November / 2026



The VillageCrier

Old Town Village, Alexandria, Virginia

Meet the artist

friday | Nov 6 | 6:30 pm Roundhouse

first FRIDAY

From the OTVOA Board of Directors

Jill Eicher, President

Board Update

The Activities Committee hosted another successful Oktoberfest. Luckily the weather permitted attendees to enjoy dining out on the patio. We finished the month with the annual trick-or-treat Halloween parade enjoyed by OTV kids, their parents, and even some furry family members.

AnnualMeeting

OTVOA Annual Meeting
Monday, November 2
6:30 pm - Check-in

7:00 pm - Marriott Residence Inn, 1456 Duke Street

Board Meeting to follow

All Townhouse members are welcome to attend.

OTVOA 2026 Annual Meeting Monday, November 2 is the date for the **2026 OTVOA Annual Meeting**. The meeting will be held at the **Marriott Residence Inn** at **1456 Duke Street** beginning at **7:00 p.m.** with check-in starting at **6:30 p.m.**

Board Meeting Activities

- The Board continued its review of the draft 2027 OTVOA budget. The Board decided to add an additional $18,000 for the Architectural Review Board (ARB) to outsource home inspections which are currently performed by volunteers.
- The Board decided to continue discussion and revision of draft ARB documents regarding Resale Inspection Policy, Delegation of Routine Architectural Decisions and an ARB Application Disclaimer.
- The Board passed a motion to establish a policy clarifying the ARB's decision-making authority over good faith remediation efforts addressing ARB violations.
- The Board approved a contract with Lomar General Contracting to repair several sections of OTVOA's sidewalks.

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- The Board approved unanimously, by e-vote, the cost of repairing a faulty siren sensor in the gate. E-votes are certified at the following Board meeting.

The decision of whether to hold a Board meeting in December is to be determined. Current Board members serve until the end of December, and a new Board will meet **Thursday, January 21, 2027**.

Townhouse residents with questions or comments may contact the Board at otvboard@gmail.com. Board members' individual contact information is listed in the right-hand column of the Crier.

ARB

Pamela Verick, acting Chair

Annual ARB Inspection Update

OTV Homeowners have been busy on home maintenance projects! As the Architectural Review Board (ARB) conducts annual inspections, we encourage homeowners to ensure that any violations from previous years are formally closed out once their remediation projects are complete.

In many cases, homeowners have already completed required repairs from 2024 and 2025; however, the ARB may not have been notified or provided with updated photos or confirmations for verification. We kindly ask that past violation notices be reviewed and you contact the ARB if corrective work has been completed.

Keeping our ARB records current in HOA Life helps streamline the inspection process, reduces unnecessary follow-up notices, and ensures that OTV community records accurately reflect the condition of your property.

Thank you for helping maintain the appearance and value of our cherished community.



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WELCOME to OldTownVillage Townhouses

Lisa Groover, Chair

The Welcome Committee was thrilled with the turnout for this year's **New Residents' Reception** on **October 17**! Even with the chilly weather, there were **18** new neighbors (and two toddlers) and **21** board and committee members in attendance.

The food from **Bittersweet** was yummy and beautifully presented. Janie Smith did an outstanding job selecting a beverage for every taste…beer, wine, sparkling water and juice boxes!

New OTV Townhome residents (10 purchases and 4 rentals) who have moved into the neighborhood since **October 18, 2025**, were invited along with board members, committee chairs, and of course your lovely Welcome Committee and their guests. Although not everyone could make it (or had moved in yet), those who did had a wonderful time!

We are also pleased to introduce you to several neighbors.

Linda Safran welcomed **Christina Luk**, the new owner of **400 S. Payne Street**. Originally from California, Christina has been living in Arlington for the last few years. She moved to be closer to her best friends and Godson. Christina works as a commercial litigator for a large law firm in D.C. She loves to travel, read, and play board games. She looks forward to making new friends in the OTV Community.

Arlington natives **Kerry deLeon** and **David O'Neill** will be moving into **1201 Wilkes St.** when they return from their one-year anniversary and delayed honeymoon in Japan in early November. Both have families in the area and are looking forward to settling in OTV after living in California and Boston for Kerry, and David while serving in the US Army in the Jag Corp. David now works in contract law for Fox Rothschild and Kerry works in cyber security. Both are avid runners and enjoy being outdoors. David, a former basketball player in high school, still enjoys the hoops and Kerry is exploring her artistic skills in watercolor painting. They are looking forward to getting acquainted with OTV and the walkability of Old Town. **Janie Smith** had the pleasure of welcoming Kerry and David, and now you will too!

Stay tuned for more introductions before the end of 2026!

New Residents' Reception



From left to right: **Ana Ruggie, Linda Safran, Janie Smith, Lisa Groover, Rose McHenry, Debbie Vitale** and **Aimee Kominiak.** Not shown: **Dani Lane, Stacey Jacobs,** and **Nicole Winard.**







Hardscape

Susan Swain, Member

Bricks and Hydrants R Us Right Now

During this year's assessment of our community's sidewalks, we observed that the 25-year maturation of our trees has—and is likely to continue to cause—ongoing displacement of sidewalk bricks from overgrown tree roots. Four areas were highlighted for repair this year, all in the 1100 and 1200 blocks of Roundhouse. The committee had a great deal of discussion about mitigation with the Grounds and Services Committee and the full board, with much consideration of pedestrian safety, tree preservation, and adequate funding for this year's repairs and those going forward. Root mitigation and repairs were scheduled with two contractors and hopefully completed by the time you are reading this. We also conducted routine flushing of our fire hydrants and learned that one of them needed additional work, which we are tending to.

Committee members are **Graham Ruggie, Chair, Mike Vitale,** and **Susan Swain**.





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

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
- 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

Save the Date: Annual Meeting is November 17

AnnualMeeting
OTVC Annual Meeting
Tuesday, November 17
6:30 pm, in the Roundhouse
All OTVCUOA residents are welcome to attend.

The primary purpose of the Annual Meeting is to elect new Board members. Two members are reaching the end of their term: James Evans and Jim Sinnette. Jim Sinnette is planning to run for re-election, while James has notified the Board that he has decided not to run again. We do have a candidate for the Board opening, David Yentzer. David and his wife, Gail Schneider, are transplants from the Townhomes. David is looking forward to applying his knowledge and experience to helping the OTVCOA continue its reputation as a great place to live. David's self-nomination form will be provided prior to the Annual Meeting.

It is critical that we have a quorum of unit owners, which is 25%. If you cannot attend the Annual Meeting, please complete the Proxy that was included in the package you recently received in the mail. Once the Proxy is completed, you can send it to Christie at Sentry, give it to any Board member, or give it to a neighbor who will be attending. If you need another Proxy, please contact me at Poolefrank@comcast.net and I will be sure to get one to you.

Management Committee

Regretfully, Cheryl Van Coverden and Lisa Abbey have chosen not to return to the Management Committee for 2027. We are very grateful for the excellent work both have done on the Committee during their tenure. Marcel Ocampo has been appointed to fill one of the vacancies.

We are still looking for second volunteer to represent the OTVCOA on the Management Committee for 2027 and, hopefully, for a year or two beyond that. The Management Committee oversees the management, operations, and maintenance of the Roundhouse, the pool and the gates. The Committee has six members: three from the Condos and three from the Townhomes. ***It is critical that we have full representation for the Condos to prevent an imbalance.***

2027 Budget

The Finance Committee presented its recommended budget for 2027. There were questions about some of the allocations and expenses that could impact the HOA fees. Since two Board members were not present and one Page 8

OTVC Condominium 2026 Board of Directors

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Page 7 member had not had the opportunity to ask questions or present an opinion, I, as the Board President, was not comfortable asking for a final vote. The result is that we will be having a Board meeting on November 17, one hour prior to the Annual Meeting. The only item on that agenda will be discussion of the proposed budget and a final vote. Notification of that meeting will be sent out as usual. We will make every effort to provide remote access; however, since Christie Beruete will be traveling to the Roundhouse for the Annual meeting, we will not be able to use her Teams account. Remote access is not provided for the Annual Meeting.

Welcome Committee

After several years our Welcome Committee Chair, Sara Rosenbaum has notified the Board that she was stepping down. I want to thank Sara for her years of service to the Association as the Chair of the Welcome Committee.

I am also very pleased to announce that Melinda McGarvey and Gail Schneider volunteered to serve as co-chairs of the Welcome Committee; their appointment was approved by the Board at the October Board meeting. We look forward to learning what ideas they have to move this Committee forward.

A Grounds Committee Update

Please see the Grounds Committee's article in the Crier for a very thorough update of all that they have been working on.

Building Four Deck Repairs

The Board approved the selection of LCS Property Services to make the recommended repairs to all of Building 4's decks. Most of them only need the supporting posts to be replaced, all of which are showing signs of decay. A few of the decks will require more extensive repairs. Please note that this is for the ground-level decks only. LCS is in the process of obtaining the necessary permits from the City of Alexandria. Once that is accomplished, LCS will provide Sentry with the schedule and the impacted residents will be notified.

NextMeeting

OTVC Finance Meeting

Wednesday, November 11

6:30 pm, in the Roundhouse

All OTVCUOA residents are welcome to attend.

When was the last Board Meeting you attended?

Do you know how your money and the HOA fees are being managed?

Please come to our monthly **Board of Directors Meetings**, held on the **3rd Tuesday of the month at the Roundhouse**; you can also listen to the meeting virtually.

Stay informed about the operational conditions in our buildings and how decisions are made regarding the financial management of keeping systems running. **Our units are a financial investment with an eye on keeping our HOA fees stable.**

New members are always sought for Board of Director positions and Committees.
Bring your skills and interests to our Committees: Grounds, Finance, and Activities. We'd love to have your involvement. You can find out more about how these Committees run at the Board Meetings as well as information regarding how to contact the leaders, if you wish to join.

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.

Larz Anderson House Tours

Robin Famighetti, Board Member of the Condo Association, is a docent at the **Larz Anderson House**. It is a Gilded early 20th Century mansion in DuPont Circle, DC which houses artifacts from the Anderson's journeys through five continents as well as the American Revolution Institute. If interested, weekday afternoon tour guides can be offered to groups or smaller numbers. Contact **Robin** at clephane@comcast.net for more information.

Grounds Committee

The Grounds Committee continues to juggle multiple projects, each designed to maintain and improve our landscape.

- In October, in front of Building 3, we replaced several yews with holly shrubs that were gifted to us by our Chapel Valley Landscapers. At the end of the growing season, they often have excess plant material, which they share with some of their customers… like us!
- Our tree contractor is expected to complete the removal of two trees by grinding stumps in front of Buildings 1 and 2.
- Our staircase to the cemetery walking path was approved by the Board and we expect construction will begin after the City's approval and permitting.
- The bicycles stored in our enclosure were reviewed, which resulted in a few bikes being removed due to disrepair or not being registered. Residents who want to store their bikes must register and display a identification sticker issued by our management company. Please inquire to our community manager Christina Beruete cberuete@sentrymgt.com for registration.

In September, at the monthly meeting, the Committee discussed how best to clarify and enforce our condominium declaration regarding exterior and interior common spaces. The Committee recommended that the Board enforce the interior prohibition of items being stored in the hallways. Only door-mats and seasonal door decorations are permitted. We recommend that the Board clarify how this rule should be communicated to residents and enforced through an annual walk-through by our community manager.

All of the buildings' exteriors are common property, and the current condominium Declarations do not provide for having any objects outside the units. We heard from members of the community who expressed their preferences and noted the benefits of some materials.

In summary, below is our current thinking in response to comments received in September:

1. Temporary lights on balconies are permitted, but must be removed after 30 consecutive days
2. No storage is permitted on balconies
3. No planters may be hung on the exterior of the balcony railings or from deck posts, but they may be hung on the inside of the railing so that is not a falling hazard to the ground below
4. Two plant or flowerpots are permitted on either side of the unit exterior door but may not be higher than the entryway doorknob
5. No tables, chairs, or other items are permitted outside of exterior units
6. One single stone bench (like the two at Building 5) or metal bench (like at Building 2) as long as the color blends into the color of the building is permitted in those units not having a shrub bed in front of their unit
7. Empty planters or pots in front of ground floor units are not permitted and should be moved to exterior rear patios
8. Small pots or containers in grouping or stands/trellis are not permitted on ground floor building fronts
9. No statuary of any kind is permitted on ground floor exteriors or in interior hallways.

We recognize these proposed clarifications will impact several unit owners. The thrust of the community declarations is to ensure a neat, tidy, and common look and feel throughout the community. We are attempting to find a balance between allowing anything to be displayed and enforcing strict prohibitions.

Lastly, we acknowledge that the Condominium Association and its management companies have not, over the years, adequately shared and communicated with residents regarding the use of common space exterior to units. We hope to determine the best way to make this improvement.

The Grounds Committee will recommend that, in December, the Board create clarifications that can be incorporated into our condominium declarations. In addition, we will be recommending a process to communicate and provide a transition for exterior unit owners who will be impacted by these changes.

We invite community members to attend our next grounds committee on November 4, 2026, to share any further comments or concerns before we finalize our recommendation to the Board.

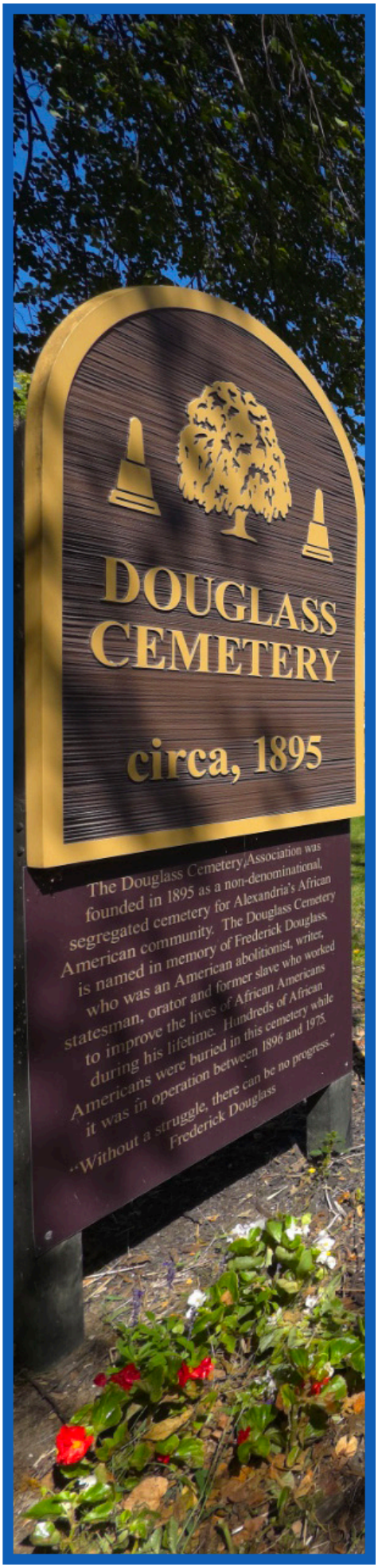
Community volunteers serve on our Board and committees, and we rely on this participation to maintain and improve our community and unit value. Residents are encouraged to join in the effort through committee membership and open forum settings.

NextMeeting
OTVC Grounds Meeting
Wednesday, November 2
6:30 pm, in the Roundhouse
All OTVCUOA residents are welcome to attend.

Alexandria Archaeological Commission Announces Winners of Brenman Archaeology Award

The Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC) is proud to announce the two winners of the annual Bernard "Ben" Brenman Archaeology in Alexandria Award. The awards were presented by Mayor Gaskins on Tuesday, October 13, at the Alexandria City Council meeting. Councilman John Chapman read the proclamation. Stephanie Johnson accepted the award on behalf of the Friends of Frederick Douglass Memorial Cemetery. Steven L. Nelson accepted the other award on behalf of the Social Responsibility Group. The presentation of the awards was part of a series of events and programs recognizing October as Virginia Archaeology Month.

The 2026 Brenman Awards for Outstanding Community Partners highlight the preservation and stewardship of **Douglass Memorial Cemetery**, a significant place in Alexandria's community and history that was founded in 1895 as a segregated, nondenominational African American cemetery. The 2026 honorees are the Friends of Frederick Douglass Memorial Cemetery and the Social Responsibility Group (SRG) for their organizations' commitment to the highest quality preservation, advocacy, and citizen-city partnership at Douglass Cemetery in the Wilkes Street Cemetery Complex. The two organizations have partnered with volunteers, neighbors, and Office of Historic Alexandria staff from Alexandria Archaeology, Oral History, and African American History to raise awareness for this sacred, final resting place of over 2,200 Alexandrians, making this the largest African American cemetery in Alexandria. Additionally, the Friends of Douglass Cemetery and the Social Responsibility Group speak on behalf of their ancestors in envisioning a historic site for which they would be proud. Contributions like these enrich the lives of Alexandria residents and visitors with history, both today and for decades to come.



The AAC, a City of Alexandria commission, was the first of its kind established in the United States. The 15-member AAC is appointed by the City Council and develops goals and priorities for Alexandria's archaeological heritage. The commission works closely with residents, government agencies, developers, and teachers to promote archaeology in the city.

The AAC established the Brenman Award in 2007 in honor of the late activist and retired U.S. Army colonel, Bernard "Ben" Brenman. Brenman had devoted himself to finding, preserving, and sharing Alexandria's rich and diverse heritage, and was a founding member of the AAC, serving as its chair for 21 years. The Brenman Award recognizes businesses, organizations, families, professional preservationists, volunteers, students, and other individuals who have demonstrated work or efforts in archaeological investigation, research, site protection, education, public interpretation, open space design, collections, or conservation.

To learn more about the Ben Brenman Archaeology in Alexandria Awards or to view a listing of past recipients, visit alexandriava.gov/go/1343.



OTV Joint Information

Management Committee

Old Town Condominium Unit Owners Association

Old Town Village Owners Association

Cheryl Van Coverdan, Chair

Update on our claim for damage to the West Street Gate

Our claim to the City regarding damage to the West Street gate control arm that was caused by a fire truck, was assigned to a third-party insurance adjuster. Its response on behalf of the City of Alexandria is in reference to a claim that was submitted on April 30, 2026. The claim was denied under sovereign immunity. A quote from the adjuster,

"The city, you know, fire truck and its employees were actually on an emergency call with the lights and sirens activated, and they were acting within the scope of their employment while performing a governmental function. And for this reason, the city cannot be held liable."

Roundhouse Operating Budget Review

- A review of our operating budget shows that we are slightly over budget. This is mainly driven by the Alex Renew bill from this month.
- It was also noted that the new deduct meter billing will always be two months behind the actual usage. The water bill appears to be higher than normal, and this could amount be from the backflow meter. This will be an item to watch over the winter months.

Management Committee (MC) Guidelines for Operating Budget & Expenses to Shared Reserves

The last edit was made on July 14, 2026. An updated version was presented to the MC for review with an edited last paragraph reflecting the guidelines due to the new Virginia State law for HOA Reserves. The MC agreed with the edits. The latest version has been sent to both Boards of Directors for their review and approval at their respective meetings this month.

Project Updates

Roof Refurbishing: The roofing repair work's anticipated completion date is approximately October 20th. There was some discussion with the roofing company regarding the hex screws and loose screws. It has been determined that the work that is being done is per the RFP. We are waiting for two additional proposals: one to replace the vent boots and the second regarding painting the beige vented area of the roof. This new proposal will be combined with the painting of the trim of the Roundhouse in an effort to match the colors, to be done in 2027.

Pool Management Services Update: The pool closing was performed with no issues and inventory will be taken now that the season is complete. A new three-year contract with Premier Aquatics was approved for 2027-2029.

Annual Elevator Fire Safety Inspections: On October 12th, VSC completed its Fire/Life Safety inspection along with Area Access and Dominion Elevator, as required by the City of Alexandria. Previously, the MC thought that both of these inspections needed to be completed at the same time, but the inspectors informed us that this was not necessary. The elevator is not part of the fire/sprinkler system and is not a fire or recall phone. The elevator emergency phone has a dedicated line that is monitored by an emergency call center through VSC. This year's annual inspection included a pressure check, since we have a hydraulic system elevator. Every five years, the inspectors have to do a Load Test, which will be required in November 2028.

Pest Control: Quarterly visits and inspection revealed that there were no pests found. This is good news and confirmation that the treatments are working to keep the Roundhouse pest-free! Page 12

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Contract Update

At the October 13 MC meeting, members discovered that two recent contracts had been signed without properly following procedures. As a result, we recognized the need to create guidelines about proper procedures for handling contracts. These guidelines will ensure protection against liabilities to the association, consistency, and transparency. The MC has a responsibility to both OTV communities to follow and uphold the governing documents of the Cost-Sharing Agreement in all matters that involve the Roundhouse building. Moving forward, the MC requests that contracts be rewritten and executed following the appropriate steps.

Message to all volunteers and committee members

Our communities are fortunate to have many volunteers and committee members, some of whom may be new to the community. We appreciate the time that is spent to enrich and enhance our neighborhood. We encourage you to review your by-laws and the Cost-Sharing Agreement, both of which can be very helpful.

Please note the following information regarding contracts for Old Town Village:

- **Only the HOA Boards of Directors can direct the execution of a contract that binds the HOA**
- **Contracts associated with services provided to shared facilities need to be reviewed/approved by the MC prior to going to both the OTVOA BOD and the OTVCUOA BOD for final review.**

NextMeeting

Management Committee

Tuesday, November 10

6:30 pm, in the Roundhouse

All Old Town Village community members are welcome to attend.



OTV Halloween Parade












Activities

Sharon Frahler , Member

Happy Fall!
It's finally here! The OTV community celebrated with a fabulous evening—an **Oktoberfest Party** with spectacular fall weather and new and longtime OTV friends. The delicious brats were prepared by our own "**Chef Danny**." Side dishes, desserts, and much laughter were provided by our OTV neighbors! Many thanks to **Dan McGuan** *(the OTV Chef)*, **Carol Chiasson, Sheila Gordner, Carole Cloyd, Joan Buckley, Joanne Orsena, Debbie Vitale,** and **Sharon Frahler** for the decorations, preparations, and organization.

Have you attended a **First Friday**? Please join us at **6:30 pm, Friday, November 6**, for our next **FIRST FRIDAY**, a relaxed gathering with our OTV neighbors! This FIRST FRIDAY will feature local artist **RISTO**, who will be displaying and discussing his beautiful watercolor prints of Alexandria.

Meet the artist

friday | **Nov 6** | 6:30 pm Roundhouse

first FRIDAY

The next meeting of the Activities Committee is on **Wednesday, November 11, 5:00 pm** in the Roundhouse. The meeting is open to all OTV community members, so please join us!

Would you like to participate in holiday decorating? We would love you to join the Activities Committee on **Monday, November 30, at 1:00 pm** to decorate the Roundhouse for the holiday.

Please mark your calendar for the **OTV Holiday Party, Friday, December 4, 6:30pm**. Join us for this lovely celebration of the holiday season. Donations for Alexandria's **ALIVE!** Program will be collected.

As we think of the Holiday Season and consider how to help others, please consider donating small toiletries and other items to fill gift bags for Alexandria's senior citizens via Santa for Seniors. These gift bags are distributed through Senior Services of Alexandria. There will be a box in the Roundhouse to collect donations. See the flyer on page 17 of the Crier for a link to sign up for specific items to donate. THANK YOU!

Young Families

Mina Wu, Chair

Save the date for the final event for the OTV Young Families Group!

OTV Children's Holiday Party
Sunday, 12/6 at 4 PM

NextMeeting
Activities Committee
Wednesday, October 14
5:00 pm, in the Roundhouse

All Old Town Village community members are welcome to attend.

WiFi at the Roundhouse

Name: OTVRH
Password: RoundHouse343

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

Hope to see you soon!



BookClub

Heidi Plott, Club Co-Chair



The book for October was *Van Gogh's Lover* by Michael Hetzer. This dual-timeline historical mystery and thriller novel spans two centuries, weaving together the modern-day theft of a family heirloom with the hidden history of Vincent van Gogh's years in France. The story follows Jane Ward, a woman whose once-promising future was derailed twelve years prior by a traumatic high school accident. Her life takes an unexpected turn when the powerful Firth Gallery invites her to Switzerland to evaluate her beloved family heirloom: an unauthenticated portrait titled The Lover, which Jane is convinced is a genuine, undiscovered masterpiece by Vincent van Gogh. Once in Geneva, the plot takes off with romance, intrigue, and the unraveling of the mystery.

The group found the book an enjoyable read. As long as one realizes there is very little actual history (more speculation than fact) in the story, it is a fun mystery with a nice amount of romance thrown in. We liked how the book switched between present and past timelines and how everything was wrapped up in a bow by the end. The reading was easy and light.

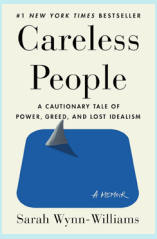
The group rated the book 3.5 out of 5 stars.



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.

NextMeeting

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



The book for November is *Careless People* by Sarah Wynn-Williams.

2026 Reading List



The **full** reading list for 2026 is posted on the community website: [Book Club Reading List for 2026]



1	Sunday		16	Monday	**OTVOA Finance** 6:30 pm
2	Monday	**OTVOA Annual Meeting** 7:00 pm Marriott Residence Inn	17	Tuesday	**Mah Jong** 1:30 pm **OTVC Annual Meeting**
3	Tuesday	**Mah Jong** 1:30 pm	18	Wednesday	
4	Wednesday	**OTVC Gounds**	19	Thursday	
5	Thursday		20	Friday	**TGIF** Condo & TH 6:30 pm
6	Friday	**First Friday** TGIF - Meet the Artist, Condo & TH	21	Saturday	
7	Saturday		22	Sunday	
8	Sunday		23	Monday	
9	Monday		24	Tuesday	**Mah Jong** 1:30 pm
10	Tuesday	**Mah Jong** 1:30 pm **Management**	25	Wednesday	
11	Wednesday	**Activities** 5:00 pm **OTVC Finance**	26	Thursday	**ARB** 7:00 pm
12	Thursday	**Book Club**	27	Friday	**TGIF** Condo & TH 6:30 pm
13	Friday	**TGIF** Condo & TH 6:30 pm	28	Saturday	
14	Saturday		29	Sunday	
15	Sunday		30	Monday	**Roundhouse Holiday decorating** 1:00 pm

All events are at 6:30 pm in the Roundhouse unless otherwise noted.



Weekly

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

November events

11/6 TGIF First Friday

Future

12/4 Holiday Party
12/6 Children's Holiday Party, 4:00 pm
12/11 Santa 4 Seniors Gift bag packing

The VillageCrier

Old Town Village
Alexandria, VA 22314
November 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:

Townhomes
Brigid Christenson | 724-799-3289
brigidchristenson@gmail.com

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

Design & Layout
Steven Winard | 206-619-6731
swinard@outlook.com



END Notes

first FRIDAY

Meet the artist

friday | **Nov 6** | 6:30 pm Roundhouse



Local artist **Risto** will be displaying some of his watercolor prints of favorite Alexandria locations and answering any questions about his process

Join Us For A

Holiday Party

Friday | **Dec 4** | 6:30 pm Roundhouse

The Activities Committee will provide Turkey and Ham

Bring a side dish or appetizer if your address ends in an odd number or a dessert if it ends in an even number

We are taking monetary donations for **Alive!**, a nonprofit that helps local families in need. Please put donations in the lockbox in the Roundhouse lobby.

ALIVE!

Bring your own beverage





VA0175 - Old Town Village and Christ Church Please help us Remember, Honor, and Teach on December 19, 2026, at 09:30 AM (Wreath Placement Immediately Following Ceremony) by sponsoring a wreath, or volunteering, or inviting friends to help at Alexandria National Cemetery, 1450 Wilkes Street, Alexandria. (We are one of several groups supporting the laying of wreaths on the 4,229 veteran's graves.)

HISTORY:
Wreaths Across America is a nonprofit organization founded to continue and expand the annual wreath laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery begun by Maine businessman, Morrill Worcester, in 1992.

Their mission - Remember, Honor, Teach - is carried out in part by coordinating wreath laying ceremonies on one Saturday in December at veterans' cemeteries and other locations in all 50 states. These events are made possible by thousands of individual wreath sponsors, corporate donors and volunteer truckers who organize local ceremonies, raise funds to sponsor wreaths, and participate in the events.

HOW YOU CAN PARTICIPATE:

1. Sponsor wreaths online:
   a. By using the QR Code:
      or
   b. Use on-line link at:
   www.wreathsacrossamerica.org/VA0175

   This link (or the QR Code above) will take you to the VAANCA - Alexandria National Cemetery, 1450 Wilkes St., Alexandria, and our Group ID Number: VA0175. Look for the "Sponsor Wreaths" tab. Using our group number gives us $5 credit toward another wreath for each wreath sponsored.
2. Assist in placing the wreaths: Volunteers for the wreath laying meet at the Wilkes Street Alexandria National Cemetery by 09:30 AM on December 19, 2026.

SPONSORSHIP DETAILS:
Wreaths are $17.00 each. Of course, you can sponsor more than one wreath. For every wreath sponsored, a $5 credit is given toward another wreath. Wreaths will be shipped directly to the cemetery. Our deadline this year is Dec 2nd. Donations received after that date will be rolled over to sponsor wreaths for next year. (Wreaths are picked up in mid to late January as organized by local VFW Post 609.)

QUESTIONS:
Contacts:

Glen Hewitt hewittglen@gmail.com or Cell 571-244-5825, (Christ Church) or

Mike Vitale mcvcsg2@comcast.net or Cell 808-421-9918 (Old Town Village) or

Steve Lindblom steve.lindblom@comcast.net Cell 703-395-9392 (Old Town Village)

Santa 4 Seniors



This holiday season we are again donating gift bags to low-income Alexandria seniors. We hope you will join us!

Please go to SignUp Genius
https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4EA5A822AAFFC43-66983213-otvsanta#/

Leave your gifts in the Roundhouse lobby by Thursday, December 10, 2026

Join us on Friday, December 11 at 10 am in the Roundhouse to help stuff the bags.
Please email Kathylarkin@msn.com with any questions.

Happy Holidays and thank you for helping to make the holidays merrier for our local seniors!

Old Town Village Activities Committee

Alexandria Times

Out of the Attic: Journal provides glimpse of loyalist's time in Alexandria



Alexandria's pre-1776 history includes that of Nicholas Cresswell, loyalist and momentary Alexandria resident. (PHOTO/OFFICE OF HISTORIC ALEXANDRIA)

"The people are arming and training in every place. They are all liberty mad."
-Journal of Nicholas Cresswell, Feb. 18, 1775

In a city that celebrates its ties to the American Revolution, it is easy to forget that not all Alexandria residents supported independence. Our best source of loyalist sentiment in the city is the Journal of Nicholas Cresswell.

Cresswell was born in Edale, Derbyshire, England, in 1750. He arrived in Alexandria in July 1774, which coincided with the adoption of the Fairfax Resolves, written in Alexandria, although his journal does not mention them.

As a new arrival to Alexandria, it is possible that Cresswell never meshed with the residents who had been in town since its founding in 1749. His short time in town was marked by disagreement with many townspeople about their desire to be independent of the British Crown.

Cresswell found that then, as so often today, much of the talk in Alexandria revolved around politics. He objected to the sermons that he heard at the Presbyterian Meeting House, calling the clergy "mere retailers of politics, sowers of sedition and rebellion."

Despite disagreeing with more established Alexandrians, Cresswell mentions attending a ball on Jan. 7, 1775, and eating at taverns in which he argued fervently with other patrons. He claimed that the women at the ball were "fond of dancing, but I do not think they perform it with the greatest elegance."

One can ask if Cresswell found Alexandrians so disagreeable, why didn't he leave, especially after he began to fear that his political opinions would land him in jail.

His journal shows that he tried to leave multiple times. In April 1775, he took a job as a surveyor in Illinois but returned to Alexandria in October 1775 without employment or success.

His public disagreements with those who favored Virginia's independence led the locally appointed Committee of Safety to track his movements. He wrote that the "Committee of this town will not permit me to depart this Colony as they look upon me to be a Spy."

Another attempt to leave in October 1775 was thwarted. He tried again in the summer of 1776, with the help of Thomson Mason, brother of Alexandria patriot George Mason, but violated an agreement with the Committee of Safety not to leave Virginia and had to return to Alexandria after he was captured.

He tried to leave again in the Spring of 1777 with his friend Colin Keir, even after Virginia Governor Patrick Henry denied his request. Cresswell and Keir set sail, claiming their destination was Gloucester, but searched for the British fleet instead. They found the HMS Phoenix, which took them to New York.

Keir volunteered for the British forces, but Cresswell honored a promise to Thomson Mason not to take up arms against the colonists and returned to England in August 1777.

In three short years, Nicholas Cresswell's view of Virginia went from one of agricultural opportunity to one he viewed as "the seat of slavery, confusion, and lawless oppression."

For updates on America 250 events in Alexandria, please visit: alexandriava.gov/HispanicHeritage.

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