



Alexandria Knolls West Condominium

6101 Edsall Road
Alexandria, Virginia 22304

Keeping Busy Ideas While Staying at Home

Hope something on this list of options catches your eye, keeps you occupied or entertained, even for a short while! Thanks to our contributing neighbors for offering their suggestions and solutions.

- **Channel Your Inner Bartender** – Try some new recipes or create your own, within moderation, of course.
- **Cooking or Baking** – Try a new recipe, plan a themed family dinner to make it fun and ask everyone to contribute something to the table. Or shop from your pantry and work with ingredients you already have
- **Browse Auction Sites** – If you don't want to over-spend but miss finding inspiration while window shopping or antiquing, do it virtually. [eBay](#) is now more than an auction site but was one of the originals. [Etsy](#) has great custom creative crafts.
- **Beading/Jewelry** – Focus on detail-oriented creativity is soothing and long-lasting. Use excess beads to accent other crafts.
- **Sewing** – Create a new look, or simply catch up on the projects/hemming or mending that've been waiting for you.
- **Needlepointing or Knitting** – Both are said to be good stress relievers.
- **DIY** – Paint a door frame or an accent wall, install shelves, reorganize pantry.
- **Green Thumb** – It's not too early to start on your balcony garden. Order plants online or visit the garden department of hardware store ([which can stay open for business](#)).
- **Meditate** – Sometimes you just need to breathe.... In and out; in and out.
- **Exercise** – Yoga or Pilates; research at-home apps to try. There are many guided classes or videos to do at your own pace. Lots of new options for streaming exercise classes are popping up.
- **Binge-Watch** – This is a perfect time to binge-watch series and movies you'd love to catch up on. One neighbor has tuned in to Match Game with Gene Rayburn and Charles Nelson Reilly (yup, the one that began airing in 1973). You can also check out complete [TV series to buy](#).
- **Opera** – For fans and novices, streaming audio/video options: [Metropolitan Opera](#), [Vienna Staatsoper](#), [Bavarian State Opera](#), [Parma Opera](#).



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- **Online Tours and Exhibits** – Get your arts and culture fix from home. Many US and international museums have online exhibits. And [Google Arts and Culture](#) is your doorway to so much more than can be listed here.

[Metropolitan Museum – New York](#)

[National Gallery of Art](#) – Washington DC

[British Museum](#) – London, UK

[The Louvre](#) – Paris, France

[Rijksmuseum](#) – Amsterdam, Netherlands

[Uffizi Gallery](#) – Florence, Italy

[Guggenheim Museum](#) – New York

[The J. Paul Getty Museum](#) – Los Angeles

[Musée D’Orsay](#) – Paris, France

[Pergamon Museum](#) – Berlin, Germany

[Van Gogh Museum](#) – Amsterdam, Netherlands

[Vatican Museum](#) – Vatican City, Italy

[National Museum of Modern and Contemporary Art](#) – Seoul, South Korea

[Museu de Arte de São Paulo](#) – São Paulo, Brazil

[National Museum of Anthropology](#) – Mexico City, Mexico

[The Hermitage Museum](#) – St. Petersburg, Russia. A one-take guided tour available on YouTube.

[Watch Trailer](#) or [5 Hour Tour](#)

- **Alexandria at Home** – Offers Bloom Cam to keep you current on the Cherry Blossoms, Lamb Cam (the lambs at Mt. Vernon) and Puppy Love, a daily dose of puppy and dog pictures.
- **Conduct your own Research** – Curious about a specific period in history, a public figure or verifying a rumor or fact? You know where to go!
- **Learn a New Language** – If you want to learn or brush up on prior language skills, check out language apps, [Memrise](#) or [duolingo](#) (free). See below options from Alexandria Library.
- **Pet Tricks** – Furry friend by your side? It’s a great time to try your hand at training. Roll over? High five? Shake hands? Why not?
- **Art** – So many options to explore and discover: drawing, painting, sketching, photography, graphic design. Or coloring books; kids love them, and for adults, it’s an easy, relaxing way to pass time, try an [Adult Coloring Book](#).
- **Calligraphy** – While not for everyone, if you’ve wanted to learn, now is a great time. Just pen, paper and free YouTube tutorials.
- **Games** – Have an all-out game day: Board games, card games, video games, jigsaw puzzles, and more.
- **Writing** – Have a good idea for a novel, or turning your diary into a memoir? No time like the present! Or start your own blog.
- **Virtual Book Club** – Use Skype and FaceTime, or other free or low-cost conferencing services to meet with friends for book discussions.



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- **Reading** – The AKW Library is only a few steps away (with many thanks to our Library Committee!). Or search the many available sites for free books and those to purchase.

And last, the [Alexandria Library](#). Still closed for now, but if you are a member, you can utilize the library's resources from home:

- Checkout an eBook or eAudiobook
- [Read a magazine](#)
- [Search databases](#)
- Access [Heritage Quest](#) for a genealogy project
- Stream films from Kanopy; all [Kanopy Kids](#) selections are free to stream until April 12
- Download music from [Freegal](#) or stream up to 3 hours of music
- Learn languages with [Mango or Rocket](#)
- Get career help with [Career Transitions](#)
- Use the [Gardening and Horticulture](#) database to get information for planting your garden.
- Explore recipes from the [AtoZ World Food](#)

Questions? Contact Cara Sonnier, Digital Services Librarian at csonnier@alexlibraryva.org. Find these and more, along with Library virtual events at <https://alexlibraryva.org/virtual>