

The REAL Arlington

written by JOY BEATTIE | photos by LINDSEY LABELLA

The District doesn't hold title to all our national treasures; cross the bridge and you will find some of the country's most prestigious monuments, including the Pentagon, Arlington National Cemetery, and don't forget the shops and nightlife! Last month, *Neighborhood*

Focus brought you all the excitement of Pentagon City, Crystal City and Shirlington. This month, we take you down the Orange Line: Rosslyn, Courthouse, Clarendon and Ballston. Plus, learn more than you've ever wanted to about Columbia Pike.

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OFF THE PIKE

Columbia Pike is often overlooked, yet is Arlington's original main street. Heading up the Pike, it's easy to see Arlington's past mixing with its present as historic buildings play host to eclectic stores and restaurants, along with apartments and office buildings. If you aren't familiar with the Pike's many El Salvadorian and Peruvian restaurants, you may be familiar with the **Arlington Cinema 'N' Draft House** (2903 Columbia Pike, 703-486-2345). This draft house used to be one of the main movie theaters in Arlington; now, it offers first-rate second-run films and is the only cinema in Arlington to offer customers a place to eat, drink and smoke while watching flicks. Kick up your heels to a salsa beat at **Cecilia's Restaurant and Nightclub** (2619 Columbia Pike, 703-685-0790). Boogie Thursday through Sunday on their huge dance floor—lessons also offered. Want to hide out and pretend you're a little bit country while catching some live acoustic tunes? The best hideaway bar is **Cowboy Café South** (2421 Columbia Pike, 703-486-3467). With great happy hour prices, this is definitely the bar on the corner for those living in this 'hood. Looking for a new hobby? Start collecting new and old comics at **BC Comics** (2617 Columbia Pike, 703-521-6001) or take up biking at **Papillon Cycles** (2809 Columbia Pike, 703-920-9494). The **Ski Chalet of Arlington** (2704 Columbia Pike, 703-521-1700) started out on the Pike in 1969 and provides Arlington with the best ski, snowboard and inline skating equipment available. **Kayak Station** (1041 S. Edgewood St., 703-521-0200) just opened (behind the Ski Chalet). Stay away from Starbucks and head on out to **Rappahannock Coffee** (2406 Columbia Pike, 703-271-0007). This is one great coffee shop—along with a coffee bean roaster and sunny patio, Rappahannock has a pleasant living room setting where you can cozy up to a homemade cappuccino or sandwich. If you're up early on Sunday mornings, check out the **Columbia Pike Home Grown Market** (Columbia Pike & S. Walter Rd., 703-892-2776). This seasonal market offers the best in fresh produce and flowers every Sunday morning from spring to fall. **Bob and Edith's Diner** (2310 Columbia Pike, 703-920-6103), a historic 24-hour diner, is a popular hangout at all hours of the day and can be packed when the bar closes. If sushi's more your style, check out **Matuba Japanese Restaurant** (2915 Columbia Pike, 703-521-2811) for a great selection of Japanese cuisine and Monday night specials where sushi is a dollar apiece. Newcomer **Bangkok 54** (2919 Columbia Pike, 703-521-4070) offers a great Thai menu and also has a full bar with an extensive wine list. Look for cooking classes here soon, although

your homemade treats won't taste the same without the restaurant's lavish decor. Conveniently located next door is their sister market for those recipe ingredients. Sober yourself up after all your indulgence at our nation's most famous graveyard, located at the end of Columbia Pike. **Arlington National Cemetery** (703-607-8000) is open to the public every day of the year and offers tours to its visitors, who can witness the Memorial Amphitheater, the Tomb of the Unknowns, and many other famous burial sites. A short walk away from the border of the cemetery is the Navy Annex and our nation's famous five-sided building, the **Pentagon** (703-697-1776). The Pentagon hosts the Department of Defense and can be viewed by reservation only.

FIRST STOP IN VA

Rosslyn greets visitors with its famous landmarks, views, and attractions. Cross the bridge into Rosslyn and you will find the **Iwo Jima Memorial**, otherwise known as the **Marine Corps War Memorial**, a great place to watch the city lights, picnic with a date, or take in Fourth of July fireworks. Every Tuesday beginning in May, a Marine Corps Sunset parade is performed at 7 p.m., featuring music



and precision drills. Rosslyn is home to many sculptures and works of art that can be found canvassing prestigious office buildings. Check out **Liquid Pixels** (1801 N. Lynn St.), which glistens in the sun, **Cupid's Garden** (Wilson Blvd. & Nash St.), the statue **Anna and David** (1525 Wilson Blvd.), and **Dark Star Park** (1655 N. Fort Myer Dr.). If performance art is up your alley, **Le Neon Theatre** (1601 N. Kent St., 703-243-6366) offers performances in French and English, and the **Rosslyn Spectrum Theatre** (1611 N. Kent St., 703-228-1850) is right next door. Recently renovated last year, this theater also doubles as a conference center. *Jason and the Argonauts*

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is the next upcoming performance held May 5 - June 26. If you've had your fill on culture, it's time to hit up Rosslyn's many eateries. Pool halls and tiki bars collide at **Continental Modern Pool Lounge** (1911 N. Fort Myer Dr., 703-465-7675). Vintage designs mix well in this pool hall/lounge, where open space provides a great place to people watch and the food is a step above average pool hall fare. Munch on perfectly prepared appetizers at **Mezza 9** (1325 Wilson Blvd., 703-276-8999). This hip lounge and restaurant (located in the Hyatt Arlington) is the perfect place to enjoy Mediterranean fare with friends. Traditional Afghan cuisine is presented at **Marcopolau** (1901 N. Fort Meyer Dr., 703-527-5656)—it may look like a converted '70s reception hall (the bar is vintage cool), but their food is great and the patio (think '80s cruise ship furniture) provides a welcome refuge from the crowded establishments in Arlington. Hip crowds and creatures of the sea come together at **Café Asia** (1550 Wilson Blvd., 703-741-0870). Mingle, sip your sake, and take in all the sushi you can muster. Like your fish cooked? Fear not, Café Asia's extensive menus will keep everyone happy, and if all else fails, enjoy cocktails at the sleek bar. Summers mean BBQ and if you are afraid of making a mess at home, head on out to **Red, Hot & Blue** (1600 Wilson Blvd., 703-276-7427). This

chain offers a mix of barbecued delights, sweet tea (!) and a bar. If you like things hot, grab a casual Mexican meal at **Guajillo** (1727 Wilson Blvd., 703-807-0840). This cheerful eatery with great food also has a plethora of tequilas to quench any appetite. Diss the surf and grab some turf at **Ray's the Steaks** (1725 Wilson Blvd., 703-841-7297). Along with a great wine list that complements the menu, Ray's knows their steaks and provides a cozy, neighborhood ambiance to guests. I love pho (Vietnamese noodle soup). It's perfect any time of day and thankfully, Rosslyn houses **Pho 75** (1711 Wilson Blvd., 703-525-7355), where you can get a filling meal and not break your bank. Don't skip out on the Vietnamese Iced Coffee because that's half the fun. **Greenberry's Coffee & Tea** (1737 Wilson Blvd., 703-465-7823) is a cozy coffee shop that started out in Charlottesville. The bright sitting area seems to promote customer interaction and you will frequently find groups chatting over steaming cups of coffee and tea. For family style Italian, visit **Il Radicchio** (1801 Clarendon Blvd., 703-276-2627) and feast with friends for cheap. The feel is similar to someone's country kitchen. Il Radicchio also offers wine and wood-fired pizza that you can make to order. For sporting games, beer and American cuisine, drop in to **Rhodeside Grill** (1836 Wilson Blvd.,

703-243-0145). This neighborhood bar also has live bands and pool tables downstairs, making it a great place to chill with friends. After eating out, the best place to work off the extra calories is at **Gold's Gym - Rosslyn** (1830 Nash St., 703-528-GOLD). With a multitude of classes offered all day, this gym is convenient and it's located in the heart of Rosslyn.



While the market can cause a hassle for drivers trying to park nearby, it is a welcome event for those seeking fresh produce, flowers and more. With its one-stop food, entertainment and residential areas like Arlington Courthouse Plaza, this area means easy living. Catch a flick at the **AMC Theatre** (2150 Clarendon Blvd., 703-998-4262) conveniently located at the Courthouse Metro stop. Dinner and a movie can be purchased at **California Tortilla** (2057 Wilson Blvd., 703-243-4151) if you are looking to save some bucks. Along with a cheerful staff, bright décor, huge patio and lots of '80s music, California Tortilla serves a healthy twist on Mexican. Drive by during the lunch hour and you'll see a line out the door! **Brooklyn Bagel** (2055 Wilson Blvd., 703-243-4442) is the hotspot in

JUDICIAL SQUARE

Courthouse is bustling with commuters and residents alike, thanks to the many restaurants, the courthouse (go figure!) and a mix of old and new apartment complexes. If you find yourself contesting a ticket and don't know where to go, this area is called Courthouse for a reason. The **Arlington County Circuit Court** (1425 N. Courthouse Rd., 703-228-4369) is a prominent feature in Arlington. Once charges are dismissed, don't miss the **Arlington Farmer's Market** (N. Courthouse Rd. & N. 14th St., 703-228-6417), open every Saturday from 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. across from the Courthouse.

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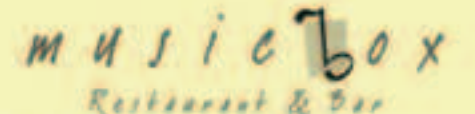
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Arlington for breakfast, even on the weekends when Courthouse slows down. Just walking in can wake you up as you yell your order to the staff and wait in the long lines anxiously. But don't worry, the lines move fast and the well-organized confusion brings the crowd back for more. For a perfect pint of Guinness, visit **Ireland's Four Courts** (2051 Wilson Blvd., 703-525-3600). The patio is open for the season and don't forget to check out the new non-smoking bar. With live Irish music Tuesday through Sunday, Four Courts will have you bringing your friends to take in the fun over a pint. Are blues more your style? Romp around at **Ragtime Bar & Restaurant** (1345 N. Courthouse Rd., 703-243-4003) with friends and enjoy lively music and a covered patio.

Sister restaurant to the Rhodeside Grill, Ragtime has expanded to include a new party room that features a 50" plasma TV and full bar. Ladies, you no longer have to use the men's room when the wait exceeds the normal limit—new bathrooms are finally finished! **Camille's Sidewalk Café** (1515 N. Courthouse Rd., 703-812-8000), a new take-out spot, offers paninis and smoothies. **Dr. Dremo's Taphouse** (2001 Clarendon Blvd., 703-528-4660) provides beer, pool, pub fare, free WiFi, and occasional live music. Specialty brews include the new Chocolate Donut Beer, which would make Homer proud. Outdoor seating in this converted car dealership makes Dremo's a unique watering hole in Arlington. If you can't afford slick sports packages at home, visit **Summers Restaurant** (1520 N.

Plaza. Check out their shaded patio facing an open courtyard and fountain. Don't rush to dessert right away; sip on Thai Iced Coffee and grab one of their many spicy entrees first. If you are a cookie lover you have to grab a snack at **Larry's Cookies** (2200 Clarendon Blvd., 703-524-2590). Along with sushi, **Asahi Japanese Restaurant** (2250 Clarendon Blvd., 703-243-7007) also offers a collection of Korean entrees and an all-you-can-eat lunch buffet. **Music Box** (2300 Clarendon Blvd., 703-841-0100) is up the music lover's alley, featuring a selection of classic rock and R&B that can be played on the lounge's jukebox. This venue favors country, blues and rock, performed live Thursday through Saturday. **Atilla's** (2045 Wilson Blvd., 703-525-7979) is mellow and satisfies those in the mood for traditional Middle Eastern food. This agreeable restaurant provides an excellent gyro or falafel and service is always friendly. **Gua-Rapo** (2039 Wilson Blvd., 703-528-6500) tends to get packed and makes an excellent mojito. Beware the heavy smoke, as hookahs are ablaze at this narrow, velvet-clad lounge. **Gua-Rapo** is the two-story sister bar to **Chi-Cha Lounge**, so it's no surprise that the bar is full of dressed-up drinkers on weekends. If you're in the mood for a new book or CD, **Olsson's Books & Records** (2111 Wilson Blvd., 703-525-3507) is the place to go in Courthouse. **Café Matisse** (2111 Wilson



YOU'LL BE IN RAPO-TURE, FO' SHO.



I DREAM OF DR. DREMO'S...

Courthouse Rd., 703-528-8278), whose satellite-packed roof and flat screen TVs can pick up any game. International soccer fans have been known to line up outside the door in order to get in for the best games. The best fried bananas and homemade red bean ice cream is served at **Sawatdee** (2250 Clarendon Blvd., 703-243-8181), a great Thai restaurant in Courthouse

Blvd., 703-525-4227), located inside the bookstore, and a cute side patio make this a one-stop place for lunch and a fun read. Look out for book signings and readings, as authors stop here for public appearances on occasion. **Euro Market** (2201 Wilson Blvd., 703-351-7700) is another lunch option in Courthouse. This corner deli sells wine, coffee and sandwiches, and has a cute sidewalk patio. **Mr. Hibachi** (2313 Wilson Blvd., 703-524-6548) provides a healthy alternative for all of you that like rice and noodle bowls and are saving your pennies. If you like the sauces used on your meal, you can buy them by the bottle to take home. **Listrani's** (2317 Wilson Blvd.,




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703-526-9300) finally made it to these here parts—hooray! Their gourmet pizzas (and everything else they make—salads, calzones, entrees, etc.) are substantial and soooo tasty ... and are available for eat-in (preferably with a beverage from their bar) or delivery. **Joseph's** has seen its last days to be replaced by another Irish pub, **Kitty O'Shea's** (2403 Wilson Blvd.). This sports-themed restaurant—sister to Molly Malones in Clarendon—will serve Irish-American food.

SEE CLEAR IN CLARENDON

Clarendon is located between Courthouse and Ballston and its main drag(s) includes Wilson and Clarendon boulevards, which run parallel to each other and play host to a great mix of restaurants and retail shops. **Clarendon Farmer's Market** (Clarendon Metro Park, 703-276-0228) provides shoppers with fresh produce, flowers and more every Wednesday from 3-7 p.m. from May to October. **The Market Common - Clarendon** (2800 Clarendon Blvd., 703-807-2922) houses prime real estate, for those that can afford the swank apartments. For those of us not so lucky, we can always visit and shop the **Market Common Shopping Center** (2700 Clarendon Blvd), which houses a bunch of popular stores. Jump on the iPod train and visit **Apple Store** (703-875-9880). Ladies, pick up all the best in bath and body products at **Origins** (703-243-5373), or visit **Ann Taylor Loft** (703-243-0282) and snag some comfy, classic clothes. Drop into **Barnes & Noble** (703-248-8244) and pick up virtually any book or CD. Fun and educational toys fill **Imaginarium** (703-469-3064). Furnish your apartment with **Crate & Barrel** (703-890-2300), **Pottery Barn** (703-465-9425), the **Container Store** (703-469-1560), **Williams-Sonoma** (703-248-8150), and **Vesta Home** (3101 Wilson Blvd., 703-807-1102), a little bit further up the road. Vesta also houses a unique flower shop that is worth checking out. If you want to join the fad and buy your dog a rhinestone collar, sweater or jacket, a.k.a. spot (2622 Wilson Blvd., 703-248-0093)

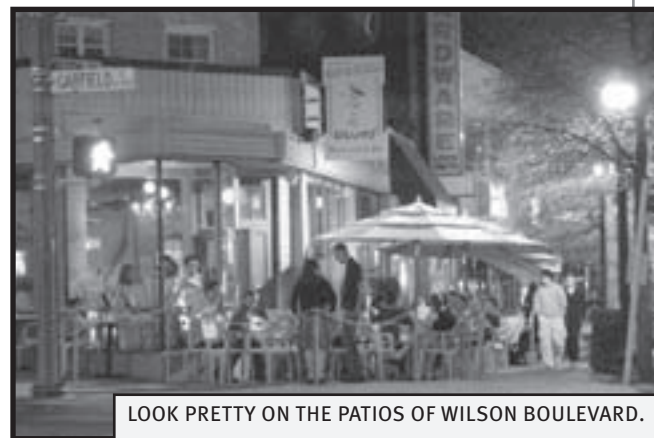


MARKET COMMON IN COMMON.

is the place to go. It's a cool little boutique where you can pamper your pup (or cat!). They also have occasional spa services available ranging from \$65-\$75. Vinyl is all the rage at **Orpheus Records** (3173 Wilson Blvd., 703-294-6774), where thousands of new and used records are just waiting to be played. Sick of walking all over town? It's time to buy a bike at **Revolution Cycles** (2731 Wilson Blvd., 703-312-0007). Their friendly staff and awesome bikes will convert you to a rider in no time. Finding dinner or creating a bar crawl is easy in Arlington with so many options. Satisfy your sweet tooth with ice cream at **Ben & Jerry's** (2800 Clarendon Blvd., 703-243-2455). **Whole Foods** (2700 Wilson Blvd., 703-527-6596) has more than just groceries. Shoppers are faced with great beer and wine, natural and organic food, a café, and free samples of much of the store's merchandise. It's been a long time since I was offered a sample of wine or beer when shopping; I take this as a sign from God and now buy gourmet groceries. This place also has one of the best coffees around, **Allegro**, available by the cup or bag. The Central American blend will convert you. Down the road a little ways are **Hot Shotz Coffee Shop** (3018 Wilson Blvd., 703-465-1200) and **British Goodies & Classic Cigars** (3020

Wilson Blvd., 703-525-6510). These are cool places to buy coffee, tea and fine cigars. Coffee lovers can also go to **Common Grounds** (now called/owned by **Murky Coffee**, but the old sign remains up) (3211 Wilson Blvd., 703-312-7001). Free WiFi, cool people working and writing the day away, great coffee and made-from-scratch baked goods keep 'em coming back. Seats are tough to come by on weekends. Get here early and you might get lucky enough to get a sticky bun. Mmmm ... sticky pecan goodness. A smaller, and funky coffee shop is brewing in **Java Shack** (2507 N. Franklin Rd., 703-527-9556). Individually owned and operated, this is a perfect place for a casual caffeine fix or a relaxing visit on the patio. One perk about this place is that it stays open daily until 10 p.m.! **IOTA Club & Café** (2832 Wilson Blvd., 703-522-8340) rocks, quite literally. This intimate venue is the perfect place to check out live music. It's divided into a cozy and sometimes cramped dining area and a bar. You don't pay a cover when entering the restaurant section, where the food is amazing and considered one of Arlington's best-kept

secrets. For bar food, try their fries and for dinner, go for Seared Ahi Tuna with Wasabi Mashed Potatoes. **Galaxy Hut** (2711 Wilson Blvd., 703-525-8646) may be small, but you can't get closer to a band than at this venue. Absent music, this intimate bar is a good place to grab a meal and chat with friends over a beer—especially a can of PBR! Their pub fare goes great with one of the 15 beers on tap. **Boulevard Woodgrill** (2901 Wilson Blvd, 703-875-9663) is a great restaurant to people watch and enjoy a nice glass of wine. The bartenders are friendly and the dinners are consistently good; try the seasonal fish and take advantage of their patio during the summer. **Faccia Luna** (2909 Wilson Blvd, 703-276-3099) is a hit if you love pizza. With swanky music and an upscale atmosphere, this is a prime stop for lunch or a dinner date. The sunny patio is a great place to enjoy your meal with a beer or a glass of vino. **Mexicali Blues** (2933 Wilson Blvd., 703-812-9352) has a bright, funky atmosphere that matches their food and drinks. Grab a margarita and dine south of the border at this casual and upbeat hangout that offers half-price burritos on Tuesdays. The patio provides a fun place to mingle and doesn't discriminate against those that are solely drinking. Drop into **Lazy Sundae** (2925 Wilson Blvd., 703-525-4960), where you can polish off up to 16 flavors of homemade ice cream! This is a cozy, kid-approved retreat where ice cream floats and brownie sundaes tempt the masses. **Hard Times Café** (3028 Wilson Blvd., 703-528-2233) has chili any way



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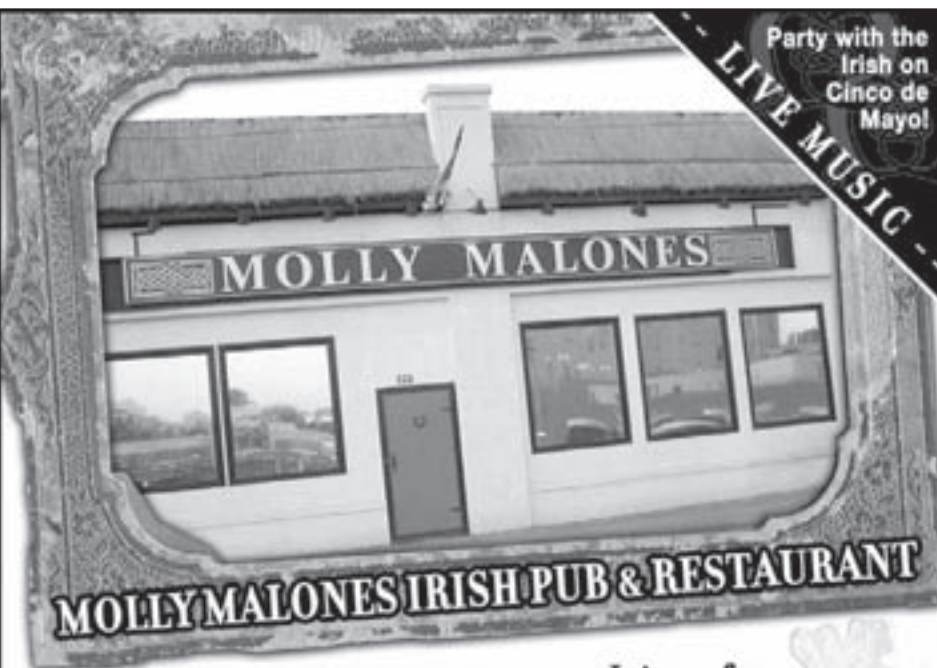
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you want it; hot, meaty or vegan ... it's available here, along with burgers, wings and salad. Dining here is definitely casual, and filling. **Whitlow's On Wilson** (2854 Wilson Blvd., 703-276-9693) is a meat/meet market and fun place to mingle, where the game is in the girls' favor as Arlington's male population vastly outnumbers them. Grab some friends, play some pool, listen to a live band, or chill on the patio. Crowds flock in to enjoy half-priced burgers on Mondays, and Mug night provides a reason to start drinking. You take the good with the bad at **Harry's Tap Room** (703-778-7788), where you will find a multitude of beer and wine available, but a cold atmosphere. The interior has a nice lounge-meets-ski-lodge appeal, but beware the brush off in service. Tapas are oh-so-trendy and are easily accessible at **La Tasca** (2900 Wilson Blvd., 703-812-9120). The atmosphere is cheerful and this proves a great place to meet up with friends. Drink by all means, but I'd avoid the sangria, which needs more zing. Talk with friends over a pint at **Molly Malones** (3209 Washington Blvd., 703-812-0939). This newcomer has created a fan base; everyone loves an Irish bar. The pub is small but cozy, and plans to expand are in the works. Along with beer, Molly's also serves a full menu, including brunch, and has live music in the evenings. **A Taste of Morocco** (3211 Washington Blvd., 703-527-7468) offers a pleasing mix of atmosphere and food sure to impress your dinner date. Along with festive décor and music, belly dancers perform Wednesday to Sunday evenings. **Delhi Club** (1135 N. Highland St., 703-527-5666) is the sister restaurant to Alexandria's Bombay Curry Company and is warm and inviting. I recommend the crab tiki and lamb chops. **Aegean Taverna** (2950 Clarendon Blvd., 703-841-9494) is a great stop for classic Greek cuisine and a unique patio covered in grape vines. It features two party rooms, a full bar stocked with Greek beers and wines, and has live music every Saturday. **Hunan Number One** (3033 Wilson Blvd., 703-528-1177) is a fine choice for authentic Cantonese Chinese (and they are open late!). Dim sum is offered on weekends, and clams on the half shell in black bean sauce are always good. **Little Viet Garden** (3012 Wilson Blvd., 703-522-9686) offers traditional Vietnamese fare. Good summer selections include spring rolls and fresh stir-fry. The beautiful patio is a commodity that anxious patrons vie for all summer long. When you have the urge to grab rotisserie chicken, the place to go is **El Pollo Rico** (932 N. Kenmore St., 703-522-3220). With Peruvian flair, chicken is served with fries, coleslaw and hot sauce. After a night of drinking it's nice to know a big slice of pizza is available at **Mario's Pizza & Subs** (3322 Wilson Blvd., 703-525-

DOS MANOS. MEXICALI'S BURRITOS ARE HEAVY DUTY, AND HALF-PRICE ON TUESDAYS!



0200). This Arlington landmark stays open late—like 3 a.m. weeknights and after 4 a.m. on the weekends. Along with its pizza and subs, Mario's has outdoor tables and you can grab a Carvel ice cream cone and pretend you're a kid all over again. Comfort food is here to stay at the **Silver Diner** (3200 Wilson Blvd., 703-812-8600). Blue-plate specials are all the rage and you can have control over the music for mere pocket change! **Clarendon Grill** (1101 N. Highland St., 703-524-7455) has a cool patio with a full open bar outside. The frequent live bands and packed dance floor attracts a mix of partiers that approach this location for a good time. Along with nightlife, Clarendon Grill features a full menu and has brunch on Sundays. **Mister Days** (3100 Clarendon Blvd., 703-527-1600) is another happening meat/meet market in Arlington. Dance the night away on the dance floor, meet up on game day for viewing, or host the party with individualized event packages. Sister restaurant to Mister Days is **SoBe Seafood Co.** (3100 Clarendon Blvd., 703-528-0033). Relive the fun of South Beach here and don't forget to try the calamari. For nighttime fun, hit up **Clarendon Ballroom** (3185 Wilson Blvd., 703-469-2244), whose rooftop patio means mingling and impressive ballroom cum dance floor is open Wednesday through Friday and can be rented for private events. New spot **Eleventh Street** (1041 N. Highland St., 703-351-1311) is a chic hangout offering a loungey vibe. A Mediterranean-French menu, hip patronage, and wine and cocktail selection mix well here. **Tallula** (2761 Washington Blvd., 703-778-5051) took over the landmark Whitey's and provides Arlington with a fun and swanky place to drink wine and act snooty. You don't have to act snooty, but a lot of its clientele seem to walk in the door to be seen and heard. This is the sister restaurant to Evening Star Café in Alexandria and, expectedly, has a great menu. Enjoy a glass of wine (there are a lot of choices here) or a specially made cocktail (this is the perfect "girl drink" place, as the cocktails are amazing). Feeling cramped? A second bar, hidden in the back, may provide more room. Ah, wine! There are over 350 wines available by the bottle and 65 by the glass at Tallula. Odds are good you liked one of them and want to continue enjoying it at home, so grab a bottle at **Planet Wine**, the adjoining wine store. Taking a step in



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the opposite direction; who doesn't love a good dive bar? **Jay's Saloon & Grille** (3114 N. 10th St., 703-527-3093) has a bunch of locals, no pretension, and a great covered patio that will keep you happy even when it rains. **Royal Lee Bar & Grill** (2211 N. Pershing Dr., 703-524-5493) is a true dive bar where you'll find talkative locals and residents of Fort Meyer, located across the street from the neighborhood bar. This hideout provides pool, live music, cheap beer and pub fare.

ON THE BALL

Ballston offers a lot more than work and housing to Arlington; it's the playground for seasonal street festivals, including the **Annual Taste of Arlington**. This is the 18th year the festival has been celebrated and it's bound to be a good time. The party begins at the intersection of Wilson Blvd. & N. Randolph St. and runs May 15 from 12-5 p.m. Experience food from area restaurants, live music, activities for the kids, and more. Keep fit at Ballston's busy gyms: **Sport & Health Club** (4238 Wilson Blvd., 703-816-8800) and **Gold's Gym** (3910 Wilson Blvd., 703-516-4653). The **Arlington Center for Dance** (3808 Wilson Blvd., 703-522-2414) has four studios and offers dance classes for children and adults at all skill levels. This busy center is also

home to the Center Dance Company, a non-profit company that performs three times a year. The **Arlington Arts Center** (3550 Wilson Blvd., 703-248-6800) has been renovated and continues to provide art classes, workshops for kids and adults, studio spaces, and exhibitions. Gaze at the stars at the **Arlington Planetarium** (1426 N. Quincy St., 703-228-6070) on the first Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. When visiting the planetarium, you can track future celestial events and watch as new star groups appear seasonally. Explore frequent art exhibits at the **Ellipse Arts Center** (4350 N. Fairfax Dr., 703-228-7710). The center's summer exhibition, **The Tour of Arlington Classic Mini-Putter**, runs from June 30-August 14 and is an Arlington-themed nine-hole miniature golf course. **ComedySportz** (4238 Wilson Blvd., 703-486-4242) is hamming it up with live improv comedy performances—plus they offer classes in storytelling and improv. Dinner and a movie can get no easier than hitting up **Regal Cinemas BC 12** (4238 Wilson Blvd., 703-527-9466) and grabbing a bite to eat at one of the many restaurant options in Ballston. Shop any time of day at **Harris Teeter** (600 N. Glebe Rd., 703-526-9100). Aside from the regular grocery items, this 24-hour mega market offers a great selection of fresh produce and wine. (I'm not a wino, I just know where to go to get the good

stuff...) For shopping and more, head out to **Ballston Common Mall** (4238 Wilson Blvd., 703-243-8088). This shopping center houses **Hecht's** (703-524-5100), the first department store built in Arlington. Hecht's will soon become a permanent part of Arlington's history, as plans to change the landmark into a Macy's are in effect. Start the morning off right and grab a cup of coffee and breakfast at **Maureen's Coffee Bean** (4238 Wilson Blvd., 703-522-1650). It overlooks the long lines at Starbucks and the enticing windows at **B. Dalton Bookseller** (4238 Wilson Blvd., 703-522-8822). Another breakfast option is **Manhattan Bagel Company** (4201 Wilson Blvd., 703-524-4020), located outside the mall. For residents in Ballston a 24-hour diner can be a friend in times of need. When you need shortcakes at 4 a.m., **IHOP** (935 N. Stafford St., 703-522-3118) is there. Arlington is full of working professionals that need to eat lunch in a hurry and there are plenty of choices in Ballston. **Eat N Run** (4215 N. Fairfax Dr., 703-243-3433) features organic salads and vegetarian cuisine. **Potbelly Sandwich Works** (4250 Fairfax Dr., 703-807-4100) makes a mean (and cheap) sandwich. Everything about their food is fresh, including homemade cookies and mmm ... yummy shakes! **Booeymonger** (1010 N. Glebe Rd., 703-894-2170) is usually filled with young professionals on their lunch

breaks and it has plentiful patio space. **Food Factory** (4221 N. Fairfax Dr., 703-527-2279) has been known to make your belly and your wallet happy. Crowded and with fresh bread, spicy curries and an assortment of kebabs, it's no wonder why this place is a fave. **Tutto Bene** (501 N. Randolph St., 703-522-1005) has provided traditional Italian cuisine to Arlington for years. Guests can come alone or bring 50 friends, as the restaurant welcomes large parties for special events. Are you a fan of microbrews? Grab a pint at **Rock Bottom Restaurant & Brewery** (4238 Wilson Blvd., 703-516-7688). Your best bang for the buck is \$1 draught night on Wednesday. Wednesday nights are a great way to bump into friends (literally—it gets packed!) and meet new people. If you prefer to drink your beer while watching a game, **Bailey's Pub and Grill** (4238 Wilson Blvd., 703-465-1300) is the place for you. This extremely large pub has more of a restaurant feel, but also boasts a game room, cocktail area set up with checkerboards, and TVs galore. **The Front Page** (4201 Wilson Blvd., 703-248-9990) has some big shoes to fill, as its predecessor in Dupont Circle is somewhat of a D.C. landmark. But it does the job with great food (try the grilled chicken salad, one of the best in town), lively nightlife, and a top-notch patio. Go for Rockin' Wednesdays—after Rock Bottom probably. It's worth waiting in line

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YEAR BUILT: 2000

NUMBER OF UNITS: 219 (comprised of 1BR, 1BR with den, 2BR)

AMENITIES: Apartments feature balconies; fireplaces; full-size, stackable washer/dryer; Corian countertops; stone tile in foyer and kitchen; ceramic tile in bathroom; wall-to-wall carpeting; soaker bath tubs. Building features 24-hour business center, fitness center and concierge; on-site dry cleaners; garage parking; party room; two-tier pool with waterfall.

AVERAGE RENT RANGE: \$1,700-\$2,300

AVERAGE SQUARE FOOTAGE RANGE: 655-1,100 sq. ft.

DESCRIPTION: The Orange Line is gleaming hot these days and one of the area's most sought-after residential corridors. Located within a stone's throw of the Courthouse Metro stop and only minutes from the District is Arlington's 2201 Wilson Boulevard. The address, situated in the midst of a vibrant neighborhood continually claiming new business, retail and residential tenants, is a mid-rise monument to the fusion of timeless elegance with ultra contemporary "high tech" living.

Enter the building and you'll know you're living luxe: Anchored by a central lobby and inspired by contemporary art galleries, the main floor leads to a landscaped central deck with a cascading pool. A grand clubroom, business center and full fitness facility share the ground level with retail neighbors, including a coffee shop. The clubroom's fireplace is inviting during cold snaps, and there is a kitchen for entertaining. A concierge can assist with residents' needs 24 hours a day, and the building is wired for high-speed Internet access. The property's business center is equipped with PCs, a scanner, color printer, fax and color copier—a virtual Kinko's.

Stylish details flank these artfully designed apartments. From the striking black-and-white photography that contributes a sophisticated, and unexpected, gallery atmosphere in the lobby, to distinctive finishes like the Corian countertops in the kitchens, pleasing shapes, colors and textures abound. From the details to the sum total, from the luxurious apartment interiors to the charming public spaces, 2201 is a grand address in the heart of all the action.

NAME: Stephanie Crema

AGE: 25

HOMETOWN: Chicago, IL.

OCCUPATION: Consultant.

HOBBIES: I love to travel, shop, read, try new area restaurants, jog through Georgetown, and in the summer hang out with my friends by the pool.

YEARS LIVED IN CURRENT RESIDENCE: One year.

HOW YOU FOUND WHERE YOU LIVE NOW: I found the community online on the *Washington Post's* website. I then looked at the community's own website and thought that it would be a nice place to live.

WHAT WOULD YOU TELL YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT WHERE YOU LIVE? What I do tell my friends is that this is the place to be. My apartment is beautiful, spacious, and I have more closet space than I need—well, who can ever have too much! The neighborhood that surrounds my apartment is fun and lively. Everything that I need is literally right outside my door. I have a CVS, grocery store, and countless restaurants to go to. It is just a place of convenience and with my busy schedule at work, I couldn't ask for anything more.

FAVORITE THINGS ABOUT THE PROPERTY: My favorite things about the building are: I always have someone to greet me when I come home—we have a 24-hour concierge service that is always friendly; [and] I also enjoy our party room, which I have rented for parties of my own, or sometimes I go there to read and get away from it all.

CLOSEST/BEST GROCERY STORE: Whole Foods in Clarendon.

BEST COFFEE IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD: I love to get coffee at the Cosi directly across the street, or in our party room. We can get free coffee at any time, day or night.

FAVORITE SPOTS TO UNWIND IN THE AREA: There is a small park behind our building which has some benches and is nicely landscaped. It is just behind Wilson Blvd. so it is just far enough away from all the noise. I also enjoy going to Tallula, or Gua-Rapo is just laid-back enough to unwind [in] after a busy day.

BEST PLACE TO GET DRINKS WITH FRIENDS: There are so many to choose from ... I usually wind up going to Harry's Tap Room, Ragtime, Mister Days, Eleventh Street or Café Asia—they have killer mojitos!

NIGHTLIFE: For convenience, we go to Clarendon Grill or Clarendon Ballroom. I also like to go to the Georgetown Waterfront, Modern, Vida, EyeBar, Ozio, and the list goes on.

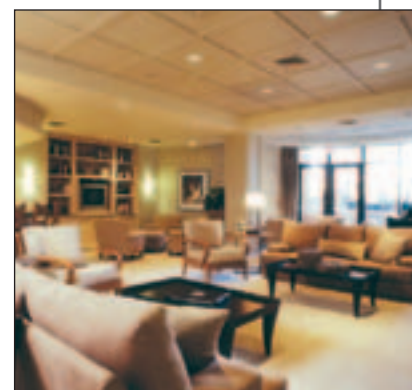
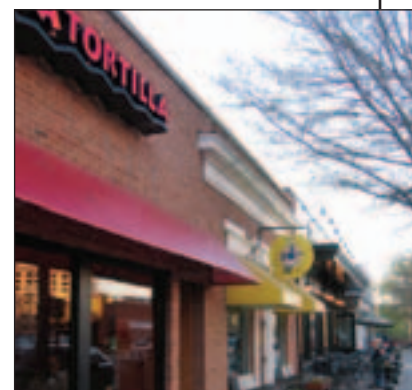
LOCAL SHOPPING: [The] Market Common, which is just a few blocks up the road [in Clarendon], or I enjoy going to Pentagon City or Tysons Corner mall.

GYM: Gold's Gym.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF A TYPICAL DAY FOR YOU: I usually leave for work in the morning and come home at night. At that point I get dinner at one of the close-by restaurants, maybe get a few drinks with friends, watch some television or read a book and go to bed to start it all over again.

IF YOU HAD TO SAY ONE THING ABOUT YOUR HOME AND NEIGHBORHOOD, WHAT WOULD IT BE? Convenient. I am just so close to everything, anything I need is no more than a few steps away. I can grab a bite to eat, catch a movie, get on the Metro to meet up with friends in D.C., or attend the local farmers market on weekends.

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for the cheap beer and burgers, live music and droves of attractive young pros. **Chevy's Fresh Mex** (4238 Wilson Blvd., 703-516-9020) has a casual atmosphere, shaded patio, plenty of tequila, and tasty chips and salsa, making it great for happy hour. **Rio Grande Café** (4301 N. Fairfax Dr., 703-528-3131) also features a hearty Mexican menu with Southwestern flare. The fajitas are sizzling and the tortilla machine is always cranking. **Nouveau East** (703-807-4088) is ready to satisfy your cravings for sushi and tempura, offering Japanese, Chinese, Thai and Vietnamese entrees. **Matsutake Sushi & Steak House** (4121 Wilson Blvd., 703-351-8787) is right around the corner if you want to compare sushi. **Rocklands** (4000 N. Fairfax Dr., 703-528-9663) serves up a flavorful selection of barbecued pork, chicken, beef and ribs. Their barbecue is cooked over hardwood charcoal, infusing the meat with an awesome smoky taste. Afterwards, head into the adjoining pool hall, **Carpool** (4000 N. Fairfax Dr., 703-532-7665). This popular watering hole used to be a garage, if you couldn't guess by looking around the place. Its huge space is decorated with a fun mix of vintage gas station signs, maps and license plates—and there's pool, darts, or a patio to chill on. **Caribbean Breeze** (4100 Fairfax Dr., 703-812-7997) is an elegant newcomer to Ballston from the owner of Malibu Grill and Café Salsa that serves Nuevo Latino cuisine. **Tara Thai** (4001 N. Fairfax Dr., 703-908-4999) soothes with waterfalls and shades of blues and greens throughout the restaurant. Try the chicken satay and crispy whole flounder, and check out the bar, where you'll feel like you are at sea! Control issues? Build your own meal at **Flat Top Grill** (4245 N. Fairfax Dr., 703-528-0078). Outside is an eye catching red and black patio. Inside, customers can pick their noodle/rice, meat, veggies and sauces. **The Melting Pot** (1110 N. Glebe Rd., 703-243-4490) provides the perfect setting for intimate dates or groups of friends that want to get stuffed on the perfect mix of bread, cheese, meat

and chocolate fondue ... not all together hopefully. Portions here are intense. **Metro 29 Diner** (4711 Lee Hwy, 703-528-2464) stays open late and offers more than the traditional diner fare; try one of their Greek specialties. Just off the beaten path is the **Lost Dog Café** (5876 Washington Blvd., 703-237-1552) where you can satisfy pizza cravings. Sure you can order plain old pepperoni, but Lost Dog Café specializes in gourmet options like chicken and artichoke heart. Their sandwiches remain the best in Arlington, and this café is stocked with beer from all over the world. Specialty dog treats are also sold at the take-out counter. Look out for their sis, **Stray Cat**, opening soon in the same strip. The original (and best) **Lebanese Taverna** (5900 Washington Blvd., 703-241-8684) is always packed, and for good reason. The food is amazing, the owners have won tons of awards, and the service is outstanding. Also further afield but worth the jaunt is **Cassatt's** (4536 Lee Hwy., 703-527-3330), one of the area's only Kiwi cuisine destinations. It's a cute coffee shop/cafe/gallery/relaxing pitstop with a great vibe and even better food. **The Italian Store** (3123 Lee Hwy, 703-528-6266) offers the best in Italian groceries and deli fare. Whether you order a pizza or take home a sub, you'll come back for more. I'm partial to the bottles of wine and pre-made individual dinners like baked ziti or homemade lasagna. If you hate to cook and want to impress a dinner date at home, make it look like you slaved and buy everything here.



This may all look pretty in ink, but don't take my word for it. Get out and experience all Arlington has to offer!

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