

# The VillageCrier

Old Town Village, Alexandria, Virginia

## From the OTVOA Board of Directors

Jill Eicher, President

OTV summer is officially here with the opening of pool season on May 24. We hope everyone finds an opportunity to enjoy this special OTV amenity. A mid-summer highlight is the OTV Summer Picnic on July 13 catered by Red, Hot & Blue. Sign up by July 7 using forms found in the Roundhouse.

Expect to see contractor vehicles crowd our alleyways as maintenance projects ramp up this time of year. Please ensure that they leave a clear pathway for neighbors and especially our trash and recycling pickups on Mondays and Thursdays. One maintenance project to be aware of is birds building nests in dryer vents. If you see this happen, you may want to consider installation of a small screen once the birds have left to prevent future nest-building.

**Attend OTVOA Board Meetings Remotely** - The May OTVOA Board of Directors meeting was the first this year in which residents could participate remotely. While we hold in-person meetings at the Roundhouse on the third Thursday of each month, now you may participate remotely. We hope more townhouse residents will become engaged by taking advantage of this service. A link will go out each

month with the meeting notice and agenda. Of course, this invitation is for townhouse residents only.

Insurance Policy - At our May meeting the Board approved a new insurance policy for the Roundhouse and Pool. As per the 1997 Easement and Cost Sharing Agreement (CSA), OTVOA is obligated to maintain comprehensive liability insurance of not less than \$5,000,000. The new policy goes into effect June 1. The Board appreciates the work of its management agent Donna Newman from CFM Management in researching options for the Board's consideration.

**Resident Directory** - In preparation for a new OTV Resident Directory, please update your contact information on the OTVOA website by June 30. The directory is printed every two years and includes contact information for townhouse and condominium residents.

Townhouse community members with questions or comments may address the Board at <a href="mailto:otvboard@gmail.com">otvboard@gmail.com</a>.

## **Next**Meeting

OTVOA Board Meeting Thursday, June 19

7:00 pm - Roundhouse

All Townhouse members are welcome to attend.

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## **Architectural Review Board**

Paul LaRuffa, Chair

**2024 Home Inspection Violations Update:** As of May 20, there were still 47 properties with 73 total open violations. Most of these violations are for wood rot or paint issues with a cure-by date of June 30. After June 30, the ARB team will start sending out 2nd violation notices via HOALife. If violations remain unresolved after the 2nd notice, the violations will be escalated to the Board of Directors for further action.

Note: If you're not sure that you have open violations, last month's ARB article in the Crier gave instructions on how to access the **HOALife Owners** Portal.

**Painting of Vinyl Siding:** There is no color spec per se in the OTV paint chart for vinyl siding. If you need to paint your vinyl siding, your contractor can remove a piece of siding to get a paint match (the back of the siding should be in good shape). Any color changes will require ARB approval.

**Approval of Hardie Plank Siding:** Hardie Plank has already been used for dormer repairs throughout OTV. The ARB recently approved Hardie Plank for a complete front of home siding replacement. The texture chosen is "beaded smooth" which closely resembles the profile of the original wood siding. The homeowner had originally planned to fieldpaint the Hardie Planks to match the OTV Paint Chart color. However, after discussion with the ARB, a factory painted color which closely matched the OTV Paint chart spec was found and approved. Factory painted planks undergo a process that bakes-on the finish and delivers superior color consistency, adhesion, and durability compared to fieldpainted siding. ARB approval will be required for complete Hardie Plank siding replacements.

ARB Meeting Scheduled: The ARB will be meeting on Thursday, June 26, at 7 PM in the Roundhouse. A meeting notice and agenda will be sent out to homeowners prior to the meeting. If there's anything you would like to be addressed at the meeting, please let me know by June 19.

The members of the ARB are Paul LaRuffa, Chair, Todd Moorman, Jim Safran, Pam Verick, and Rich Sikora.

Please reach out to us if you have any questions.

#### **OTVOA Townhome** 2024 Board of Directors

otvboard@gmail.com Jill Eicher | 571-839-3545 iilleicher@comcast.net Kevin McGinn | 571-289-7063 napoli\_k@comcast.net Tom Boudreau | 757-846-7005 tom.boudreau@gmail.com Ted Sullivan | 703-801-5882 sullivanejj@gmail.com Rose McHenry | 703 717 9000 Rosemchenry@aol.com

#### **Committee Chairpersons Activities**

Carol Chiasson, Co-Chair cechiasson@hotmail.com Marjorie Cole, Co-Chair marjorie.cole@gmail.com

**Architectural Review Board** Paul LaRuffa, 860-389-2720

plaruffa@hotmail.com

#### Communications

Jillian Asseff | 301-512-9950 jillianasseff@gmail.com

Jill Ogino (Crier) | 908-458-3403 jnogino@gmail.com

Brigid Christenson (Crier) | 724-799-3289 brigidchristenson@gmail.com Heidi Plott (website) | 703-836-1736

#### hjp319@earthlink.net

#### Finance

Mike Ramsey | 571-214-8430 Mramseynova@gmail.com

#### **Grounds & Services**

Ralph Resch | 254-681-7879 resch.ralph@gmail.com Leslie Silkworth | 571-426-0073

lsilkworth@gmail.com

#### Hardscape

Graham Ruggie

otvhardscape@gmail.com

#### Management

Jim Safran, Chair

jmsaf52@gmail.com

#### Safety & Security

Jay Zanone | 703 519-6450 jay@maplestreetsearch.com

#### Welcome

Lisa Groover | 703 919-4426

lisa.groover@corcoranmce.com

#### **Young Families Group**

Mina Wu | 214-784-0162

mina.kim213@gmail.com

#### **Book Club**

Heidi Plott, Co-Chair | 703-836-1736 hjp319@earthlink.net

Phyllis Sciacca, Co-Chair | 703-519-6779 phyllissciacca@comcast.net

#### **Community Manager**

**CFM Management** 

Donna Newman | 703-941-0818

dnewman@cfmmanagement.com Phyllis Richardson | Parking, Remotes,

Roundhouse FOBs & Reservations prichardson@cfmmanagement.com

Rosa Maradiaga | Account (HOA fee) or Resale Certificate questions



## WELCOME to OldTownVillage Townhouses

Lisa Groover, Chair

The Welcome Committee is pleased to introduce you to several new residents along with one couple who love OTV so much, they moved around the corner in the community.

Alice Maroni is the new owner of 409 S. Fayette Street. She is joined in her new home by her daughter Anna, Anna's boyfriend, Austin, and their dachshund, Aslan. Alice and Anna know Alexandria well. Anna grew up in Ford's Landing where Alice was an original owner. Alice currently serves as the acting director of a small federal agency, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation. She is on her third career, having started out working on national defense issues on Capitol Hill and at the Pentagon and transitioning to the Smithsonian before her current PBGC gig. Alice, Anna, and Austin are all history buffs and enjoy traveling abroad. They are thrilled to join the Old Town Village community. They were welcomed by Linda Safran, Aimee Kominiak and Debbie Vitale.

South Henry Street residents welcome **Don** and **Sharon Frahler** to **413 S. Henry** after we said goodbye to long time resident **Skip Allison**. Sharon and Don were residents of S. Fayette St. for two years, after living for many years in Alexandria's Seminary Ridge. The Frahlers have two adult daughters with families, one living in Fairfax County and one near San Diego, CA. Both Don and Sharon are enjoying retired life as they both enjoy golf, traveling, and volunteer work at their church. In addition, Sharon now has time to resume her love of playing piano. Don is a former Naval officer and was a ship safety inspector after retirement, and Sharon worked for the World Health Organization for many years. Both are looking forward to getting to know more OTV neighbors and being involved in OTV activities. Welcome committee member Janie Smith is assisting them with new information to a new street and home.

We are looking forward to a number of new residents in the next few months and will gladly introduce you once they move into the neighborhood.

Happy Summer to All!!

**Lisa, Aimee, Linda, Janie, Freda, Rose, Dani,** and **Debbie** 

## **Grounds and Services**

Ralph Resch, Chair

June brings us into our summer months, and with that, we have the annual flowers in the ground, which will grow, spread, and offer great color through Labor Day and into early fall. Summer means heat, too, with variable and sometimes infrequent rain. Our sprinkler system is up and running to ensure we keep the lawns and plants watered. Last year, our irrigation systems experienced some failures. If you see a sprinkler leaking, please inform the G&S chairs so we can have it fixed and minimize the amount of water lost.

Chapel Valley is now out on a regular schedule. They will be mowing weekly as needed and will concentrate their efforts on trimming and cleanup in the quadrants each week. This way, they will be doing a more thorough job in each area, but less often.

As we go through the summer, if you notice any dry spots in the lawn, overwatering, or dead trees in the common area, please inform the G&S so we can adjust the irrigation if needed.

The G&S Committee appreciates you looking out for our community





## **Communications**

Jillian Asseff, Chair

Welcome to Spring from the Communications Committee. We are preparing the annual publication of the OTVOA Directory. As a reminder, the OTVOA Directory is a hard copy publication containing important OTV and resident contact information for both the OTV townhome and condominium residents. It is made available to all residents desiring a hard copy of OTVOA/OTVCUOA information.

If you are a townhome resident, we ask that you visit the OTV website to review and update your profile and contact information. It is important to do this, as your information on the website is what will be printed in the directory, unless you mark your information as "**Private**", see the instructions below. **Please update your information on the website by June 30, 2025**, to ensure the most current information is published in the **2025 OTVOA Directory**.

A few simple steps get you to the right place for updating your information:

- Website: OTVtownhomes.net
- Sign-in: Enter your Username and Password.
- You are brought to your "My Account" page.
- You can edit your profile and contact information directly from this page.

#### Select "Edit My Profile".

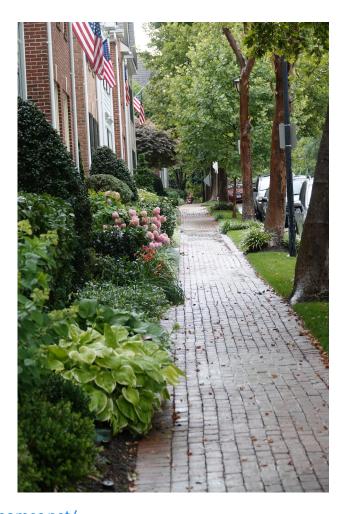
- You can add, change, or delete your existing information by selecting the white "Add" or "Edit" buttons on the page.
- Selecting one of these buttons brings you to the corresponding areas to add, change, or delete existing information. You can update, for example, Contact Information, How to Keep in Touch, and Communication Preferences.

On this page, you select "Public" or "Private" preferences regarding the information contained within your profile. OTVOA Residents Please Note – If you do Not want your information listed in the directory, you must mark "Private" on your OTV Website profile page. Directions are provided below.

- "Public" information is visible to residents and property owners who are registered on the website, as well as office staff. "Public" address and contact information will be displayed in the printed directory.
- "Private" information is visible only to your household and office staff. "Private" is the default setting. "Private" address and contact information will not be displayed in the printed directory.
- Check the appropriate box to make information public or uncheck the box to make information private. Private is the default setting.
- **Save your updates!** Use the white "Save" button to save your changes and exit the edit page.

If you are a **condominium resident**, the condos have identified **Tim McGarvey** as the new point of contact for the condo portion of the Directory update. Please contact Tim if you have any questions regarding updating your information on the condo website.

Thank you to all residents for taking steps to review and update your information.



## Safety and Security

Rich Sikora, Member

Walk to Old Town Safely: Now that the Spring weather has arrived, we have ample opportunities to walk over to Old Town and enjoy our fabulous neighborhood. Just a friendly reminder to be careful and stay alert when crossing Duke Street at South Henry, S. Fayette Street and/or at S. Payne Street.

Each of these crosswalks features a variety of walk signals, signs, painted path markings, and flashing lights to improve pedestrian safety. Even with these purposeful safety enhancements, vehicles do not always see or stop for pedestrians, so please remember to use caution and try to make sure the drivers see you before crossing the street.

According to Alexandria County VDOT Analysis (2021 to July 2024), posted at <u>novasafestreets.org</u>, the most common near misses are caused by drivers failing to yield, speeding, running the traffic light and/or walkers not having enough time to cross the street safely. In terms of total casualties, Duke Street has the most, followed by Mount Vernon Avenue, West Glebe Road, and North Henry Street.

The late afternoon rush hour appears to be the most dangerous time of day for pedestrians, specifically between 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm. This statistic probably reflects the time of day when pedestrians are most actively on the streets and traffic is the heaviest. It is also a time of day when commuters may be in a hurry or perhaps more distracted. Finally, 87% of the pedestrian fatalities in Northern Virginia happened at night (night time, dawn, and dusk). So, be extra mindful if early outdoor exercise and/or late night strolls home from a wonderful dinner in Old Town are part of your Spring routine.

I hope you found this VDOT survey data informative and beneficial. Have a safe walk!



## Need something in the OTV?

Here is who to ask

#### Website for self service needs

Note: Log in to <a href="https://otvtownhomes.net/">https://otvtownhomes.net/</a>

- Viewing Calendar of events
- Meeting Minutes
- Directory
- Scale Map
- ARB Rules and Regulations
- Policies, Rules, and Regulations
- Governing Documents

#### **Townhouse or Condo Mgmt Company**

Townhouses - Donna Newman dnewman@cfmmanagement.

com

Condos - Christie Beruete cberuete@sentrymgt.com

- Parking Stickers / Tags
- Gate Remote
- Request a Roundhouse key fob
- Ask for access
- Setup fee payments
- Request to rent the Roundhouse

#### **Management Committee Chair**

- Pool or spa issues
- Roundhouse issues
- Tot Lot issues
- Gate issues
- Shared facilities policies

#### **Grounds and Services Chair**

- Trash and recycling
- Sprinklers
- Grass
- Landscaping
- Trees

#### **Hardscape Committee Chair**

- Roads
- Brick sidewalks, walls, columns, steps, and curbs
- Ground painting
- Benches
- Gas Lights
- Stormceptor and Sewer Mains
- Fire Hydrants
- Fences

#### **Architectural Review Board Chair**

- Requests approvals for exterior changes
- Inquiries about annual inspection

#### Communications Chair

Getting an OTV Directory



# The Village Crier

## Condominiums

Old Town Village, Alexandria, Virginia

## From the OTVCUOA President

Barbie Frank, President

I hope everyone is enjoying the good weather. I want to thank the Grounds Committee for all the work they have put in coordinating with Chapel Valley to create the beautiful gardens we have on our corner, next to the gate, and in the Round Garden. The group members put in a lot of time and research, and I know we all appreciate their efforts.

**EV Chargers:** We are still finalizing the registration process and participation agreement for the chargers. The purpose of these documents is to confirm that homeowners who use the chargers understand that the OTVC Association is not responsible for the chargers and/or any issues that might arise. We are, in effect, renting those spaces to Greenspot in exchange for a small percentage of the profits. Greenspot owns the chargers and is fully responsible for them. Problems will be addressed directly with Greenspot.

**Elevators:** At our May meeting, the Board approved moving forward with all the repairs that Schindler has recommended to the elevators. This is a huge project and will take some time to complete. The work will be done in stages to minimize inconveniences to those living on the upper floors as much as possible. The Board worked with the

Finance Committee to ensure that the necessary funds were available in our working (not capital) reserves and will not be a burden on our homeowners.

Douglass Cemetery Project: We are still waiting to hear back from the City's attorneys in response to the redlined agreement our attorney sent to them. The response to my recent inquiry was that their attorneys are still reviewing it.

2023 and 2024 Audits: The Board reviewed and approved the final 2023 Audit of OTVCOA finances and approved the 2024 Draft Audit. The Association is in good standing financially and received a clean report. The fact that the 2023 Audit was late was addressed with the CPA firm and the 2024 Audit was provided in a timely manner. Both reports will be available on FrontSteps and the Sentry website shortly.

## **Next**Meeting

OTVCUOA Board Meeting Tuesday, June 17 6:30 pm, in the Roundhouse

All OTVCI IOA residents are

All OTVCUOA residents are welcome to attend.

#### OTVCUOA Condominium 2024 Board of Directors President

Barbie Frank | 703-509-5756 poolefrank@comcast.net

Vice President

Shannon Collins

shannon.g.collins@gmail.com

Secretary

Nancy Morgan | 703-362-8014 nancyruthmorgan@gmail.com

Treasurer

James Evans | 206-388-8681

jvevans@uw.edu

**Board Member at Large** 

Robin Famighetti | 339-234-1229 clephane@comcast.net

## Committee Chairpersons Activities

Carol Chiasson, Co-Chair | cechiasson@hotmail.com Marjorie Cole, Co-Chair | marjorie.cole@gmail.com

#### **Book Club**

Heidi Plott, Co-Chair | 703 836-1736 hjp319@earthlink.net Phyllis Sciacca, Co-Chair | 703 519-6779 phyllissciacca@comcast.net

#### Finance

Kathy Flanagan | 571-239-8113 <u>kathyflan@gmail.com</u> Chris Cortes

Chriscortes2001@yahoo.com Jody Wireman | 719-243-6720

wireman.jody@gmail.com

#### Management

Jim Safran, Chair jmsaf52@gmail.com

Grounds

Vacant

#### Welcome

Sara Rosenbaum | 703-887-0835

sarar@email.gwu.edu

#### **Condominium Editor**

Susan Flinn | 202-560-0308 susan@susanflinn.com

OTVC Directory

Tim McGarvey

tim.mcgarvey@gmail.com

#### Portfolio/Property Manager Sentry Management

sentrymgt.com Christie Beruete | 703-642-3246 x 56511 cberuete@sentrymgt.com



## Reminder - New Walkway - New Parking Restriction!

Many of you will have noticed the new entry to the cemetery staircase at the West end of the complex. The new, dedicated walkthrough path boundaries have been freshly painted to enhance both safety and aesthetic appeal to the OTVC community and beyond.

Creating the walkthrough path necessitated adjusting the parking spaces in that area. Because the spaces are narrower, to accommodate the walkthrough path, they are now reserved for **Compact Cars Only**. That means, no mini-vans, service vehicles, trucks, SUVs, etc. It also means parking within the lines, to keep the walkthrough pathway clear.

The pictures show examples of vehicles that are either **not** compact cars or are parked in a way that blocks the walkway. **Please don't do this.** 

Any questions about the new walkthrough pathway, parking spots, or staircase should be sent to <a href="mailto:cberuete@sentrymgt.com">cberuete@sentrymgt.com</a>.

#### Park like this...



...not like this



...not like this



...not like this





### **Welcome New Residents!**

Old Town Village Condos welcome new arrivals and are filled with longtime residents who value meeting new community friends. If you'd like to introduce yourself to the community, please email **Sara Rosenbaum** (sarar@gwu.edu). She will send you a copy of the Welcome Letter and will help you develop a brief introductory squib for the *Crier*.

And, residents, when you meet new neighbors, please encourage them to reach out to me so we can officially welcome them to the community!



## **Welcome to Old Town Village!**

Please welcome Mike and Caroline Brode, who are joyfully starting life in the community! They report that they "have mastered the art of suburban living in the far-flung reaches of SC, OK, ID, Okinawa, and, most recently, AL" and really love being in walking distance of "all our daily essentials." (Definitely one of the best parts of OTVC!) Caroline is a graduate student and will be working at George Washington University; Mike will be working at the Pentagon. They say that they are looking forward to exploring the DMV and love being outside running/biking, hiking, or on the water. They would love to hear about folks' favorite trail or kayak/paddle board location recommendations. They can be reached at atwoodcc@gmail.com

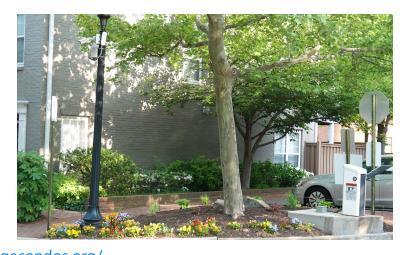
## Feedback On Community Issues

We want to hear from you! We welcome your attendance and conversation at the monthly **Board of Directors** and **Committee meetings**. There are also other venues for information and your voice to be heard. You can contact the **members** of the **Board of Directors** via their emails, and you can tune into the virtual meetings offered by a link through **Sentry Management**, which appears in your email prior to the monthly meetings. Please refer to the *Crier* calendar for meeting dates and times.

### **Next**Meeting

OTVCUOA Finance Meeting Wednesday, June 11 6:30 pm, in the Roundhouse

All OTVCUOA residents are welcome to attend.



## **Management Committee**

Old Town Village Owners Association

Old Town Condominium Unit Owners Association

Jim Safran, Chair

Update on the JMC's 2025 Roundhouse/pool related projects

**Carpet cleaning:** The Roundhouse carpeting will be cleaned on Wednesday, June 4, 2025.

**Pool fence:** The pool fence repair and painting project has been deferred until the Fall of 2025 (after the pool season).

**Power wash patio:** JMC members power washed the patio in May. Special thanks to Dennis Seipp on this project.

**Sconces:** The front door sconces have been replaced – the JMC will be planning for the installation of light sensors that will enable to sconces to be "on" from dusk to dawn. Cheryl Van Coverden repaired and painted the patio sconce (thanks Cheryl).

**Windows and screens:** JMC members washed/cleaned the Roundhouse screens and windows in May.

**Spa filtration System:** The malfunctioning spa water filtration system was replaced.

**Pool Shower Repair:** The outdoor shower at the pool has been repaired

**Miscellaneous replacements:** The following are some other replacements that have been completed

- Front door kick plate.
- Front door and patio door entrance mats.

Preparation for annual inspection of elevator, fire alarm and other building systems: Lisa Abbey has done a great job getting the elevator prepared for the annual city inspection. She will be coordinating this inspection by the city of Alexandria with the companies who operate/maintain these systems to minimize the cost of the inspection to OTVOA and OTVCUOA.

## **Next**Meeting

Management Committee Tuesday, June 24 6:30 pm, in the Roundhouse

All Old Town Village community members are welcome to attend.

### **Next**Meeting

Activities Committee Wednesday, June 11 5:00 pm, in the Roundhouse

All Old Town Village community members are welcome to attend.



### **Activities**

Marjorie Cole, Co-Chair

The committee has been busy with plans for the OTV annual picnic on Sunday, July 13 at 5:30 p.m. at the Roundhouse, and many committee members are working hard to make this another great event. Food will be catered by Red, Hot, and Blue. Activities for kids include a face painter, balloon artist, and bounce house - those activities start at 5:00 pm. Be on the lookout for sign up information in this issue of the Crier.

Planning for the Progressive Dinner in September is also underway. This is another large undertaking, and several committee members are handling the various tasks. More information will be provided as we get closer to the date.

The First Friday TGIF is June 6 at the Roundhouse, beginning at 6:30 pm (TGIFs are weekly informal Friday gatherings at the Roundhouse 6:30 pm.) Those who attend may choose to bring a potluck item to share but there is no requirement to bring or participate in a potluck; you can simply show up and hang out. BYOB if you would like to sip and socialize. It's an informal gathering so attendance can be unpredictable.

The next Activities meeting will be on June 11 at 5:00 p.m. in the Roundhouse. All OTV community members are welcome to attend.

## Mah Jong Club!

Even if you've never played before, we'll be happy to teach you the ins and outs. 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 shannon.q.collins@gmail.com



Hope to see you soon!

# WiFi at the Roundhouse



Name: OTVRH

Password: RoundHouse343

### **OTV Pool Hours - Summer 2025**

Sat, May 24 – Sun., June 8		
Lap Swimming	Mon - Fri	10:30 am – 11:00 am
Open Swim & Spa	Mon - Fri	11:00 am – 8:00 pm
Open Swim & Spa	Weekends & Holidays	10:30 am – 8:00 pm

Mon, June 9 – Fri, August 15		
Lap Swimming	Mon - Fri	10:30 am – 11:00 am
AquaFit* (Water Aerobics)	Mon, Wed, Fri	11:00 am – 11:45 am
Open Swim & Spa	Mon, Wed, Fri	12:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Open Swim & Spa	Tues & Thurs	11:00 am - 8:00 pm
Open Swim & Spa	Weekends & Holidays	10:30 am – 8:00 pm

Sat, August 16 – Mon, September 1		
Lap Swimming	Mon - Fri	10:30 am – 11:00 am
Open Swim & Spa	Mon - Fri	11:00 am – 8:00 pm
Open Swim & Spa	Weekends & Holidays	10:30 am – 8:00 pm

Extended Season: September 2 – 14		
Lap Swim	Mon - Fri	11:30 am – 12:00 pm
Open Swim & Spa	Mon - Sun	12:00 pm – 7:00 pm

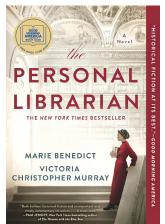
Possible Extended Season 2: September 14 – 28*		tember 14 – 28*
Lap Swim	Mon - Fri	11:30 am – 12:00 pm
Open Swim & Spa	Mon - Sun	12:00 pm – 7:00 pm

The daily schedule includes the lifeguard's 10-minute break each hour and a 1/2-hour lunch break daily at 2:30 p.m.

\*Note: To be determined

## **Book**Club

Heidi Plott, Club Co-Chair



The book for May was *The Personal Librarian* by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray. Historical fiction told from the first person, the book reveals the story of Belle da Costa Greene's role in the curation and establishment of the Pierpont Morgan Library. Belle, née Belle Marion Greener, was born in Washington, D.C. to a prominent black family living in the upscale Northwest Quadrant. Her father, Richard Theodore Greener, was the first black student to attend and first black graduate of Harvard University (class of 1870). Her family moved to NYC and after her father left the family, Belle, her mother, and her siblings passed as white and changed their surname to Greene to distance themselves from their father. Her mother changed her maiden name to Van Vliet in an effort to assume Dutch ancestry. Belle also made a change to her name, swapping out Marion for "da Costa", and claiming a Portuguese background to explain her darker complexion. Belle was

able to attend teaching college and a ladies' seminary before landing a position at the Princeton University Library. While there she met J. P. Morgan's nephew, Junius Spencer Morgan II, who later introduced her to his uncle and

suggested she become his personal librarian. Through extensive self-education and a sheer force of personality Belle convinced Pierpont (the name J. P. preferred her to call him) to make his library "pre-eminent, especially for incunabula, manuscripts, bindings, and the classics". Belle began representing Morgan in auctions and acquisitions from around the world. She continued to develop her expertise and became well known for her prowess in bargaining with dealers and sellers alike. Belle had to become adept at mixing in "high society" to garner the favor of collectors, donors, dealers and art experts. During all of this time, Belle was deeply afraid of her origins being discovered and revealed. The book reveals Belle's achievements, both personally and professionally, to eventually become the director of the public institution The Pierpont Morgan Library.

The group has issues with historical novels told from the first person because it is quite difficult to determine what is actually factual. These authors used a great amount of research to present people and events accurately but do reveal in the afterwards where they made changes for literary purposes. We appreciated the authors' inclusion of the historical context in which the book took place. We found the book provided insights into Belle's reasons, inner conflicts and societal opportunities which supported her choice to live her life passing as white. We would have liked to have had more of an emphasis on Belle's development of her expertise and negotiating skills rather than her inner feelings and romances. We thought the book was very readable, memorable, and the writing quick and unsophisticated. We recommend the book as a way to become familiar with a little known historical figure who had a real impact on the world.

The group rated the book 4 out of 5 stars.



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## **Book**Club

The June meeting will be held on Thursday, June 12 at 7:00 pm in the Roundhouse.



The book for June is *James* by Percival Everett.

Reminder: The Book Club maintains the OTV library. We accept books that have been published in the last 10 years. We do not have room for cookbooks, travel books or self-help books. Books that we do not have room for can be donated to The Alexandria Library, 717 Queen Street, Discover Books which has a bin in the parking lot of Safeway, 500 S Royal St, or any thrift shop.



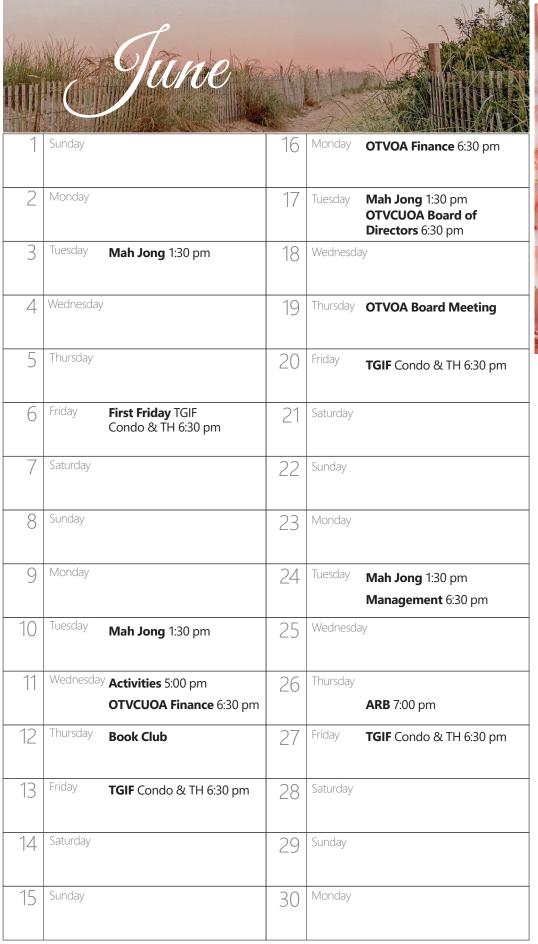
The **full** reading list for 2025 is posted on the community website: <u>Book Club Reading List for 2025</u>

## Use Of The Pool And Spa

- 1. The pool and spa are for the exclusive use of OTV residents and their guests. Each townhouse and condominium unit may have no more than four guests regardless of the number of residents in that unit. All guests must be accompanied at all times by a resident.
- 2. The pool and spa are not for rent and may not be used in conjunction with any reserved activity in the Roundhouse community room and/or Patio.
- Residents and guests must sign in and sign-out on the sheet provided. Access to the Roundhouse is controlled via a key fob
- 4. All residents and guests must enter and exit the pool and/ or spa through the main Roundhouse door and then the door to the spa. Residents and guests may not enter the pool and/or spa via the gate to the patio.
- Residents and guests may use the pool and/or spa only when the lifeguard is on duty. Residents and guests use the spa at their own risk. When the pool is closed for inclement weather, the spa is also closed.
- 6. Children aged 12 and under must be accompanied and supervised in the pool, spa, and surrounding areas by an adult (excluding lifeguard) at all times.
- 7. No one under the age of 5 or anyone using alcohol or drugs that cause drowsiness shall use the spa.
- 8. All persons, including children, must shower before entering the pool or the spa.
- 9. The lifeguard is charged to uphold safety and health requirements and standards of conduct. All residents and guests within the pool and spa areas must: (a) follow the instructions of the lifeguard on duty; (b) respond courteously to the lifeguard's instructions; and (c) respond to the lifeguard's request to identify themselves or to signin or sign-out.
- 10. Swim breaks: The lifeguard will take a break every hour for ten minutes to accommodate the inspection of the pump room, the testing of the water, etc. In addition, the lifeguard is entitled to a 30-minute break for every fourhour shift worked. All swimmers must exit the pool when the lifeguard is on break, even if the lifeguard is poolside.
- 11. In accordance with the City of Alexandria Aquatic Health Ordinance as amended March 13. 2010, Article C. SEC 11-1 1-60, people with bandages, open sores, infections, or inflamed eyes are not permitted in the pool or spa. In accordance with the City of Alexandria Aquatic Health Ordinance as amended March 13. 2010, Article C, SEC 11-11-66, any person who is not toilet trained or who is incontinent must wear a swim diaper.
- 12. The maximum number of people allowed in the pool at one time is 25 due to the American Red Cross ratio of swimmers to lifeguards: 25/1.

- 13. Spitting, running, pushing, rough play, and diving are not permitted.
- 14. At the lifeguard's sole discretion, kickboards, small flotation devices, and small toys may be allowed in the pool depending on the occupancy and age range of swimmers.
- 15. Play pens and wheeled vehicles, except for wheelchairs and strollers, are not permitted in the pool or spa areas.
- 16. Pets, except for service dogs assisting disabled persons, are not permitted in the pool or spa areas with the exception of the end of season pet day.
- 17. Alcohol and drugs, and those under the influence of either, are not allowed in the pool or spa areas.
- 18. Non-alcoholic beverages and snacks (in non-breakable containers) are allowed in the pool and spa area. Glass containers are prohibited.
- 19. Smoking is not allowed in pool and spa areas.
- Sound-generating devices (e.g., radios, CD players, and digital audio players) may only be used in the pool and spa area with earphones.
- 21. Pool furniture is to remain in the pool area. Patio and Roundhouse furniture must not be moved into the pool and/or spa area.
- 22. Lifeguard duties and expectations are enumerated in Addendum I to these Rules of Use of Shared Facilities.
- 23. Resident comments regarding the pool and spa shall be addressed to any member of the Management Committee or any member of the townhouse or condominium Boards. An updated list of Management Committee members can be found on the Roundhouse bulletin board near the restrooms.





All events are at 7 pm in the Roundhouse unless otherwise noted

## Celebrate Socialize in OTV

with First Friday of the Month!

Join your neighbors at the Roundhouse on any Friday night—but especially on the *First Friday* of the Month!

Please bring your own beverage. Bring a dish to share if you'd like to join a potluck and come to the Roundhouse at 6:30 pm.

All OTV Condo & Townhome Residents Are Invited!

This relaxed get-together is the perfect opportunity to become better acquainted with our neighbors!

#### Weekly

First Friday TGIF Condo & TH
TGIF Condo & TH - every Friday
Mah Jong - every Tuesday

#### **Future**

7/7 - Summer Picnic Payment Due

7/13 - Summer Picnic Sunday

9/27 - Progressive Dinner

10/17 - Oktoberfest

12/5 - Holiday Party

## The Village Crier

Old Town Village Alexandria, VA 22314 June 2025

Published for the benefit of owners & residents of Old Town Village Townhomes & Condominiums

Send photos & articles by the 23rd of the month prior to publication to:

#### **Townhomes**

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#### Condominiums

Susan Flinn | 202-560-0308 susan@susanflinn.com

#### **Design & Layout**

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## OTV - Aqua Fitness Classes Summer 2025

## **45 Minute Class**

Monday - Wednesday - Friday 11:00 am Starts June 16 - Ends August 29 (No class on July 4)

### Fee

Full Session (32 Classes) \$380

Half Session (16 classes) \$200

Mini Session (6 Classes) \$90

Demo Class Sign-up Friday June 13 11:00 am

Drop-in Fee \$20 Cash No Refunds

## **Cash Only**

Must have pool shoes to participate





The Spring Cemetery Cleanup was held on May 10 and was a huge success in clearing out all trash and overgrowth from the cemeteries next to OTV. Twelve volunteers from OTV, Christ Church Episcopal, and Trinity United Methodist Church came out from 9-11 am to beautify all of the neighboring cemeteries. A good truckload of brush was removed, and it was exceptional weather for the effort!

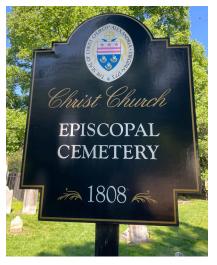
Unfortunately, we were not able to re-mulch the path from 1404 Roundhouse to Jameson Street. Currently we need someone with a truck to volunteer to help with this action and one other volunteer. If you have a truck and can assist or want to get on the mailing list for this event, please email **Tim McGarvey** at <a href="mailto:tim.mcgarvey@gmail.com">tim.mcgarvey@gmail.com</a>



















July 13, 2025

5:30 - 7:30 PM

\$12 for adults
Children are free

Food catered by *Red, Hot & Blue* 



Fun activities for the kids!!! (Children's activities start at 5:00pm)



Soft drinks and water will be provided.

If you prefer beer and wine, please bring your own.

Please submit the form below with your information and put your cash, or check, payable to "OTVOA" in the lockbox inside the Roundhouse lobby by **JULY 7th** 

Please place payment, with the names of adults and the number of children attending, in
the Lockbox inside the Roundhouse lobby by July 7. Make checks payable to OTVOA.

Adult Names:	Number of Children:
(nlease print)	





## Alexandria City Council discusses strategic priorities, extends Torpedo Factory leases

Ryan Belmore

Published May 27, 2025 at 9:00PM | Updated May 28, 2025 at 5:19AM



Alexandria City Council presented a proclamation recognizing May as Sex Education Month (screenshot)

The Alexandria City Council met Tuesday evening (May 27) for a Legislative Meeting, where they discussed and voted on several key initiatives, including lease extensions for Torpedo Factory artists, funding for Inova Alexandria Hospital, and updates to the city's strategic priorities framework.

The meeting began with proclamations recognizing Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage Month and Sex Education Month.

During the meeting, the council received a presentation on the 2025-2027 City Council priorities, which include housing opportunities, economic strength, eliminating community disparities, and employee attraction and retention.

Dana Wedeles, Strategic Initiatives Officer in the City Manager's office, presented the framework that organizes these priorities into a strategic plan.

"We've developed the strategic plan framework and incorporated the strategic priorities from Council within this framework," Wedeles explained. "The framework starts at the top, which is our why. This includes our organizational mission, our vision and core values."

Several council members expressed concerns about how certain priorities were framed. Mayor Gaskins noted that the "eliminating community disparities" section needed refinement.

"I'm struggling with this because I think the framing of this is maybe different than what we were hoping for," Gaskins said. "I think this was more when we look at the data... it's not necessarily an issue of more communication."

Vice Mayor Sarah Bagley echoed these concerns, suggesting that the focus should be "less about continuing to emphasize communication and more about delivering the services where we see the greatest disparity."

Council members also discussed the need to include infrastructure investments and housing pipeline financing strategies more explicitly in the framework.

The council unanimously approved a one-year lease extension for artists and arts organizations at the Torpedo Factory Art Center. Vice Mayor Bagley, who moved the item, emphasized that this extension provides stability for artists.

"I want to give some ease and comfort to our community that is very passionate about this space that no lease is ending this year," Bagley said. "We're hoping to get an update before we take our summer recess on the status of that process."

The council also approved the release of \$490,575 in contingent reserve funds allocated for Inova Alexandria Hospital. Representatives from Inova presented data showing they served 1,727 Medicaid and underinsured obstetric patients in 2024, a 6.4% increase from 2023.

"Nearly one-third of our OB volume consists of Medicaid and underinsured/ uninsured patients," explained Melissa Riddy, Director of Government and Community Relations for Inova's east region.

Dr Rina Bansal, President of Inova Alexandria Hopsital, assured the council that despite the increase in Medicaid patients, the hospital has not experienced capacity challenges due to an overall 10% decrease in delivery rates nationally.

The council also approved a resolution for submission to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority for regional transportation funding for the FY 2030 program.

During oral reports, council members shared updates from various boards and commissions:

Councilman Canek Aguirre reported that Alexandria received \$80,000 for the Beauregard Trail feasibility study and another \$80,000 for Braddock Road safety improvements from the Transportation Planning Board.

Councilman John Chapman provided updates from the Stormwater Advisory Committee, noting that many infrastructure projects will take longer than initially expected.

"These projects aren't going to be completed in the next five years, probably not the next 10. It's probably going to be a much longer time frame," Chapman said.

Councilman Kirk McPike reported that the Citizen Corps Council received an update on the recent storm that caused 17,000 Alexandrians to lose power, with winds peaking at 70 miles per hour.

Councilwoman Jacinta Greene highlighted upcoming events from the Eisenhower Partnership, including movie nights and happy hours designed to build community engagement.

The council also approved its upcoming schedule, with Vice Mayor Bagley highlighting the June 12 town hall at 6 p.m. at Beatley Library.

"Please come out and join us for our second quarter town hall," Bagley encouraged residents.

The next regular meeting of the Alexandria City Council is scheduled for June 10, when they expect to receive an update on the Torpedo Factory Art Center's future management structure.

## AlexandriaCommunityEvents

## Old Town Arts & Crafts Fair

June 7, 2025
Waterfront Park
1 Prince Street on the Potomac River
10:00AM until 5:00PM



Volunteer Alexandria is thrilled to present once again the Old Town Arts & Crafts Fair June 7, 2025, at Waterfront Park located at 1 Prince Street on the Potomac River. The FREE fair will run from 10:00AM until 5:00PM and provides entertainment for children, and over 90 vendors.

The annual fair features local and regional artisans who showcase their pieces across various mediums including pottery, stationery, fabrics, paintings, jewelry, photography and more. Review a list of vendors https://www.volunteeralexandria.org/arts-and-crafts-festival





Don't forget that Virginia has elections every year?

Elections schedule: Primary: June 17th General: November 4th

## **CANDIDATES ON THE BALLOT:**

- HOUSE OF DELEGATES
- GOVENOR
- ATTORNEY GENERAL
- LT. GOVENOR

For more information, go to: https://www.alexandriava.gov/Elections

