



# Old Town Village Crier

March

Old Town Village, Alexandria, Virginia

2015

## From the OTVOA Board of Directors

Steve Lindblom, OTVOA Secretary/Treasurer



[blog.discoveryeducation.com](http://blog.discoveryeducation.com)

After the big February snow and freeze we are finally into March where the clocks spring forward on March 8, the sun comes up earlier and shines longer, and the temperatures WILL go back up! We are more than ready!

Though there was no board meeting in February, some good things happened at the committee level. Grounds & Services (G&S) completed the tree trimming of our larger trees and organized a very efficient and timely snow removal process. A big "Thank You!" goes to Debbie McMahon, acting for Pete CuvIELLO, for coordinating this effort! Please check the committee reports for details on other important on-going projects, such as the new vehicle decals & guest passes and the upcoming St. Patrick's Day party.

Our Community Managers from Legum and Norman, Hilary Lape

and Ron Purdy, presented a thorough training session for the board and committee chairs. They provided us with a logical method to look at issues and ways to clarify personal responsibilities in many cases. Thanks, Hilary & Ron, for your drive and efforts to make our community even better!

The Finance Committee will be reviewing the 2014 Year End financials as well as the January financials during the first weeks of March. This will be a busy time for them as they confirm and possibly make recommendations for adjustments as we move further into 2015. (Please try and keep the noise down as they count and study!!)



[zazzle.com](http://zazzle.com)

The next scheduled board meeting will be on **March 16 at 7:00 pm**. The OTVOA requirement for board meetings is one per quarter, so stay tuned for updates as our board continues to try to reduce unneeded meetings.

## Communications

Pat Street, Committee Chair

Distribution of the **2015 OTV Residents' Directory** to residents of the Townhomes will take place:

- March 16, just prior to the board meeting @ 6:30 pm
- In conjunction with distribution of new parking decals and guest passes at the Roundhouse on:
  - » April 16, 7:00 to 9:00 pm
  - » April 25, 10:00 am to noon
- Or, if you would like to pick up a directory before then, send an email to Ann Lindblom at [lindblom@comcast.net](mailto:lindblom@comcast.net).

Two **vehicle registration forms** have been added to the website – an online form that can be filled in and submitted electronically, and a .pdf form to download and submit by mail or email. Both forms are linked from the Safety and Security webpage; the online form is also available by clicking *Forms* under the *Resource Center* tab or clicking on the decal distribution alert over the website's main menu. If you submit your form online via the website, a copy will be sent to Safety and Security, to Ron Purdy (our community manager), and emailed back to you. Then all that's left to do is to pick up your parking decals and guest passes on April 16 or 25. See Page 3 for more detail.

Board agendas and minutes can also be easily and quickly accessed by clicking the board meeting alert over the website's main menu.

## Community Outreach

Priscilla Hardiman, Activities Committee Outreach

### Carpenter's Shelter



In March we will collect **peanut butter and jelly** for the Carpenter's Shelter. Please leave your donations in the box in the Roundhouse. Thanks.

### Community Lodgings

Community Lodgings is accepting small household kitchen items (glasses, cookware, dishes and food storage containers) only. Please leave your items in the designated box in the Roundhouse. Thanks for helping.



**TOWNHOME RESIDENTS  
MUST SUBMIT  
a 2015 Vehicle Registration  
to receive new car decals  
& guest passes!**

See **Communications** this page & **Safety & Security Page 3** for additional detail.

**Activities Committee**

Dani Lane & Betsy McCormack, Committee Co-Chairs



Don't forget to wear your green to the Roundhouse on **Sunday evening, March 15th**, to celebrate St. Patrick's Day with the neighborhood! Be watching for the flyer with all the details, which will be arriving at your door soon!

**Architectural Review Board**

Todd Moorman, Committee Chair

Benjamin Franklin is quoted as saying "The doors of wisdom are never shut." If you agree with Ben, the Architectural Review Board hopes you are receptive to our thoughts and observations regarding, well, doors.

Door handles, locks, door knockers, doorbell buttons, street numbers and front door kick plates throughout the OTV townhome community are starting to show their age. While many residents have nicely maintained or even replaced some of these items above, many of us have not and we should really take a close look as spring approaches. The "before" and "after" photos below may motivate you to replace your door hardware. What a difference!



Rear street numbers above our garages fall into this category, too, and some are looking a little neglected: chipped paint, broken or missing numbers, etc.

Changes to door hardware are allowed, provided it is similar to the original hardware installed by the developer.

A storm or screen door is allowed in the townhomes, provided that the door is a metal frame type with maximum glass insert. The color of the frame should match or be coordinated with the color of the home entrance. Brass trim should be used to match the trim of the main door. Explicitly ruled out are wooden doors, doors with a grid insert or metal strip at half height, non-black doors that don't match the color of the main door, doors with Plexiglas insert, etc. ARB approval is required for storm door installations.

Now is also an ideal time to paint both the interior and exterior of the front door. Take an honest look at the door frame and trim while you're at it. Is your welcome mat worn out? Even if you're not especially gifted in home repairs, most of these items are relatively inexpensive and can be replaced by the homeowner.

Pretty soon you've beautified a public space that welcomes friends and neighbors to your home. Ol' Ben would approve!

**Management**

Jim Larocco, Committee Chair

Old Town Village's joint Management Committee is pleased to report that our projects related to the pool, spa and patio are ahead of schedule and should be ready well before of the opening of the pool season. Most visible will be the freshly painted patio furniture, the new umbrellas on both the patio and pool deck, and the new chairs and chaise lounges on the deck. Less visible, but important nonetheless, will be the repaired outdoor shower, the repaired pool filter and the leak proof spa.



We also want to note that for the first time, there will be a defibrillator available at all times for the lifeguard to use in appropriate emergencies. He has been fully trained on use of the equipment, and repeated studies show that these devices are now technologically so advanced that they are indeed easy to use and highly effective at saving lives.

How do you know when offices & businesses are shut down for snow? When our fitness room is "Standing Room Only". On February 17, at 1:15 pm, every piece of equipment in the fitness room was being used and several people were patiently waiting for their turn to keep fit. Nothing like a snow day to get the heart rate up and burn off some winter calories!



vegancinephile.com

By the time this is published in the Crier, you should see a new, heavy duty, metal container for the wipes installed in the fitness room. As a reminder, please use the hand sanitizer as you enter the fitness room before working out, wipe down equipment after use, and please don't forget to wipe the remote control as well. I suspect more bacteria is spread via that remote than from any of the equipment.

- Jim Larocco (Chair), [rocca-rocco@usa.net](mailto:rocca-rocco@usa.net) (Townhomes)
- Andy Caldwell, [ac04@aol.com](mailto:ac04@aol.com) (Condominiums)
- Bruce Goldhirsch, [bruce.goldhirsch@yahoo.com](mailto:bruce.goldhirsch@yahoo.com) (Townhomes)
- Priscilla Hardiman, [robertpris@aol.com](mailto:robertpris@aol.com) (Townhomes)
- Jerry Lipson, [lojer7747@aol.com](mailto:lojer7747@aol.com) (Condominiums)
- John Prevar, [johnprevar@hotmail.com](mailto:johnprevar@hotmail.com) (Condominiums)

## Safety & Security

Steve Cragg, Committee Chair

**PARKING:** Distribution of the new townhome parking decals and car guest passes has been pushed back to April 16th. Any vehicle not displaying the decals or guest passes after a brief grace period may be ticketed. This effort is being undertaken because, over the years, information detailing which decals/passes belongs to which resident has been lost.

To receive your new parking decals, you must fill out a form with your contact information, as well as information about your vehicles. The completed form must be sent to Ron Purdy of Legum & Norman by mail, email, fax or online. Ron's contact information is on the form.



game-board.blogspot.com

There are several methods for obtaining the form:

- All townhome residents will receive an **email** with a link to the form, which provides instructions on how to obtain your new parking decals and guest passes. Print, complete and return the form per instructions.
- If you do not have email or if you prefer to submit the information the old fashioned way, **paper** forms are available in the Roundhouse foyer.
- In addition, a similar electronic form may be filled out on the OTVOA **website** by clicking [here](#).

Parking decals and guest passes will be distributed at the Roundhouse on Thursday, **April 16** between **7 and 9 pm**. Residents may come to the Roundhouse on this date and time with filled out forms to receive their decals/passes. But it will be more efficient if forms are completed and returned to Ron prior to the distribution date. Please avoid filling out forms at the distribution session as this will greatly delay the process. A follow up distribution session will be held between **10 and 12 on Saturday, April 25**.

**LIGHTING:** Residents continue to improve lighting in darkened areas of our community. The dark areas of the alleys are much improved due to the distribution of free lights for the below-deck exterior lights. These lights are bright but also very energy efficient (14 Watts). They have automatic light sensors that are built-in and thus turn on at dusk and turn off at dawn. Just leave your light switch "on" all the time and the light takes care of the rest. If you want one, call Steve Cragg (703-535-1123) and he will provide you with free lights, which you can install or he will install for you.

Please alert Steve of dark areas in the alleys or elsewhere in your vicinity if you notice them.

**ATTEMPTED BREAK-IN:** An unsuccessful break-in was attempted at a townhome on S. Henry St. while residents were away. Pry marks were found on the outside front door. The townhome did not appear to have been entered as nothing was found missing. Police were summoned and areas around the pry marks were dusted for fingerprints. No one has been apprehended at this time. Please report home or car break-ins or parcel thefts to the police. In this instance, the non-emergency police numbers (703-746-4444 and 703-746-1870) were answered only by a recording, but the residents did get through by calling 911. In the event of a break-in, attempted or otherwise (including cars), or parcel thefts outside homes, first call police, then inform a member of the Safety and Security Committee (Steve Cragg: 703-535-1123 or Jim Larocco: 703-684-1984). Home security systems may be installed by vendors such as C&C Homations (301-670-9775) or ADT (877-736-2558). Other security services are available on the Web by searching "home security services."

For many years, the two cut throughs on Duke and Henry Streets have been used by unwanted intruders to elude police and to steal packages from the rear of a residence. The police have recommended planting thorn bushes in the cut throughs to prevent intruders from using these entry and escape routes. The SSC decided to make a formal request to the OTVOA Board to instruct the OTVOA Grounds & Services Committee to contract for the planting of these bushes. In addition, motion sensor lights may be installed to illuminate the cut throughs when someone enters and thus further deter use by non-residents.



If residents have any questions, please contact

- **Steve Cragg** by phone (703-535-1123 ) or email at [st-cragg@aol.com](mailto:st-cragg@aol.com) or
- **Jim Larocco** by phone (703-684-1984) or email at [rocco-rocco@usa.net](mailto:rocco-rocco@usa.net).



**Hey! This is IMPORTANT...**

### TOWNHOME RESIDENTS ONLY

**New parking decals and guest passes required after April 16, 2015!**

See **Safety & Security (above)** for details on how to obtain yours via email, website or plain ole paper.

New decals/passes **distributed at the Roundhouse on April 16, 7-9 pm; or April 25, 10 am-12 pm.**

**Short grace period before ticketing, so get your new decal now!**

**For more OTVOA Townhome news & information, visit the community web site:**  
[oldtownvillage.org](http://oldtownvillage.org)



<b>OTVOA Townhome 2015 Board of Directors</b>	
<b>President</b>	Gary Jacobs 703-717-9541 <a href="mailto:garyjacobs100@gmail.com">garyjacobs100@gmail.com</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	Tom Lane 703-549-7676 <a href="mailto:thomasflane@gmail.com">thomasflane@gmail.com</a>
<b>Secretary/Treasurer</b>	Steve Lindblom 703-395-9392 <a href="mailto:steve.lindblom@comcast.net">steve.lindblom@comcast.net</a>
<b>Committee Chairpersons</b>	
<b>Activities</b>	Dani Lane, Co-Chair 703-549-7676 <a href="mailto:dlaneint@yahoo.com">dlaneint@yahoo.com</a> Betsy Aitken, Co-Chair 703-739-6738 <a href="mailto:betsymccormack@comcast.net">betsymccormack@comcast.net</a>
<b>Architectural Review Board</b>	Todd Moorman 703-836-7760 <a href="mailto:toddmoorman@comcast.net">toddmoorman@comcast.net</a>
<b>Communications</b>	Pat Street 703-888-0381 <a href="mailto:streetpg@comcast.net">streetpg@comcast.net</a>
<b>Safety &amp; Security</b>	Steve Cragg 703-535-1123 <a href="mailto:stcragg@aol.com">stcragg@aol.com</a>
<b>Finance</b>	Greg Street 703-888-0381 <a href="mailto:streetgj@comcast.net">streetgj@comcast.net</a>
<b>Grounds &amp; Services</b>	Peter CuvIELlo 703-684-0455 <a href="mailto:cuvIELlo@usa.net">cuvIELlo@usa.net</a>
<b>Hardscape</b>	John Roe 703-837-0317 <a href="mailto:jroe4@att.net">jroe4@att.net</a>
<b>Management Committee</b>	Jim Larocco 703-684-1984 <a href="mailto:rocca-rocco@usa.net">rocca-rocco@usa.net</a>
<b>Welcome</b>	Jerri Ginman 571-970-2275 <a href="mailto:jerriginman@yahoo.com">jerriginman@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Book Club</b>	George Bartman, Co-Chair 703-683-8808 <a href="mailto:georgebartman@comcast.net">georgebartman@comcast.net</a> Heidi Plott, Co-Chair 703-836-1736 <a href="mailto:hjp319@earthlink.net">hjp319@earthlink.net</a>
<b>Young Families Organization</b>	Meredith Harris <a href="mailto:meredith.a.harris@gmail.com">meredith.a.harris@gmail.com</a> 615-498-4040
<b>Community Manager</b>	
<b>Legum &amp; Norman</b>	Ron Purdy 703-970-8827 <a href="mailto:rpurdy@legumnorman.com">rpurdy@legumnorman.com</a>

**Book Club**

George Bartman & Heidi Plott, Club Co-Chairs

Our February meeting discussed *The Goldfinch*, by Donna Tartt, and was facilitated by George Bartman who also hosted the soiree. This great doorstop of a novel at 800 pages won the 2014 Pulitzer Prize for fiction. The plot combines a heart-rending coming-of-age story with a compelling thriller. The Goldfinch has been called a modern classic, which, like the painting the title refers to, will endure the test of time and bring pleasure to readers for many years to come. Our frigid weather seems to have made us a bit cranky however, as we awarded only three stars out of five to this enriching read.

shutuptheadcliff.wordpress.com



Our next selection is *Star Spangled Banner: The Unlikely Story of America's National Anthem*, by Marc Ferris. We will meet on **March 17 at 7 pm** at the home of Bob Hardiman. Please let us know if you plan to attend.

The OTV Book Club maintains a page on the townhome website which contains all the information about this year's book selections and schedule. Please refer to [www.oldtownvillage.org/Page/12200~65555](http://www.oldtownvillage.org/Page/12200~65555).

**Townhome Welcome**

Jerri Ginman, Committee Chair

Please welcome to Old Town Village townhomes **Chris, Jay, Audrey, and Josephine Pozzi**, our newest residents who have recently arrived to their new home at 333 South Fayette Street. Chris is a member of the Royal Australian Air Force and will be representing his country at the Pentagon. Daughters Audrey and Josephine are meeting other children their ages through the OTV Young Families Group. Please give the Pozzi family a warm greeting if you see them in the neighborhood! Welcome!



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marriageadvocates.com

Jerri, Lisa, Freda, Janie, Connie, Joan, Debby, Patty, Welcome Committee

**Young Families Group**

Meredith Harris, Group Chair

We had a wonderful January meeting that was all about Australia Day! Thank you to Lucy Carr for hosting & educating all of us on things "down under"! Bi-weekly meetings have been suspended until the weather warms up, but come join us at the Roundhouse on **March 12 at 3:30** for some fun! Email [Meredith Harris](mailto:Meredith Harris) to be on our email list.



# Condominium Happenings

**With Reserve Study  
Our Board Plans  
Ahead**



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**Board Vacancy**



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**Thanks From the  
Grounds Committee!**



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**Heads-Up on  
Hot Water Heaters**



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**From the OTVCUOA Board of Directors**

The OTVC Board of Directors' February 17 meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. The next board meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 10 at 7 pm** in the Roundhouse.

**Replacement Reserve Study**



In the near future the board plans to enter into a contract for the completion of a replacement reserve study. The last Old Town Village Condominium Replacement Reserve Report 2013 was completed on November 12, 2012. The purpose of the study is to provide the association with an inventory of the common community facilities and infrastructure components that require periodic replacement. The study includes a general view of the condition of these items and an effective financial plan to fund projected periodic replacements.

Of note, the Virginia Condominium Act requires condominium associations to conduct a study at least once every five years to determine the necessity and amount of reserves required to repair, replace and restore its capital components.

This year's study needs to be a Level 1 Full Replacement Reserve Study due to the fact that the last two studies that were done in September 2007 and November 2012 were both Level 2 updates. The board plans to ask the company that is selected to do the study to add some of the more costly maintenance items to the reserve study, i.e., painting of building interiors, tree trimming, etc. By including some of the maintenance items, the board feels that the association will be in better position to plan and budget for these types of expenditures.

**Interior Painting of Hallways and Lobbies**



The interior painting project has gone extremely well and is progressing ahead of schedule. Many residents feel that the paint design brings a more contemporary look to the affected areas. The board plans on following through with a couple of other recommendations made by Chic Creative, the OTVC design consultant on

this project, namely:

- Changing the hallway lighting to better modernize the overall appearance and
- Installation of a small security mirror in the corner adjacent to the mailbox receptacles.

The board also plans on replacing all of the emergency exit and elevator signs in order to better complement the overall interior renovation.

**Balcony Renovation**



Mr. Steve Turner from Building Envelope Consultants and Scientists LLC (BECS) recently arranged for a "pre-bid" meeting with six of the pre-approved potential contractors who might be selected to do the actual work on some of the building's wooden balconies. The meeting was on site and included a walk through of some balconies. Mr. Turner, Mrs. Cornwell, OTVC Board President Cheryl Van Coverden and representatives from the six companies attended the meeting. The group was very appreciative to those unit owners who were willing to allow the group access to their units, which enabled inspection of different balconies on the upper floors of the building.

The Request for Proposals (RFP) for this project calls for bids to be submitted by February 23. Next steps in the project will be 1) a recommendation by BECS to the board on which firm should do the work and 2) a final determination by BECS and the board as to which components of the project should be undertaken. A copy of the Request for Proposals, which includes the project specifications, will be put on the Associations' web site once a firm has been selected.

**Board Vacancy**

The board has accepted the resignation of Board Secretary Michelle Stark, effective February 27, 2015. Michelle and Richard have sold their unit in preparation for transitioning toward retirement. Michelle has been a real asset to the board and the community and she will be truly

**Board of Directors** Continued on next page

**Board of Directors** Continued from previous page

missed. We wish them both the best of luck in the future. As a result of Michelle's resignation, we currently have an opening for a new board member. The OTVC Board holds monthly meetings and occasionally may have an ad hoc meeting. If you are



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interested in serving on our board, please send your resume to our GHA Portfolio Manager, Carolyn Cornwell at [CCornwell@ghacm.com](mailto:CCornwell@ghacm.com) or to Board President, Cheryl Van Coverden at [cvancoverden@gmail.com](mailto:cvancoverden@gmail.com) by **March 9, 2015**. The new board member will be selected by the board at a special meeting

that will take place immediately before the board's March meeting on Tuesday March 10.

The next regular board meeting will be held on **Tuesday, March 10** at 7 pm in the Roundhouse.

**Grounds**

Pam Verick Committee Chair



forums.gardenweb.com

As Mother Nature practices her wintry ways, we begin with a thank you to the informal community "shovel brigade." We appreciate all those who dug themselves, and their neighbors, out of the freshly plowed snow! Special wishes to the secret shoveler who cleared a path to and down the cemetery stairs for two-legged and four-legged pedestrians alike. And speaking of paws, McFall & Berry confirmed that pet-friendly salt is being used on our walkways.

With whispers of a warm Spring beckoning in the weeks ahead, the Grounds Committee will be meeting in March (date TBD) to start planning for activities that will help us gain a fresh perspective on our plantings now that trees have been trimmed and bright sunshine will be streaming in new locations throughout our community.

In the meantime, stay well and stay warm as we wind down the season with a few more days of snow and ice!

**Next OTVCUOA  
Condominium Board  
Meeting**

*Just a friendly reminder...*

**Tuesday, March 10  
7 pm  
Roundhouse**



iblogoakville.com

**OTVCUOA Condominium  
2015 Board of Directors**

<b>President</b>	Cheryl Van Coverden 301-466-8881 <a href="mailto:cvancoverden@gmail.com">cvancoverden@gmail.com</a>
<b>Vice President</b>	Bradley Russell 571-201-2363 <a href="mailto:plugpilot@yahoo.com">plugpilot@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Michelle Stark 571-970-0241 <a href="mailto:michellewstark@gmail.com">michellewstark@gmail.com</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Antonella DiLernia 301-249-4930 <a href="mailto:missanto1@yahoo.com">missanto1@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Member-at-Large</b>	Dan Hawkins 703-548-4346 <a href="mailto:danhawkins@comcast.net">danhawkins@comcast.net</a>

**Committee Chairpersons**

<b>Management Committee</b>	Jim Larocco 703-684-1984 <a href="mailto:rocca-rocco@usa.net">rocca-rocco@usa.net</a>
<b>Condominium Editor &amp; Crier Layout</b>	Janet Donahue 703-548-7991 <a href="mailto:nadamas@erols.com">nadamas@erols.com</a>
<b>Website</b>	Rene Shonerd 703-518-4475 <a href="mailto:rshonerd@comcast.net">rshonerd@comcast.net</a>
<b>Grounds</b>	Pam Verick 703-299-8811 <a href="mailto:pvstone@comcast.net">pvstone@comcast.net</a>
<b>Welcome</b>	Alexis Zaloudek 617-680-6549 <a href="mailto:aczaloudek@gmail.com">aczaloudek@gmail.com</a>

**Portfolio Manager**

<b>GHA / TMP Coordinator</b>	Carolyn Cornwell 703-752-8300 <a href="mailto:ccornwell@ghacm.com">ccornwell@ghacm.com</a>
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**VILLAGE CRIER**

Old Town Village  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
March, 2015

Published monthly for the benefit of owners & residents of Old Town Village Townhomes & Condominiums and available on the websites.

Send photos, articles, information by the **20th** of each month to:  
**Townhomes** - Janie Smith at [jsmith4418@aol.com](mailto:jsmith4418@aol.com)  
**Condominiums** - Janet Donahue at [nadamas@erols.com](mailto:nadamas@erols.com)

Layout: Janet Donahue  
(703) 548-7991  
[nadamas@erols.com](mailto:nadamas@erols.com)



# END NOTES



**All events are held in the Roundhouse unless otherwise noted.**

### MONTHLY & \*SPECIAL EVENTS!\*

Day	Time	Event
9		Deadline to submit resume for vacant OTVC Board position
10	7:00 pm	Condominium Board Meeting
12	3:30 pm	Young Families Group
15		St. Patrick's Day Party! Watch for flyer!
16	7:00 pm	Townhome Board Meeting
17	7:00 pm	Book Club Host: Bob Hardiman

### WEEKLY EVENTS

Day	Time	Event
Tuesdays	1:30 pm	Mah Jong
Fridays	7:00 pm	TGIF!!

### UPCOMING EVENTS MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Date	Event
4/16 & 4/25	2015 parking decals & guest passes distributed (Townhomes only)

#### Mah Jong Club at the Roundhouse!

Even if you've never played before, we'll be happy to teach you the in's and out's. We're very easy-going and enjoy chatting as we play, so don't worry about a high-stress situation.

We play Tuesdays at 1:30 pm in the Roundhouse. You can just show up or if you have questions, email [Shannon Collins](mailto:Shannon.Collins).

Hope to see you soon!



#### IMPORTANT HOT WATER HEATER NEWS!

If you haven't heard by now, here's some important information, which might affect you if you are considering replacing your hot water heater.

The new regulations mean the physical units will be larger, thus presenting potential problems for homeowners replacing their hot water heaters currently operating in tight spaces.

In an effort to improve efficiency, the National Appliance Energy Conservation Act (NAECA) will impact the design and efficiency of new water heaters. These new government mandated water heater regulations will start on **April 16th, 2015**. This means that all products *manufactured* after this date must meet the new regulations.



Heaters *manufactured* before 16 April 2015 may be of the current type and may be installed *if they are still available*.

While OTV is not providing any commercial endorsement, for more explanation and a video, visit <http://www.hotwater.com/naeca/>

*Many thanks to Bob Hardiman for passing along the information!*

#### Next OTVOA Townhome Board Meeting

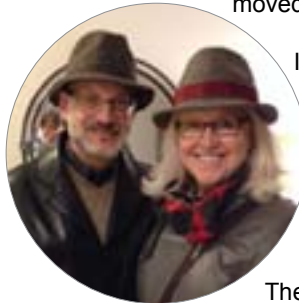


**Monday, March 16, 7 pm  
Roundhouse**

...more **NOTES**

**Michelle and Richard Stark Have Moved**  
... (but not too far away)

Condominium residents, Michelle and Richard Stark, have moved from OTVC, but not too far away.



In a baby step toward retirement that is in the pipeline, the Starks have moved to an apartment on Eisenhower Ave., just around the corner. Lucky them, they are even closer to the AMC Hoffman and to Ted's Montana!

Their new address is 2251 Eisenhower Ave, Apt 904. The phone number is the same: 571-970-0241. We are going to miss Richard's sweet guitar music and Michelle's energy on the OTVC Board.

Best of luck and meet you at the movies!

You're invited!

Every Friday is a Great Friday in OTV!  
Come join your neighbors every Friday at the TGIF get-together. 7 pm in the Roundhouse. Bring your own beverage and a snack or sweet to share. It's great fun!  
ALL OTV RESIDENTS ARE INVITED!



**2015 OTV RESIDENTS' DIRECTORY**

**\*\* Correction \*\***

**Condominiums**

Dana Williams danawilliams66@yahoo.com

**Alexandria's 34th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade**  
**March 7, 12:30 pm**

Hosted by the Ballyshanners, the theme of this year's parade is "Women of Irish Heritage", and fittingly, the Parade Grand Marshal is Laureen O'Neill-James, owner of the O'Neill-James School of Dance, and member of the Irish Cultural Hall of Fame.

As part of the Parade festivities, the day's events include a Classic Car Show, located on Pitt St. between King and Cameron Streets. The cars are on display at 9:00 am with judging to begin at 10:00 am. Immediately following the judging, the winning entries join the parade line-up for all to enjoy!



**FREE**

**King Street**  
**Between Alfred Street & Lee Street**

[Visit website](#)

**INTERESTING WINTER FACTS**

- \* The Winter of 1779 – 1780 was so cold that ice was piled 20 feet high along the Delmarva Coast and stayed there until spring. The upper portion of the Chesapeake Bay and the entire Potomac River was frozen solid, allowing people to walk from Annapolis to Kent Island and from Alexandria in to D.C.
- \* The coldest temperature ever recorded in the world was -128 degrees C (-198.4 F), in Vostok Station in Antarctica in 1983.
- \* According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the largest snowflake ever observed fell in Fort Keogh, Montana on January 28, 1887. It was 15" wide and 8" thick!
- \* The all-time world record for the largest snowfall in a single day was set in the United States on December 4, 1913, when Georgetown, Colorado received a staggering 63 inches of snow – more than five feet.



*Layout Editor:*

I don't know where this is, but I'm just glad I'm not there...!