



# The VillageCrier

Old Town Village, Alexandria, Virginia

## From the OTVOA Board of Directors

Jill Eicher, President

### Roadwork Project

Many thanks to our Hardscape Committee, Chair **Graham Ruggie**, **Mike Vitale**, and **Susan Swain**, for overseeing the sealcoating of our roads and alleys. The sealcoating protects our investment in repaving from a couple of years ago. We thank the community for everyone's cooperation in clearing the roads and alleys of vehicles during this project.

### Irrigation Replacement Proposal

The Board is reviewing a proposal from our contractor, **Aspect Irrigation, Inc.**, to revamp our irrigation system. We thank our **Grounds and Services Committee Co-Chairs Ralph Resch** and **Leslie Silkworth** for working with Aspect to develop this proposal, and appreciate feedback from committee members **Jim Carroll**, **Linda Gormsen**, and **Angela Yates**. The Board is seeking input from community members on this **\$116,000 project** and its effect on property owners.

### Volunteerism in OTVOA

As reported in last month's *Crier*, OTVOA relies heavily on the volunteer efforts of its homeowners. Volunteers managing much of the community allows OTVOA to maintain a relatively low

homeowner's fee. Residents can begin their volunteer efforts by attending committee meetings to determine where they can offer their time and effort. We have started sending blast emails notifying the community of upcoming committee meetings and we encourage you to check them out. Even if you do not plan to volunteer at this time, committee meetings are a great source of information on ongoing projects and events in our community.

Townhouse residents with questions or comments may contact the Board at [otvboard@gmail.com](mailto:otvboard@gmail.com). Board members' individual contact information is listed in the right-hand column on [page 2](#) of the *Crier*.

## Board Meeting

OTVOA Board Meeting  
Thursday, May 21  
7:00 pm - Roundhouse

All Townhouse members are welcome to attend.



## OTV Content

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# Hardscape

Graham Ruggie, Chair

Thank you to all residents of the community during the recent sealcoating and restriping in the community. All of the work went off without a hitch as the workers found 3 solid days of clear weather to complete the 3 phases of activity. Thanks to everyone for moving your vehicles out of the way in a timely manner and avoiding the areas drying out during the 24 hour period. We only had two minor incidents of people driving through the coned off areas; probably folks from outside the community. Thanks to all members of the Hardscape committee for their hard work getting the word out to residents, being available early each morning to check on cleared roads and coordinating with the staff of Finley Asphalt. Your time and efforts are much appreciated, **Mike Vitale** and **Susan Swain**.

Due to the efforts of these volunteers, we as residents reap the benefits of their hard work, time and energy through low monthly HOA dues. Without these volunteers and the ones on all committees in OTV, we would be paying double, if not triple, our current dues. Please consider volunteering on one of the many committees that need volunteers. Our community needs your help.



## OTVOA Townhome 2024 Board of Directors

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### Book Club

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Rosa Maradiaga | Account (HOA fee) or Resale

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## Safety and Security

Jay Zanone, Chair

We had a safety meeting last month and discussed several items:

- Extra enforcement of visitor spot parking rules. Email Jay Zanone with a picture of any vehicle (license plate and entire car) without OTV stickers or tags in visitor spots.
- Distribution of Safety Reminders via door-to-door flyers for those who do not read the Crier.
- Streetlight Repairs are ongoing. Our contractor has been quite low on parts.
- Police Liaison to be assigned from APD – will update soon.
- Possible addition of new motion sensitive light in the Henry Street passageway.

Continue to keep front porch and garage lights on in the evening as car break-ins typically increase in the warmer weather.

## Seasonal Safety in Our Townhome Community: Small Spaces, Smart Habits

Diane Devendorf, Member

With daylight saving time upon us and summer on the way, our neighborhood is coming back to life—longer evenings, open windows, and more time spent outdoors. Living in townhomes surrounded by busy city streets brings its own set of safety considerations, but a few practical habits can make an enormous difference.

### 1. Stay Street-Smart

Our proximity to busy roads means increased traffic at all hours. With darker mornings after the time change and more pedestrians out in the evenings, it is important for both drivers and walkers to stay alert. Make eye contact before crossing streets, especially when crossing Duke from Fayette and Henry, and assume drivers may not see you, especially at dusk, or even worse distracted on cell phones and/or rushing to get to the beltway.

### 2. Mind the Entry Points

Warmer weather often means fresh air and open windows, but it is worth being intentional in your safety habits. Keep ground-level windows locked when you are not in the room, and double-check doors—front, back, and garage—before turning in for the night or heading out.

### 3. Deck Life = Great Life (With Caution)

Use care when grilling on your deck. Charcoal grills are not permitted on decks; please be mindful of safety in close quarters: keep gas grills well clear of siding and railings, never leave them unattended, and be considerate of smoke drifting into neighboring homes. A small fire extinguisher nearby is a smart addition. Clean your grill regularly inside to prevent grease fires.

### 4. Lighting Matters

Lighting is the best deterrent to crime. Please keep your front porch and garage lights on in the evening. We have dawn to dusk bulbs available free of charge (email Jay Zanone) if you want one. We have many repairs ongoing to streetlight and security lights as of this writing.

### 5. Package and Property Awareness

With more deliveries and people coming and going, it is easy for packages to sit unattended. If you are home, consider having a buddy-neighbor where you watch each other's homes for packages automatically. Also, keep an eye out for anything unusual such as garage and other doors open. Let your neighbor know - if you see something, say something. Small acts like this strengthen the whole community.

### 6. Be Aware of Who's Around

Be aware of being followed by others (car, bike or on foot) from the Metro and other public areas back to your home. We had incidents of muggings years ago. Stay off your phone and be aware of your surroundings. If someone looks suspicious, ask them, may I help you? If you are not comfortable with that, tell another neighbor and/or call 911 and ask for a squad car to drive through and check it out for us.

### 7. Community Is the Best Safety Tool

One of the biggest advantages of townhome living is proximity to one another. A quick hello, a shared heads-up, or checking in when something seems unusual goes a long way to keep everyone safe. Check in with your elderly neighbors too.

# WELCOME to OldTownVillage Townhouses

Lisa Groover, Chair

The Welcome Committee happily met with three new OTV households in April...

**Chris and Kim Versace** are moving into their new home **411 S. Fayette** in early **May**. Originally from New York City and Connecticut, they met in college in Connecticut. Kim and Chris have been residents of Northern Virginia for 28 years, raising 3 children (now adults) in Ashburn, and are now ready to downsize and enjoy the close conveniences of Old Town, lessen their commute and join a close-knit neighborhood. Chris is an investment and finance professional and Kim works as a real estate compliance attorney in the District.

Both are avid readers and enjoy cooking and traveling in their free time. Welcome committee members **Janie Smith** and **Nicole Winard** assured them they would find plenty of neighbors with common interests including a book club and many social activities.

Welcome Committee Member **Linda Safran** had the pleasure of greeting the new owners of **1205 Wilkes Street, Mary Ann** and **Gary Schaffer**.

Mary Ann grew up in McLean and developed a passion for flying as a teenager. After earning an electrical engineering degree from Vanderbilt, she initially took an engineering job but soon pursued aviation full-time, balancing engineering work with flight instruction. She eventually built a long airline career, joining United in 1989 and accumulating over 18,000 flight hours across multiple aircraft types.

Mary Ann and Gary met at Leesburg Airport, and the two have been together since 1990. Alongside her aviation career, she attended law school after 9/11 and practiced law for a decade in Old Town. Later, she moved into leadership roles, including chief pilot positions during COVID, and transitioned into aviation safety work in 2023. Despite enjoying her current role, flying is still her passion. "My favorite destination remains 'home with Gary, and Pratt and Whitney', our 1-year-old golden-doodles."

Gary built a long and varied aviation career that began in the Air Force flying the A-1 Skyraider, including combat search and rescue in Southeast Asia and later

instructing. After transitioning to civilian life, he briefly ran a Wendy's franchise before returning to aviation during the early airline deregulation era, starting with People Express and moving through several startup and charter operations.

Over time, he accumulated more than 20,000 flight hours and 14 type ratings across a wide range of aircraft. Gary found stability working with ExxonMobil and later supported the FAA's NextGen program as a government contractor.

Together, Mary Ann and Gary have raised two children, enjoy their downtime at Lake Anna, and shared unique flying experiences around the world.

Thank you to **Debbie Vitale** and **Nicole Winard** for welcoming our new neighbors, **Katherine (Katie) Zeng** and **Qiagyu (Michael) Zeng** to Old Town Village. They plan to reside in the neighborhood for at least two years at **308 S Fayette Street**. Stay tuned for more about them in the June *Crier*.



# Grounds & Services

Leslie Silkworth, Co-chair

## OTV Planting Day May 5

Spring is here and once again it's time for **OTV Planting Day**. As in previous years, Chapel Valley has agreed to host a spring planting day for the entire OTV community. This year's event will take place on **Tuesday, May 5** starting at **8:00 am**.

**OTV Planting Day** is an annual spring event where our **Chapel Valley** crew will plant flowers and small plants that you have purchased for your property.

### In preparation for OTV Planting Day:

- Before planting day, remove the old plants (if there are any) in the area where you plan to plant new ones,
- Provide the new plants and place them where you want them planted by **8:00 am** on **May 5**. The plants can be no larger than those in three-gallon pots.

Chapel Valley will then handle the rest. Please be patient concerning when the crew will arrive at your property. It will depend upon the number of planting requests. If there are a lot of requests, it could take all day for the crew to finish. If you **will not be home all or part of the day**, just make sure you have your plants out by **8:00 am** and place where you want them. The crew will go ahead and plant them.

Interested in participating?

Simply email **Leslie Silkworth** at [silkworth@gmail.com](mailto:silkworth@gmail.com) by **12:00 noon** on **Monday, May 4** to express your interest so you can be added to the planting list. In the email, please make sure you include your **home address** and **phone number**.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to ask.



# Need something in the OTV?

Here is who to ask

## Website for self service needs

Note: Log in to <https://otvtownhomes.net/>

- 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](mailto:dnewman@cfmmanagement.com)

**Condos** - Christie Beruete [cberuete@sentrymgmt.com](mailto:cberuete@sentrymgmt.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
- 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
- Mailboxes

## Architectural Review Board Chair

- Requests approvals for exterior changes
- Inquiries about annual inspection

## Communications Chair

- Getting an OTV Directory



# The VillageCrier

## Condominiums

Old Town Village, Alexandria, Virginia

### From the OTVCUOA President

Barbie Frank, President

**Good News! Jim Sinnette** has volunteered to fill **Nancy Morgan's** board position, and his appointment was approved at the April Board meeting. As most of you know, Jim served on the Board for several years and was President when I moved into OTVC. Obviously, he brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to his position. In addition, his background as an engineer has been invaluable during our dealings with the City regarding the **Frederick Douglass Cemetery** project.

Please join me in welcoming Jim back to the Board and look for his article in this edition, which provides an update about the Cemetery project progress and what is still coming.

**Building 4 Deck Repairs:** Now that most of the work has been completed on the drainage pipes and channel behind Building 4, Carlson Structural Engineering will soon begin its evaluation of all of the decks.

Outdoor water faucets: **The Grounds Committee** and **Francisco** examined at all of the water faucets and identified five that needed immediate repair due to excessive leaking. The first one, outside **1410** in **Building 4**, has already been repaired. The others are being scheduled. The water has also been turned on, and the hoses/hose boxes have been placed adjacent to the faucets.



### Board Meeting

OTVC Board Meeting  
Tuesday, May 19  
6:30 pm, in the Roundhouse

All OTVCUOA residents are welcome to attend.

### OTVC Condominium 2026 Board of Directors President

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### Vice President

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Vacant

### Welcome

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### Portfolio/Property Manager

Sentry Management

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Christie Beruete | 703-642-3246 x 56511  
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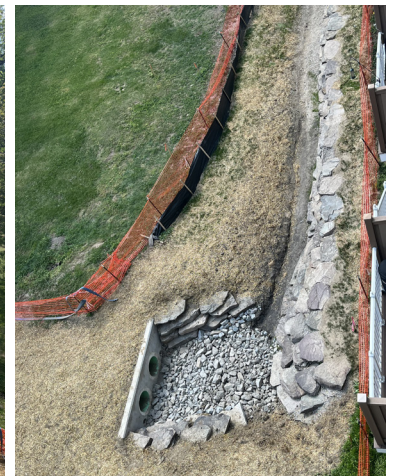
# Update on Douglass Cemetery Stormwater Improvements

As you may have noticed, the City of Alexandria is making great progress with improving the drainage conditions and reducing localized flooding at the historic Douglass Cemetery behind Building 4. The Douglass Cemetery was established in 1895 as a non-denominational African American cemetery and named in memory of Frederick Douglass. The City acquired one-quarter ownership of the property in the interest of protecting it as a historic resource, and currently maintains the Cemetery property.

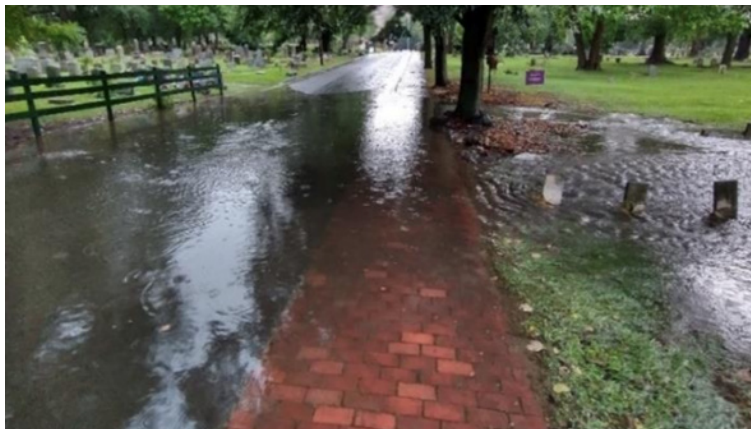


running from Wilkes Street to a junction box within the Douglass Cemetery. But, there was just a single, 30-inch corrugated metal pile running from the junction box to the pipe outlet into the ditch behind Building 4. That single 30-inch pipe was not adequately maintained and, as a result, partially collapsed and became filled with sediment. This significantly reduced the pipe's capacity and resulted in poor drainage, which led to permanent ground settlement and destabilization of the grave markers. The poor drainage also resulted in localized flooding on Wilkes Street as well as ponded areas in the Cemetery, which could last for hours and even days.

The City's drainage improvements will impact the ditch/gully behind Building 4. The project will repair the poor stormwater drainage conditions that occurred due to poor pipe design and inadequate pipe maintenance. There were two, 30-inch stormwater drainage pipes



The City has almost finished installing the two new double 24-inch PVC pipes under the Douglass Cemetery. Due to site constraints, double 30-inch metal pipes could not be installed in the Cemetery. The new two 24-inch PVC pipes will have the same capacity as



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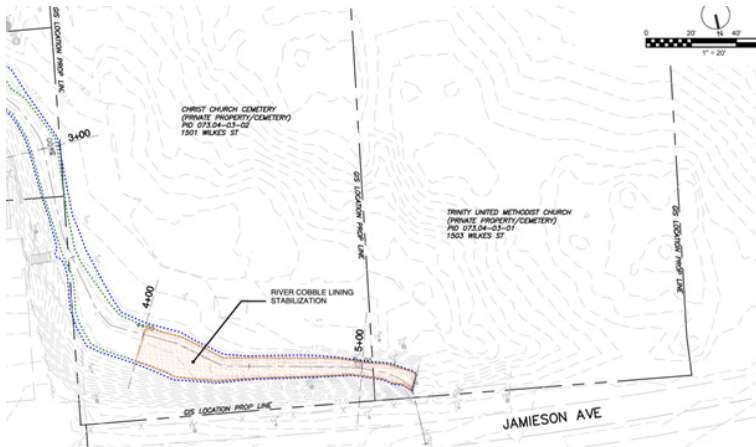
two 30-inch corrugated metal pipes, because the PVC pipes do not have corrugations and are much smoother than metal pipes. The City has installed a concrete headwall and riprap basin at the outlet of the two pipes to improve the efficiency of the pipes. The City will install Turf Reinforcement Mat stabilization along the portion of the newly graded slopes adjacent to the Cemetery. This will allow vegetation to grow through the holes in the mat while keeping the newly graded slope stabilized until it is vegetated.

These new pipes will convey stormwater from 15.9 acres upstream of the Cemetery. When all work is completed, the water surface elevation in the ditch behind Building 4 will increase due to the additional capacity of the new pipes. To protect Building 4's deck supports and pads for the HVAC units, the City installed



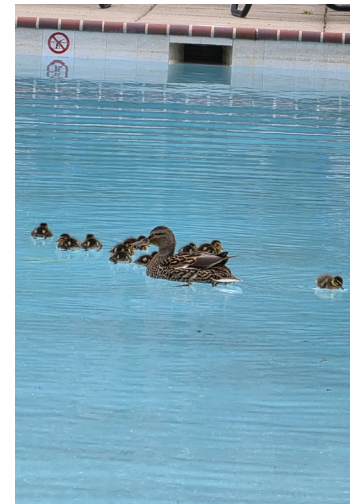
boulder stabilization along the bank immediately adjacent to Building 4. This resulted in an increased buffer between the ditch and the Old Town Village Condominium's property line. The boulder stabilization will also protect against erosion of the ditch.

Another benefit of the City's work is the relocation of the outlets for Building 4's downspouts. Previously, those outlets were located near the bottom of the ditch and were often filled with vegetation and debris. Now the outlets are on top of the boulder stabilization, which will ensure that the downspouts are free-flowing during rain events.



The City's next work item is to install about 125 feet of stabilization along the existing ditch as it passes under Jamieson Avenue. This will be made of river cobble, probably similar in size to the stone that is there now, but with smoother stones.

Finally, you may have noticed stakes along the ditch and near the wood stairs leading to the OTVC parking lot. These stakes mark the limits of the City's access and maintenance easement. There is no work proposed for the ditch at the bottom of the stairs.



# OTVC Grounds Committee

## Frederick Abbey

By the time you are reading this, 10 new native trees (e.g., hornbeam, serviceberry, and Redbud) will have been bought and installed by our tree experts, Davey Trees. The new trees have been planted in front of Buildings 1, 2, 3 and 4, to replace the most distressed and decaying of our English Oak trees. In the coming weeks, we will assess the remaining English Oaks to determine if they will also need to be replaced. If replacement is required, it will occur in the first quarter of 2027. Two additional native trees, which were donated to the community, were installed in front of Building 5 and on the Building 1 island. We will nurse these seedlings and hope to enjoy seeing them mature in the years ahead.



Unit owners may notice empty spots in our front beds due to the removal of dead shrubs and invasive nonnative ornamental grasses. We remind owners that these beds are common property, and are under the Grounds Committee's stewardship; no planting of any kind should occur in those beds. As previously reported, the Committee has a plan to install new shrubs either this fall or next spring. The timing of this installation will be based on budget availability and whether the Yew shrubs in front of Buildings 3 and 4 need to be replaced. These shrubs have received a big cut-back and fertilization to encourage lower growth. In June, we will assess their recovery in consultation with our landscaper and a representative from the Virginia Department of Forestry - Alexandria.

Some unit owners might not want to wait for shrubs to be planted over the coming year. In those cases, the Committee can arrange for our landscape company to install approved shrubs, at the unit owner's expense. If interested, please contact the Committee (via [Frederick.abbey@gmail.com](mailto:Frederick.abbey@gmail.com)).

The Committee is focused on creating the most-consistent look throughout our community, and using a selection of trees and shrubs that have been recommended by the contractor experts. We welcome unit owners to participate in the open forum portion of the Committee's monthly meeting.



WELCOME to  
OldTownVillage  
Condominiums

Sara Rosenbaum, Chair

## 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](mailto: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!

## 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

OTVC Finance Meeting  
Wednesday, May 13  
6:30 pm, in the Roundhouse

All OTVCUOA residents are welcome to attend.

## Next Meeting

OTVC Grounds Meeting  
Tuesday, May 5  
6:30 pm, in the Roundhouse

All OTVCUOA residents are welcome to attend.



# OTV Joint Information



## Management Committee

Old Town Condominium Unit Owners Association

Old Town Village Owners Association

Cheryl Van Coverdan, Chair

Over the last few months, the Management Committee (MC) has methodically worked on two documents that will provide guidance for MC members both now and in the future. One of the documents outlines the Management Committee's process for the Operation Budget and Expenses to Shared Reserves. The second document is a guideline for handling issues for the OTV Traffic Control Gate: Damages and Response steps. We have forwarded the documents to both Boards of Directors for their review.

**Good News!** The Roundhouse is getting new carpeting in the meeting room and on the steps. The carpet installation dates are **Monday, May 4**, and **Tuesday, May 5**. The crew's work hours will be between **9:00 am - 5:00 pm**. The overnight closing is important due to the curing of the glue for the **"Stairway Wood Nosing."** During this time, the facility will not be accessible to residents or guests. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and appreciate your patience and understanding. Hopefully, we will have nice weather, and you will be able to take your exercise/workout outside on those days. We appreciate your cooperation and apologize for any inconvenience.

The pool has already passed inspection for the 2026 season. For your convenience, we have included information regarding the **"2026 Pool Hours"** and the **"Use of Pool and Spa"** in this edition of the *Crier*. To ensure safety in the pool area, please be aware of the City's pool-related regulations that specify the maximum number of pool attendees per lifeguard to be 25. This **"Pool Management Process"** can be found in our pool hours document ([Pg 11](#)).

**Next Meeting**  
 Management Committee  
 Tuesday, May 12  
 6:30 pm, in the Roundhouse  
 All Old Town Village community members are welcome to attend.

## Young Families

Mina Wu, Chair

**Save the date for Sunday, June 14** for the **OTV Summer Picnic**.

We will start at **5:00 PM** with the **bounce house, face paint, and balloon animals**. Children's snacks, chicken tenders, and refreshments will be provided. Hope to see you there!

See the [flyer](#) in this month's *Crier* for picnic information and to sign up (there is a cost for adults, children are free).



**WiFi at the Roundhouse**




**Name: OTVRH**  
**Password: RoundHouse343**

# Activities

Marjorie Cole, Co-Chair

The **First Friday TGIF** is **May 1** at the Roundhouse, beginning at 6:30 pm. TGIFs are weekly informal adult gatherings at the Roundhouse (every Friday is a TGIF at the Roundhouse!). Those who attend may choose to bring a potluck 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 committee event is the **Annual Summer Picnic** on **Sunday, June 14**. There will be barbecue from **Red, Hot & Blue** again this year, along with socializing for adults (beginning at **5:30 pm**) and activities for the kids (beginning at **5:00 pm**) - as always, it is sure to be a fun time for all! This event requires advance registration and payment, so be on the lookout for the registration form in the Crier.

Planning is underway for the **Progressive Dinner**, so if you have not already marked your calendar, here's a reminder to do so - that event will be **Saturday, September 19**. We will provide sign-up information in August.

## Next Meeting

Activities Committee

Wednesday, May 13

5:00 pm, in the Roundhouse

All Old Town Village 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.g.collins@gmail.com](mailto:shannon.g.collins@gmail.com)

Hope to see you soon!



# OTV Pool Hours - Summer 2025

| Sat, May 23 – Sun., June 7 |                     |                     |
|----------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| 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 8 – Fri, August 13 |                     |                     |
|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Lap Swimming                 | Mon - Fri           | 10:30 am – 11:00 am |
| AquaFit* (Water Aerobics)    | Mon, Wed, Fri       | 11:00 am – 11:50 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  |

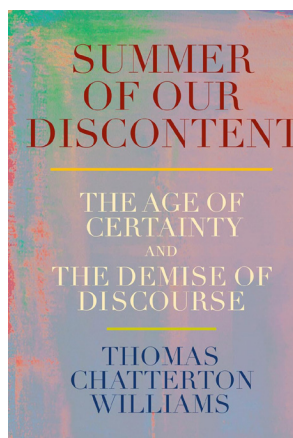
| Sat, August 14 – Mon, September 7 |                     |                     |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Lap Swimming                      | Mon - Fri           | 10:30 am – 11:00 am |
| Open Swim & Spa                   | Mon - Fri           | 11:00 am – 8:00 pm  |
| Open Swim & Spa                   | Weekends & Holidays | 10:30 am – 8:00 pm  |

| Post Labor Day: Tues, Sept 8 – Sun, Sept 13 |           |                     |
|---|-----------|---------------------|
| 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.

## Pool Management Process

Alexandria City Code 11-11-63 stipulates that a maximum of 25 individuals is allowed inside of a pool enclosure (the fenced area surrounding the pool) when only one lifeguard is present. Please be advised that when the number of attendees starts to exceed the 25-person limit, the lifeguard will ask the most recent arrivals to wait in either the Roundhouse or the patio until pool attendees leave, reducing the number below 25. Your cooperation with this procedure is greatly appreciated.



The book for April was *Summer of Our Discontent: The Age of Certainty and the Demise of Discourse* by Thomas Chatterton Williams. The book is a non-fiction analysis arguing that the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic and George Floyd protests solidified a destructive, illiberal shift in American culture, marked by extreme identity politics, social media hysteria, and the breakdown of productive discourse. The book is characterized as a “reactionary centrist” view of the post-2020 landscape, often engaging with how the Obama era’s promise was, in his view, wasted, leading to the polarization seen in the Trump era.

As can be seen by the Group’s rating of this book, it was not well received. Written in a highly academic style, several found the author to be quite pretentious and trying to “sound smart”. All agreed, a more plain-spoken prose would have been much better. We wondered

who he was trying to communicate with and exactly what his point was. We did agree with his discussion about the general loss of critical thinking among the public and the lack of recognition of the nuance and complexity of social issues. Additionally, the discussion about social media impacts and cancel culture was on target.

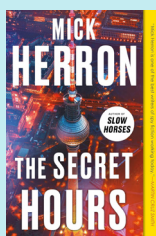
The group rated the book 1 of 5 stars.



**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.

## Next Meeting

The May meeting will be held on Thursday, May 14 at 7:00 pm in the Roundhouse.



The book for May is *The Secret Hours* by Mick Herron.



The **full** reading list for 2026 is posted on the community website: [Book Club Reading List for 2026](http://www.otvtownhomes.net/)



# 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.
3. 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.
5. 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 the 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 sign-in 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 four-hour 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.
20. 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. Resident comments regarding the pool and spa should 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.





|    |           |   |    |           |   |
|----|-----------|---|----|-----------|---|
| 1  | Friday    | <b>First Friday TGIF</b> Condo & TH 6:30 pm                             | 17 | Sunday    |   |
| 2  | Saturday  |   | 18 | Monday    | <b>OTVOA Finance</b> 6:30 pm                                      |
| 3  | Sunday    |   | 19 | Tuesday   | <b>Mah Jong</b> 1:30 pm<br><b>OTVC Board of Directors</b> 6:30 pm |
| 4  | Monday    |   | 20 | Wednesday |   |
| 5  | Tuesday   | <b>Mah Jong</b> 1:30 pm<br><b>OTVOA Grounds</b> 6:30 pm                 | 21 | Thursday  | <b>OTVOA Board Meeting</b>  |
| 6  | Wednesday | <b>OTVC Grounds</b> 6:00 pm   | 22 | Friday    | <b>TGIF</b> Condo & TH 6:30 pm                                    |
| 7  | Thursday  |   | 23 | Saturday  |   |
| 8  | Friday    | <b>TGIF</b> Condo & TH 6:30 pm  | 24 | Sunday    |   |
| 9  | Saturday  |   | 25 | Monday    |   |
| 10 | Sunday    |   | 26 | Tuesday   | <b>Mah Jong</b> 1:30 pm   |
| 11 | Monday    |   | 27 | Wednesday |   |
| 12 | Tuesday   | <b>Mah Jong</b> 1:30 pm<br><b>Management</b> 6:30pm                     | 28 | Thursday  |   |
| 13 | Wednesday | <b>Activities</b> 5:00 pm<br><b>OTVC Finance</b> 6:30 pm                | 29 | Friday    | <b>TGIF</b> Condo & TH 6:30 pm                                    |
| 14 | Thursday  | <b>Book Club</b> 7:00 pm  | 30 | Saturday  |   |
| 15 | Friday    | <b>TGIF</b> Condo & TH 6:30 pm  | 31 | Sunday    |   |
| 16 | Saturday  | <b>All events are at 7 pm in the Roundhouse unless otherwise noted.</b> |    |           |   |

## Celebrate on Friday and Socialize in OTV

Celebrate **TGIF EVERY Friday** at the Roundhouse and most especially the first Friday of each 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!

This event is for adults only

### Weekly

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

### May events

5/1 **TGIF** First Friday

### Future

- 6/14 Summer Picnic
- 9/19 Progressive Dinner
- 10/23 Oktoberfest
- 12/4 Holiday Party
- 12/11 Santa For Seniors

## The VillageCrier

Old Town Village  
Alexandria, VA 22314  
May 2026

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:

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# END Notes

## OTV - Aqua Fitness Classes Summer 2026

**June 15 - September 4**  
**Monday - Wednesday - Friday**  
**11:00 am - 11:45 am**

### Fees

Whole Summer Session \$425 (36 Classes)

Half Summer Session \$225 (18 classes)

Mini Summer Session \$90 (6 Classes)

Drop-in Fee \$20 Cash Only

No Refunds - weather make-ups with extra class time

Must have pool shoes to participate

**"FREE"**  
Class Demo & Sign-up  
Friday June 12  
11:00 am

Payments accepted in **Cash Only!**

**Sandy 240-377-6022**



# OTV Summer Picnic BBQ

June 14, 2026  
5:30 - 7:30 PM

Food catered by

**RED HOT & BLUE**

\$15 for adults  
Children are free



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 with your  
information and put your cash, or check,  
payable to "OTVOA" in the lockbox inside the  
Roundhouse lobby by **JUNE 9th**

Please place payment, with the names of adults and the number of children attending, in  
the Lockbox inside the Roundhouse lobby by **June 9**. Make checks payable to **OTVOA**.

Adult Names: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Children: \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print)



# Cemetery Clean-up

## Calling All OTV Volunteers!!! Help Needed for the Semi-Annual Spring Cemetery Cleanup!

Save The Date: Saturday, May 30,  
10 am – 12 noon

On Saturday, May 30, OTV community volunteers are invited to join in the Spring Cemetery Cleanup alongside volunteers from Christ Church and Trinity parishes. This is a coordinated community effort that takes place twice a year to assist in clearing the cemeteries of vines, shrubs, fallen branches, and trash. We also mulch the path from OTV to Jamieson Avenue to prevent overgrowth and keep the area looking clean and tidy.

We need your assistance to come out and assist!



**Where:** Meet at the corner of Wilkes and Hamilton Streets at 10 am (this intersection is inside the cemetery complex (see map).

**Who:** Volunteers from Old Town Village – YOU!

### Admin:

- Ice cold water bottles and garbage bags will be provided.
- It is recommended you wear long sleeve shirt, long pants, comfortable shoes, a sun-protective hat, and work gloves.
- Please bring these tools if you have them:
  - Shovels
  - Pitchforks
  - Rakes
  - Hedge trimmers,
  - Pruning shears
  - Hand saws

**Why?** The impact that OTV has made over the last 19 years in maintaining these cemeteries cannot be overstated. When the community started this project 20 years ago, the cemeteries were so overgrown, you could not even see that it was a cemetery!

Please pass on to anyone who may be interested in volunteering to help.

If you would like to get on the mailing list for this project in the future, please contact **Tim McGarvey** at [tim.mcgarvey@gmail.com](mailto:tim.mcgarvey@gmail.com).

## Friends of Barrett Library Book Sale

May 2, 2026  
10 AM - 4 PM

Kate Waller Barrett Branch Library  
717 Queen St.

The Friends of the Barrett Library will hold their annual Spring Book Sale on Saturday, May 2 from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Come browse a great selection of fiction, nonfiction, children's books, CD's, and DVD's. Prices are \$3 for hardbacks, \$2 for paperbacks, and vary for special volumes and collections. Kate Waller Barrett Branch Library, 717 Queen St., Alexandria. Info: (703) 746-1703.



Sunday, May 17, 2026

### Event Schedule

- 7:00 am Streets close to the public
- 7:05 am Sponsor exhibition Set-up
- 8:00 am Vehicle Arrival and Placement
- 8:45 am Car Judging Begins
- 10:00 am Opening Ceremony – Event Producer and Emcee, National anthem**
- 10:10 am Live Music | TBD
- 12:00 pm Style Celebration
- 12:45 pm Awards Ceremony and Trophy Presentation
- 1:10 pm Live Music F | TBD
- 3:15 pm Cars Depart/Sponsor Canopy Tear-down
- 4:00 pm Streets Reopen



This event, held between **Pitt Street and Washington Street** in the heart of Old Town Alexandria, is one of the East Coast's premier automotive showcases, drawing national and international attention and positioning Old Town Alexandria as a destination for unforgettable experiences.

Old Town Festival Of Speed & Style on Sunday, May 17, presented by Burke & Herbert Bank. Each year, we present an extraordinary lineup of rare and exceptional vehicles from around the world, attracting more than 40,000 car enthusiasts and spectators. The celebration continues with the elegant Style Celebration, highlighted this year by a special tribute to Ferrari, honoring the iconic brand's legacy of performance, innovation, and timeless style. Followed by a distinguished Award Ceremony recognizing excellence in automotive design, craftsmanship, and history.

### Out of the Attic: Another French connection to Alexandria during the revolution

April 22, 2026



A July 19, 1782, map of Alexandria from the Library of Congress' Rochambeau Map Collection. (Photo/Library of Congress)

In 2024, Alexandria celebrated the 200th anniversary of the 1824 visit of Marquis de Lafayette. As we celebrate the United States of America's 250th birthday, Historic Alexandria highlights the history of Alexandria and another French protagonist of the American Revolution, General Jean Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, comte de Rochambeau.

Between Aug. 18, 1781, and the start of the siege of Yorktown on Sept. 28 of that year, Rochambeau and George Washington led approximately 6,300 soldiers from Rhode Island to Virginia to trap British General Charles Cornwallis, effectively ending the American

Revolutionary War. Washington briefly hosted Rochambeau at Mount Vernon from Sept. 10 to Sept. 12, 1781.

The train of allied American and French troops camped north of Oronoco Street and on either side of Washington Street from Sept. 25 to Sept. 26 after a two-day march from Georgetown. There is a Virginia state marker at the intersection of North Washington Street and Oronoco Street commemorating the brief encampment.

The bulk of the French Army in the Americas stayed outside Alexandria on July 19, 1782, well after the Battle of Yorktown. French officers drew this 1782 map, showing the French Army camped on a large plain near Alexandria. You can also see Alexandria at the time, with two roads leading to Georgetown – which was part of Maryland at the time – and an east-west thoroughfare thought to be along today's Duke Street.

After the victory at Yorktown, Rochambeau kept his army in Virginia, allowing him to support either Gen. Washington farther north, or Gen. Nathanael Greene, who was operating in South Carolina.

By this point, French officials had already decided that Rochambeau's expertise was no longer needed in the New World. The general returned to France while his soldiers moved to the Caribbean to prepare for an invasion of Jamaica.

Rochambeau's connection to Louis XVI led the French revolutionaries to view him with suspicion. Like Lafayette, the revolutionaries imprisoned and investigated him. Also like Lafayette, he avoided the guillotine and spent his final years in retirement in his home of Vendome.

*For updates on the Alexandria Sails on the Potomac event and other America 250 events in Alexandria, please visit [alexandriava.gov/america250](http://alexandriava.gov/america250).*

*Out of the Attic is provided by the Office of Historic Alexandria.*