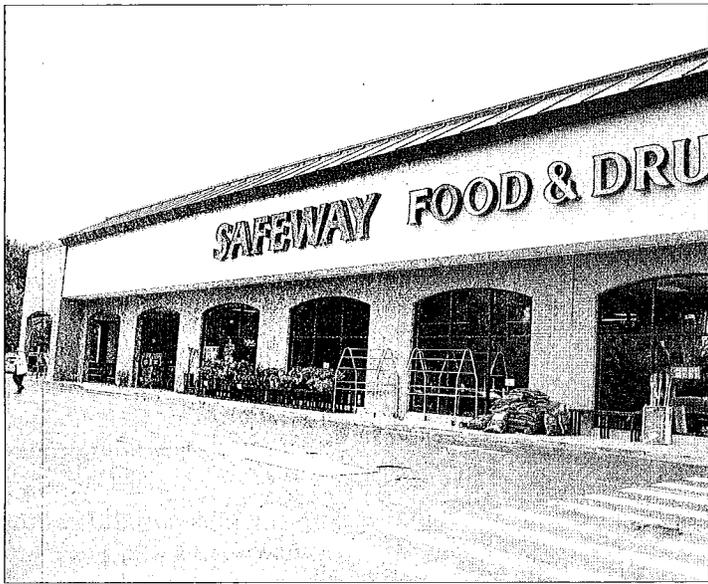


## Grocery shopping to become an experience



Photograph by Gretchen Fallon.

We may soon see a major revamping of the nearby Safeway store on King Street, beside Bradlee shopping center (although no dates are yet known). The City of Alexandria has held two public meetings to assess community interest and discuss what regulatory or zoning changes would be required, and last month the Seminary Hills Civic Association hosted a Safeway spokesperson to describe renovation plans for the store. The new and improved Safeway is part of the company's nationwide rebranding campaign that has invested more than \$100 million to redevelop existing stores into the "Lifestyle" format. Renovating older, smaller locations often involves building a new two-story store.

The rehabbed Safeway would include a heavy re-design of store layout, as well as "an earth-toned décor, subdued lighting, custom flooring, and unique display features to impart a warm ambiance that enhances the shopping experience," according to company marketing materials. Lifestyle-format stores often include expanded service departments, such as floral, produce, meat and seafood, an in-store center and café for prepared foods, and an in-store bakery with a café. The re-design focuses on facilitating recipe building and cross-merchandising items, using new fixtures (étagères and cube units) to present related items together from all areas of the store. For example, a display in the meat department might feature a grilling theme, complete with cooking tools, cook books, wines, and accompanying graphics. Lifestyle Safeways have seen significantly higher average weekly sales than the company's other stores.

## Local garden benefits AFAC

When you walk or drive past the fire station, cast an admiring eye to the Plot against Hunger vegetable garden growing apace in the strip of land just north of the bridge. Until three years ago, the plot was idle, sun-baked grass; now the garden produces vegetables—tomatoes, squash, okra, green beans, radishes, beets, turnips, and more—for the Arlington Food Assistance Center. The space is donated by landowner, Abingdon Partners, LLC, and the garden is cultivated by Grace Community Church and Corinthian Contractors. You'll see their volunteer gardeners watering and working the soil most days; on occasion they're joined by Fairlington neighbors who stop by to lend a green thumb. For more information about AFAC's PAH program, go online to [afac.org](http://afac.org).



The well-tended vegetable garden near the firehouse is a Plot against Hunger, benefiting the Arlington Food Assistance Center. Photographs by Gretchen Fallon.

### Saturday and Sunday Farmers Market drivers, helpers needed

AFAC needs drivers and helpers to pick up fresh produce at the close of farmers markets at Courthouse and Columbia Pike locations. Saturday at Courthouse, 2100 Clarendon Blvd.: Start at AFAC at 11:20 am, market closes at noon, return to AFAC by 1 pm. Sunday at Columbia Pike, Columbia Pike and Walter Reed Dr.: Start at AFAC at 12:20 pm, market closes at 1 pm, return to AFAC by 2 pm.

In order to qualify as a driver, you must feel comfortable driving the AFAC work van. Drivers must interview with AFAC staff and provide a copy of driver's license and DMV record. Drivers and helpers should be able to lift 30 to 40 pounds continuously and withstand summer temperatures. A minimum once-a-month commitment from now through November is preferred. For more information, contact [Puwen.lee@afac.org](mailto:Puwen.lee@afac.org).