

Par Hair Design Celebrates 20 Years in the Williamsburg Shopping Center

Congratulations to Par Salehi, proprietor of Par Hair Design in the Williamsburg Shopping Center, who in May will celebrate 20 years of owning her own business right here in our neighborhood.

"These past 20 years have been the most beautiful chapter of my life," beamed Par, in sharing the pride she feels at having accomplished such a meaningful goal.

Par opened the salon in 1993 after having styled hair for 11 years at a salon called Clip Joint in Falls Church. She was confident about opening her own business since she had built up an enormous client base – all of whom followed her. Today she serves 2,300 clients, 80 percent of whom have been regulars for five years or more.

"She is beyond fabulous at what she does, and besides that is sweet, kind, and has a wonderful heart," said Liz O'Connell, a 15-year customer who lives in the Arlington East-Falls Church Civic Association. "I have standing appointments weeks in advance because she has more work than she can handle."

For those who haven't met Par, she is one ball of energy. She arrives at the hair salon every morning at 7:00 a.m., takes a brisk walk in the neighborhood for exercise, freshens up, and then is on her feet working on clients' hair for 12 to 14 hours a day, six days a week.

But she doesn't view her work as work. "This is the joy of my life! It's a hobby, and every one of my clients is like a member of my family. I take joy in their happiness and share tears in their sadness," she said.

Par employs just one other stylist – Maitram Nguyen, who in addition to cutting hair, is enrolled in a Master's program in telecommunications and networking at George Mason University. "I plan to keep working with Par as long as she is in business," said Matram.

Reflecting on her past 20 years, Par says that the secret to her success has been "faith, joy, peace and love."



Par smiles as she styles a client's hair on a recent Saturday afternoon. The client says that Par is very talented and that her prices are reasonable for the services performed. Readers of Angie's List agree wholeheartedly. The site recently presented Par with an award congratulating her on her numerous positive reviews.

"I can't express how much appreciation I have for all of my clients who have supported me," she added. "I started styling hair at the age of 12 and knew this was my life's dream."

Arlington Magazine Features W'burg Neighborhood in March/April Edition

The Williamsburg community was featured as one of 10 great neighborhoods in the Arlington/Falls Church/McLean area in the most recent edition of Arlington magazine. According to the piece, our neighborhood has flown under the radar for some time, but we now have had more new homes built (120 in the past decade) than any other neighborhood in Arlington, thanks to the size of the lots, which are around 10,000 feet – large by Arlington standards. One realtor compared our growth to the U Street corridor of DC because properties remain more affordable than in other Arlington locations.

In addition to the affordable lots, great schools and the "quaint Williamsburg Shopping Center," the profile says that history buffs appreciate that Williamsburg preserves a bit of Civil War territory. "Minor Hill is named for a hill where Union troops built an observation tower and performed hot air balloon ascensions to gain intelligence about Confederate troop movements in Fairfax County," the article says.