same without you!

There have been a number of parties at the pool this summer; families or groups of friends, but no community events scheduled except our traditional year-end gathering on Saturday, September 8. A previous newsletter asked for volunteers to organize events, with none forthcoming.

So, as they say in Hollywood, it's a wrap. The pool will be in full-time operation from now through Labor Day. We close at 6:00 p.m. on Labor Day. If the weather holds, we'll open for the two weekends following, certainly for our year-end bash. We'll play it by ear, but when we're certain that the season is really over, we'll invite all of our canine friends to join us for a last splash!

## Trash Topics

The Commons recently received an e-Mail from our neighbors in Fairlington Mews stating that several of our residents have been observed carrying their trash across 34<sup>th</sup> Street and dropping it in the Mews for pickup. While initially this may seem an acceptable practice, it is actually illegal.

Each Fairlington Condominium Association separately contracts and pays for trash removal services and is a separate entity under law. For a resident of The Commons to dump their trash in a neighboring condominium association is no different than dumping it in the front yard of any residence in Arlington – and may result in criminal charges.

For our new residents, and as a reminder for everyone, here is a summary of trash and recycling pickup times:

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- Trash is collected Tuesday and Friday mornings.
- Recycling is collected on Thursday mornings.
- To ensure pickup, trash and recycling must be at the curb or designated pickup point no later than 7:00 a.m. Residents are permitted to place trash and recycling at designated pickup points after 9:00 p.m. the previous evening.

Please do not place your trash curbside or at the designated pick-up points after the truck has passed. They will not come back to get it. If you miss the pickup, it is your responsibility to carry your trash back to your house until the next regularly scheduled trash or recycling pickup or to otherwise dispose of it in an approved Arlington County receptacle. It is not to be left on your porch or "hidden" behind bushes where the rest of us have to look at it and where it can attract unwanted animals. Trash and recycling should be stored in your residence or patio prior to pickup – it is not to be stored in common areas such as outside your patio.

The proper disposal of trash and litter is essential to the health and safety of our community, and is a serious concern with Arlington County Government and our neighboring condominium associations, some of whom have enacted and enforce strict rules, including fines, for non-compliance. While the Commons has previously dealt informally with most violations (except for a few forwarded to Arlington County's Police and Health Departments for action in the past), our By-Laws provide our Board of Directors the authority to establish and collect fines for non-compliance with our rules, including those governing trash and recycling.

## The Human Element

**W**e said in our last newsletter that we intend to try to feature more human interest stories dealing with the people of our community. What follows is one of those stories...

You've possibly seen him around the Commons maintaining our streetlights and replacing smoke detector batteries in our apartment style buildings. With the exception of his white hardhat, there is nothing unique in his appearance, or at least nothing to reveal that 40 years ago and half a world away, the events of history pivoted around his actions and those of the men that he commanded.

"Harry" Hue Ngoc Tran was born in Hue City, once the capital of Vietnam. His parents named him Hue, after the city. His middle name, "Ngoc" means pearl, so his entire name means "The Pearl of Hue City from the Trans." His Marine Corp and Army advisors nicknamed him "Harry," a name that he still uses.

Harry was born into a military family. He entered military school at 12, attended the Vietnam National Military Academy, and graduated as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant. He was assigned to Hue City, where, two years later, he was promoted to 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant.

In February 1968, the North Vietnamese Communists launched the Tet Offensive, and Harry's company, "Hac Bao" – The Black Panther Company – was squarely in the middle of the fighting for the city. "We fought in the spirit of 'Living in Freedom or Die'," recalls Harry. It was the greatest victory of the war – the U.S. lost 216 men, the South Vietnamese 384, and the invading communists, who were repulsed, over 8,000.

Harry was immediately promoted to Captain, presented the medal of Gallantry Cross with Silver Star by U.S. General Creighton Abrams, and the National Order 5<sup>th</sup> with Gallantry Cross with Palm Device by South Vietnamese President Nguyen Van Thieu. Harry's war ended three years later when he was wounded and captured by the North Vietnamese.

Harry came to the United States on Veteran's Day, 1991 after 13 years in a POW camp and a period of house arrest. He began working for the Navy Federal Credit Union (NFCU) in 1994, and founded a small business that provides services (for example – the work he performs for the Commons) and assists Vietnamese immigrants in finding employment.

Harry began working for the Commons some twelve years ago on the recommendation of then Board Member Don Price, a retired Marine Colonel who had known Harry in Vietnam. In addition to working for the NFCU and operating his business, Harry participates in seminars throughout the U.S. dealing with the war in Vietnam and has been interviewed for numerous television documentaries and books.

*(Editor's Note: Much of the information contained in this article first appeared in the Navy Federal Credit Union's "From the Bridge," a magazine published for employees of the Navy Federal Credit Union. Their permission in allowing us to reprint it here is gratefully acknowledged.)*

Fairlington Commons Board of Directors		
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