

# Fall Properties

SPRING 2005 ✧ WWW.FALLPROPERTIES.COM

## In Celebration of Spring!

After a long and cold winter, it's always rejuvenating to see the changes that Spring offers... warm weather, longer days, birds and flowers, and Realtor® signs! Seriously, it's great to get calls from friends that are thinking of buying or selling their homes. The market is still quite "hot" and interest rates continue to be a bargain. Please think of me if you know of someone contemplating a move—I am always happy to be of service to my friends and neighbors.

This Spring newsletter is full of information to help you make the most of this lovely season. Enjoy!✧



## SPRING'S FLORAL FIREWORKS

Springtime in Northern Virginia is especially beautiful. We did a little research and came up with a list of plants that are particularly suited to this area, chosen for their ease of care and beauty.

First, some perennials, the building blocks of your garden. These plants will come back year after year with much less maintenance than your annuals. Cranesbills (geraniums) have lovely foliage and bloom from mid-Spring through early summer. Daylilies flourish here, in thousands of varieties, pest- and disease-free. Japanese anemones bloom late summer to early fall. Dianthus (pinks) flower in late spring. (Cont. on p. 2)

## SPRING CLEANING & ORGANIZATION TIPS

Compliments of Organizics©

It's tough love, but if you don't discard unused items you can be overwhelmed by your possessions, so...Clean out that closet! If you haven't worn it in 2 seasons, give it away to charity! To keep your closet organized, hang your slacks together, shirts together and so on – then keep the same colors & sizes together within these sections. When you need that green something, you will be able to find it easily.

Clean out your medicine cabinet – throw away anything over 6 months old. Go through your bathroom cabinets and throw away *anything* you haven't used in 6 months – how many things are in there you forgot about?

Your refrigerator should be cleaned out every 2 months – throw away outdated items & clean the shelving. And your pantry needs attention! Paper products are one thing but don't stock up in bulk on food items—unless you have a family of 8 and cook 3 meals a day –they won't last beyond the expiration date!

Your kitchen organization should make sense. Keep your pots and pans near the stove - silverware and dishes between the table and the dishwasher – lightweight items you rarely use up high and heavier items in the lower (Cont. on p.2)



## Area Farmers Markets

### Annandale

Mason District Park, 6621 Columbia Pk  
May 5-Nov 3, Thursdays 8am-12:30pm

### Arlington County

N. 14<sup>th</sup> Street & N. Courthouse Road  
Saturdays 8am-noon

### Columbia Pike, Arlington

Columbia Pike & S. Walter Reed Drive  
May 1-Nov 20, Sundays 10am-2pm

### Alexandria Old Town

301 King St., Market Square Plaza  
Saturdays 5:30-10:30am

### Del Ray, Alexandria

Mount Vernon & Oxford Avenues  
April 16-Dec 3, Saturdays 8am-noon

### Burke

5671 Roberts Pkwy  
May 7-Oct 29, Saturdays 8am-noon

### Community, Fairfax

Corner of Main & West Streets,  
May 7-Oct 29, Saturdays 8am-1pm

### Fairfax

Van Dyck Park & Old Lee Highway  
May 3-Oct 25, Tuesdays 8am-noon

### Falls Church

300 Park Ave. (City Hall Parking Lot)  
May 7-Nov 19, Saturdays 8am-noon

### Kingstowne, Alexandria

Kingstowne Boulevard  
May 13-Oct 28, Fridays 4-7pm

### McLean

Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Rd  
May 6-Nov 18, Fridays 8:30am-12:30pm

### Vienna

Nottoway Park, 9601 Courthouse Rd  
May 7 - Oct 29, Saturdays 8am-noon

### Vienna

127 S. Center St  
May 7 - Nov 19, Saturdays 8am-noon

## WWW.COOLSTUFF...

Here are some of our favorite Web sites:

Sperling's Best Places ([www.bestplaces.net](http://www.bestplaces.net)). "Relocation, recreation, & retirement," with neighborhood profiles and rankings of stress levels, dating, and other quality-of-life issues.

American Society of Home Inspectors ([www.ashi.com](http://www.ashi.com)). Expand your knowledge of what goes on during a home inspection and learn what red flags to look out for. Take a virtual tour of a home to see photos of typical problems.

[HowStuffWorks.com](http://HowStuffWorks.com). When you have a question about how something (anything!) works—from blogs to credit reports—you can find answers here.

FindLaw ([www.findlaw.com](http://www.findlaw.com)). Get information on legal issues of any kind.

[HGTV.com](http://HGTV.com). The online base for Home & Garden Television offers free resources on decorating, remodeling, crafts, and gardening with fun interactive tools and online demos.

[REALTOR.com](http://REALTOR.com). This site will start you on your way to finding the perfect home. Search more than 1 million home listings, learn about different neighborhoods and figure out which architecture styles you like most.★

*(FLOWERS, Cont. from p. 1)* Annuals are the flash of your garden. Plan to spend more time and money on these showy flowers. They work equally as well in your garden as in containers and hanging baskets. Buy the smallest plants you can—they will flourish in your garden as well as they do at the growers. Impatiens, Coleus, and Cosmos are all great annuals. Pansies (spring and early fall) and Petunias are both favorites. And Marigolds will keep color alive through the hottest of summers.

Zinnias are bright and friendly flowers, great for summer borders. Butterflies and hummingbirds seek them out. They are great for children: the seeds are large, and the flowers are prolific—the more you cut, the more they bloom. We've attached a simple gift of Zinnia seeds to help you celebrate Spring. They are hardy and easy to grow – just add sun, water, and encouragement!★

*(TIPS cont. from p.1)* cabinets towards the back. Spices and oils should be in the upper cabinets closest to the stove. Buy some of those small, tiered shelves and line them up neatly so you can see them when you need them. If you have things stored on top of your cabinets, you have too many things! Unless you are over 6 foot, you'll need a ladder to get to these things! Give away that extra stuff!

The garage was invented to store vehicles: cars, motorcycles, bikes, etc. If you are using your garage to store things other than vehicles, you have too much stuff! We all need a place to store *some* things but not in the garage—there is no control over temperature and humidity so it is not conducive to storing furniture, toys, boxes, etc. Use your basement for storing that other stuff and if you have no basement, rent one of those climate controlled storage places that seem to be abundant in every town across America. Better yet, give the stuff to charity! (Here's a list to make it easy)

Some other tips: • Take your draperies down and send them to the cleaners once a year. Open those blinds and clean off those window ledges! Wash your windows twice a year. • Once a year, re-caulk your tubs/showers that are used frequently. For those you don't use at all, make sure you run water down the drains once a month to keep sewer gas from escaping. • Replace your smoke alarm batteries twice a year; better yet, replace the alarms with those that contain rechargeable lithium batteries – you won't have to worry about it for 10 years! • Check your walls and baseboards for dirt and damage. A little paint does wonders for keeping your house looking sparkling and well cared for!★

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## What's Going On?

- Danielle Snyder, one of our part-timers, will be conducting the pit for her very own musical at J.E.B. Stuart HS on April 21 & 22. "A Funny Way to Look at Life" is a comedy about high school drama without the same old stories and stereotyped teens. Dannie has written the play, the music, the lyrics, & the dialogue—come witness the start of a very promising theatrical career.
- Luke Haines, the son of our office manager, Karen, also has that theater bug. He'll portray the role of Sancho in the musical "Man of La Mancha" at Falls Church HS on April 21-23.
- And speaking of Karen, she and fiance Jeff Shumway have set a date. Sunday July 3rd, you'll see their names on the marquee at the State Theatre in Falls Church where they'll tie the knot in true rock'n'roll fashion!
- One of Laura's favorites, the Empty Bowls Charity Event, takes place April 30 at Falls Church HS. Local potters (of which Laura is one) donate ceramic bowls, which guests choose to use during the meal and to keep as a reminder that there are always Empty Bowls in the world. ★

### Area Thrift Stores

- Clock Tower Thrift Store** 703-845-8023  
5503 Leesburg Pike, Bailey's Crossroads
- Clock Tower Thrift Store** 703-237-1910  
2860 Annandale Rd, Falls Church
- Good Will Industries** 703-979-5947  
4714 Columbia Pike, Arlington
- Good Will Industries** 703-769-3711  
10 South Glebe Rd, Arlington
- Good Will Industries** 703-533-1840  
6136-A Arlington Blvd, Arlington
- Joseph's Coat** 703-538-6289  
3022 Annandale Rd, Falls Church
- Pennywise Thrift Shop** 703-938-7062  
144 Church Street NE, Vienna
- Salvation Army** 703-642-9270  
6528 Little River Turnpike, Alexandria
- Second Chance I** 703-533-9268  
4057 Chain Bridge Rd, Fairfax
- Westover Thrift Shop** 703-241-9227  
5906 North Washington Blvd, Arlington

FOR SALE

Fall Properties

www.fallproperties.com  
(703) 536-7000

Ask for **Laura Fall**  
(703)967-9987

HOMES AT THE METRO



**E. Falls Church Metro** – 3 blocks  
Complete renovation with no expense spared. Finishes and materials normally found in million dollar properties. Big bedrooms, fabulous baths, & drop dead gorgeous kitchen. Upper \$700's



**Courthouse Metro** – Forget the car!  
2BR 2BA – Upper deck overlooks county park and ballfields. Enjoy the Clarendon, Courthouse corridor with restaurants, shopping, music and gorgeous neighborhoods. Priced in the \$500's



**West Falls Church Metro**  
Fall out of bed into the Metro  
**INVESTORS SPECIAL!! \$460,000**  
2BR 2BA • Leased till June 2006  
Garage parking, gas fireplace & community pool



**Braddock Road Metro/Del Ray**  
Quintessential Farmhouse  
Excellent renovation still honors its heritage:  
Tin roof, front porch, gorgeous moldings  
Unbelievable garage/workshop in rear – perfect for artists, cabinet shop or machine shop! Available late 2005 in the \$700's



Just listed! **13097 Pilgrims Inn Drive, Woodbridge** • \$600,000  
3 years young 4BR 2.5BA Beazer home w/all the extras  
Gourmet kitchen • Private lot w/huge deck & amazing hot tub!

# Fall Properties

6504 Williamsburg Blvd.  
Arlington, Va 22213

**Laura Fall, CRS**  
Principal Broker/Owner

*www.fallproperties.com*



**703-536-7001**

## CURRENT MORTGAGE INTEREST RATES

<i>30 year fixed</i>	<i>5.875%</i>
<i>15 year fixed</i>	<i>5.375%</i>
<i>30 year Jumbo loan</i>	<i>6.0%</i>
<i>15 year Jumbo</i>	<i>5.5%</i>
<i>5/1 ARM</i>	<i>5.25%</i>
<i>7/1 ARM</i>	<i>5.5%</i>
<i>7/1 Jumbo ARM</i>	<i>5.75%</i>

## INTEREST ONLY LOANS

Becoming a very popular choice for today's buyers – they can afford more house or enjoy lower mortgage payments. Call for more information.

<i>3/1 ARM</i>	<i>5.0%</i>
<i>5/1 ARM</i>	<i>5.375%</i>
<i>Fixed 10/20</i>	<i>6.125%</i>



*On February 18, we celebrated our 1st anniversary at our real estate "home" in Arlington. We are all working hard and having a ball!*

Nothing means more to me than being recommended by the folks who have worked with me before. It is my pleasure to help your friends or colleagues with any real estate needs or questions. I appreciate your confidence and hope that I can continue to earn it –  
Thanks so very much!

*Laura*