



President's Report

January was a busy and productive month at AKW, wrapping up two major maintenance projects. The post tension cable repairs at the C Garage have concluded. And the week-long mission of cleaning the vent stacks has been accomplished as well. We offer apologies for the disruption in water service and gratitude for your patience and cooperation.

We have hired a new Assistant Manager, Judy Skipwith. Please take a moment to introduce yourselves and welcome her to the AKW family. We are also looking for three paid resident volunteers to handle the front desk when the need arises. We hope to achieve our hiring goals by the end of the month.

I would like to remind you that there is still room for you on the Building and Grounds, Security and Pool committees. Your expertise, wisdom and involvement is crucial to our success. See more on [page 7](#).

At this writing we are preparing for our first winter snow event in some time. I hope everyone stays well, safe and warm and off the roads!

Board Meeting Highlights

Reported Financials

	December	November	October
Total Cash and Investments	December	\$2,125,373	\$2,074,299
Year-to-Date Income	financials will be available after CMC closes the 2020 books.	\$1,898,615	\$1,730,351
Year-to-Date Expenses		\$1,823,803	\$1,664,762
Delinquencies \$		\$37,527	\$31,665
Delinquencies %		1.89%	1.56%
YTD Reserve Expenditures		(\$88,665)	(\$88,665)
Total Reserves		\$1,628,102	\$1,590,602

Seven accounts totaling \$35,438.50 make up 94% of the November delinquencies, with another seven accounts of less than \$1,000 making up the \$2,089 balance.

Board Actions

- Engaged A-1 Towing to monitor the Visitor parking for violations and towing if needed. There is no cost to the Association for this service. AKW will migrate to A-1's software allowing them to remotely monitor Visitor parking registrations.
- \$3,329.38 to Environmental Enhancements for rejuvenation and reduction pruning of plants (post blooming) through the late winter and spring.

Also of note:

- Valve replacements to begin the third week in February and continuing the third week of subsequent months until completed. Valve replacements require a full building water shut-off. AKW requested the vendor minimize the frequency of full building WSO.



Welcome Judy Skipwith!

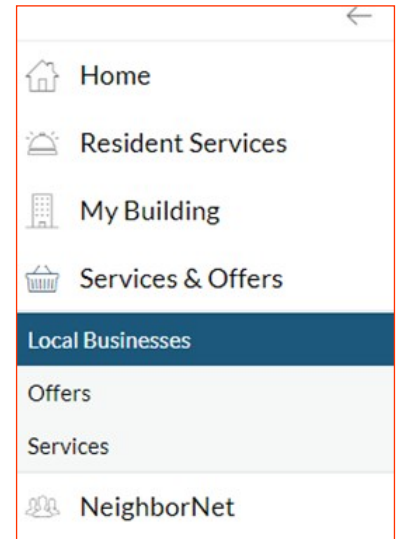
As noted on page 1, Judy Skipwith joined AKW on January 29 as new Assistant General Manager. Judy has worked in administrative, health care and retail environments with customer-facing and management responsibilities. A photo wasn't available at publication, but will be posted on the lobby bulletin board soon.

Judy will work half days on Wed, Thu and Fri and all day Saturday and Sunday (schedule subject to change based on needs). Please say hello to Judy when you stop in the Office.

AKW Web Site Refresh

The AKW web site is on its way to a fresh new look! While the original site served us well, technology changes compelled a move to another interface. Board member and web-expert Joann Wray continues to tweak the site, for which we are most appreciative! Of note:

- The Recommended Vendors list has been moved to the **BuildingLink** platform. Residents can review the list under Services & Offers (left hand side of the screen). Click on Local Businesses. Forward other firms you would recommend to sharon@akwcondo.com or the Office.
- Additional forms have been added to the website. Something missing? Other suggestions? Use the [Contact link](#) on the site to alert us.



2021 Board Meeting Dates

February 9	March 9
April 13	May 11
June 8	July 13
August 10	September 14
October 12	November 9
December 14	

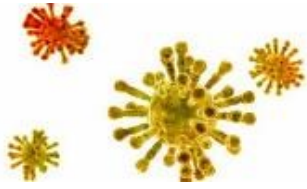


Cold Weather Reminder

It's not uncommon for car batteries to fail in cold weather. This is especially true now that the work-from-home restrictions have vehicles sitting idle longer than usual. We hope you're armed with a reliable roadside service, but here's something to think about.

Mary McClelland told us that she and husband Bill have both encountered dead car batteries in their lower-level garage spaces. The problem came with the roadside service truck unable to fit into the garage. The A, C, and J garage entrances are 6'8" tall. (Were there only short cars in the mid-70s?) The roadside crew had to then locate a portable charger. In the second instance of a dead battery, Bill and Mary visited a nearby gas station and returned with a station employee with a portable charger. The employee then took their car to be serviced at the station.

If this applies to you, make a note to inform any roadside service that there are height limitations. Could save you time and frustration. Thanks to the McClellands for the timely tip!



COVID Corner: Supply Limits Alexandria's Vaccination Efforts

Alexandria Update, January 19, 2021

Based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Virginia Department of Health has established a priority order for the vaccine to be administered when doses have limited availability. The first groups to receive the vaccine are those with the highest risk of exposure to the virus or the highest risk of severe illness if they are infected. Phase 1c will include other essential workers, persons age 65 or older, and persons age 16 through 64 with certain medical conditions that place them at high risk for severe illness if they contract the virus. An individual eligible for Phase 1a, 1b or 1c **based on their employment** should be registered by their employer. An individual who is eligible **based on their age or medical condition** can register through the local health department.

People who are eligible for Phase 1b in Alexandria should submit a [brief form to begin the process to register for vaccination](#). Alexandria Health Department (AHD) is working closely with senior-serving organizations to register residents ages 75 and older who do not have access to the internet or an email address. Those who are eligible for vaccination as part of Phase 1c can also fill out the form, but they will not be able to make a vaccination appointment until Alexandria enters that phase. Members of households may become eligible at different times, depending on their employment locations, occupations, ages, and health conditions. Vaccination phases may vary by localities.

AHD operates three clinics a week that each vaccinate nearly 1,000 people a day, resulting in almost 3,000 vaccinations per week. In addition to these public health-operated clinics, AHD has been redistributing hundreds of vaccines to several community providers who are vaccinating people who have pre-registered through the [online form](#) or by calling the COVID-19 Hotline. While AHD has the capacity to scale up these operations, appointments are limited by vaccine availability from federal and state governments. Please do not visit public health clinics or pharmacies for a COVID-19 vaccine without an appointment; you will be turned away. If you have already registered or pre-registered through the online form, you do not need to submit another entry. Duplicate entries and calls inquiring about vaccine availability slow down AHD's ability to make appointments. If you have questions about vaccination or completing the registration process, call the AHD hotline on weekdays, from 9am-6pm, at 703-746-4988 or visit the [website's vaccine page](#).

AHD estimates that approximately 1 in 15 Alexandrians who tested positive for COVID-19 have required hospitalization. An estimated 66% of Virginia adults who become infected never have symptoms. The best ways to stop the spread of COVID-19 is to remain wearing a mask in public, maintaining at least 6 feet of distance from others, and frequently washing your hands or carrying and using hand sanitizer with at least 60% ethyl alcohol. Help your loved ones and neighbors by calling your close contacts if you test positive for COVID-19. Learn who to call and what to say from AHD's "[What to Do If You Get Sick](#)" guidance, which is available in [Spanish](#), [Amharic](#), [Arabic](#), and [Farsi](#) or this brief [video](#). Download the Virginia Department of Health's [COVIDWISE](#) app to be quickly and anonymously notified of likely exposure to the virus.

Virginia residents can check the Virginia Health Department site to determine [eligibility](#) and information on Vaccine Stages.

The City and AHD have launched free kiosk-based testing sites in partnership with the private testing company Curative.

The kiosks offer a testing swab that is self-administered under the supervision of a Curative worker. Appointments are encouraged and may be made at [Curative.com](#). Walk-up testing is also available. Kiosk service is available in English and Spanish.

[COVID-19: Get Tested | City of Alexandria, VA](#)





Medicare — New for 2021

Costs:	Part A deductible for each hospital stay:	\$1,484.00
	Part B monthly premium:	\$ 148.50
	Annual deductible:	\$ 203.00
	Part D prescription drug plan average monthly premium	\$ 30.50

Expanded telehealth: All beneficiaries can get virtual check-ins with doctors and other health providers.

Medicare Advantage expands: More plans are offering extra services, including meals at home, rides to health appointments, safety improvements to homes, and nutrition counseling.

Dealing with Coronavirus: Medicare will pay for all COVID-19 testing; vaccines will be free to beneficiaries.

Medicare Compare website: The program has created a one-stop online tool to help enrollees compare medical providers, hospitals, nursing homes and other facilities.

Fewer Medigap plans: In 2021, Medicare plans C and F are no longer available for newly-eligible Medicare beneficiaries. Those who have those plans can keep them.

Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment: January 1- March 31, 2021

You can switch between Medicare Advantage plans, disenroll from a Medicare Advantage plan and return to Original Medicare (Part A and B). You may also enroll in a Part D plan when dropping a Medicare Advantage with drugs. For assistance call 703-746-5999.

Medicare 101 Virtual Presentation

Are you new to Medicare or a caregiver for a Medicare beneficiary? Learn the basics of Medicare coverage (Part A, B, C, D and Medigap) and choices. Join Medicare counselors from the Division of Aging and Adult Services February 16, 2021 10 a.m. [Registration is required.](#)

Transportation Program

DOT Para-Transit provides safe, reliable, Americans with Disabilities (ADA)-compliant, curb-to-curb taxi service, seven days a week for residents of Alexandria unable or who find it difficult to use public transportation.



DOT's one-way fare for trips within the City of Alexandria, and up to five miles outside the City limits, is \$4.00. DOT's one-way fare for trips over five miles outside the City of Alexandria is \$6.00. This service has over 1,500 registered clients and provides over 50,000 rides annually.

[Senior Services of Alexandria](#) (SSA) reservationists schedule rides for clients in coordination with the City of Alexandria, Diamond Transportation, and White Top Cab. Call **(703) 836-5222** for reservations. If you have any questions regarding this program call **(703) 836-4414, ext. 116**. If you are interested in signing up for the DOT program, fill out the [application form](#) and fax it to the number on the document. **Note** – All DOT Para-Transit clients may ride the DASH bus for free. Find more information [here](#).

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Groceries to Go

In partnership with Giant Foods and Safeway, SSA provides a grocery shopping and delivery program to seniors who are 60+ living in the Alexandria. Through the *Groceries to Go Program*, screened volunteers deliver groceries year-round, every other week. Groceries are ordered based off the grocery recipient's personal shopping list. There are no delivery fees, and no minimum order requirements.

Currently (during the pandemic), volunteers deliver groceries to the client's front door. Through this program, SSA volunteers provide a vital link to the community and outside world for seniors who otherwise have limited mobility. This program is an important addition to SSA's larger Senior Nutrition Program, with the intent of increasing senior safety, health, and nutrition. *To say the least, Volunteers are always needed and welcome (phone number below).*

Eligibility. To be eligible, you must be a resident of the City of Alexandria, be at least 60 years old, and have a debit, credit, or EBT card. If you or someone you know is interested in the *Groceries to Go Program*, contact Sandy Freedman at **(703) 836-4414, ext. 119**. You can also download a flyer about the program by clicking [G2G](#).

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And as of mid-January, your Intrepid Editor [that's Wendy!] has joined **Senior Services of Alexandria** as a **Senior Ambassador** – a volunteer position that allows me to give you *lots* more information about what's available from the City, other than updates for the Groceries or Transportation programs. I'm amazed by the number of services and resources available, so keep watching for this "Celebrating Seniors" page each month; we can be amazed together!! *Thanks for your continuing interest!*

Alexandria's Division of Aging Caregiver Support Group Via Conference Call

The February Caregiver Support Group Conference Call is taking place Wednesday, Feb. 3, 4-5:30pm. Contact Jennifer Sarisky for call-in information at 703-746-6024 or email her at jennifer.sarisky@alexandriava.gov.

Dementia Friends Virtual Session – Feb 12, 10-11 AM

Mark your calendar if this event is timely.

Dementia Friendly Alexandria is planning a virtual Dementia Friends session on February 12 hosted by [At Home in Alexandria](#). You will **need to RSVP** to aha@athomeinalexandria.org or call 703-231-0824. Once registered, you will be sent the Zoom link. Dementia Friends is a global movement developed by the Alzheimer's Society in the United Kingdom and now underway in the United States. The goal is to help everyone in a community understand five key messages about dementia, how it affects people, and how we each can make a difference in the lives of people living with the disease.

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Restaurant Week — Extended

Winter Restaurant Week in Alexandria was announced after our January issue, but has been extended until February 7. The window is short, but enough time for you to support your favorite local restaurants, or try something new! More than half of the 60 local restaurants are offering **\$25 takeout dinner for one** and **\$49 for two diners**. Check out the options [here](#).



In the Library

A handy-dandy resource for you: The “Directory of Resources for Older Adults and Persons With Disabilities” is a 57-page booklet of all that’s available through SSA, covering subjects such as day care centers, adult protective services, assisted living placement, caregiver resources, pension rights center and more! Everything is categorized, alpha-listed with brief explanations of each, plus phone numbers. We have some now in our Library, in the rack on top of the first shelves. They’re **free**, so please take one if you need it. (If you take the last copy, or they’re missing when you look, tell Wendy and we can get more.)

In addition, the Retirement Guide’s **Source Book** is also in that rack and tells you more than you probably ever wanted to know about everything “retirement” and “senior living.” These are published four times a year (and **also free**); we now have extras if they’re needed!

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DID YOU KNOW ? — Your Homeowner Insurance

From articles in previous issues of **Knolls News**, you know about leaks from a toilet and possible deterioration of the wax ring. The main point is “*If a leak originates in your unit, any resulting damages to other units – and the building – are fully and completely your responsibility.*” Our Master Deed provides that the

Council will maintain insurance on the building (Handbook pg. 46), BUT, “**Owners of individual units shall obtain additional insurance (HO-6)**” that will cover repairs and renovations from water leaks or fires or other calamities. The Board can also ask for proof that you have this insurance, and would include Renter’s Insurance (usually less than \$200 per year!) for those Units leased by an Owner. And Absentee Owners need to carry their own insurance for things not covered by a Renter. ***If you do not have this required insurance, any kind of damage assessment could bankrupt you and lead to losing your home!***

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Celebrating Black History Month

Black History Month is an annual recognition and celebration of the history, culture, achievements and contributions of African Americans and persons of African descent in U.S. history.

Alexandria Library celebrates Black History Month this February with programs for all ages. View the complete list of [programs](#) and browse the subject guide on [African American Culture and History](#).

The [Office of Historic Alexandria](#) invites the public to celebrate with special events and activities throughout February. Historic Alexandria highlights two virtual lectures related to African American history. First is by Susan Hellman, on “*The Green Book*” tourist guide that was invaluable to African American travelers in a segregated America in the 20th century. The second lecture is by Dr. Brenna Wynn Greer on Moss Kendrix, the “Father of Black Public Relations,” whose collection of photographs and documents is housed at the Alexandria Black History Museum. Some programs require registration and a small fee. See the options at [AlexandriaVA.Gov/Shop](#).

A good idea: [Alexandria eNews](#), the City’s free ENews service, lets you curate information of interest to you on nearly **100 topics**, including vital emergency alerts. Get the info you want as soon as it is available!



Getting You Involved

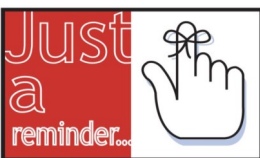
During the December 2020 Board Meeting, President Mike Sullivan announced that he'd like to restart the Committees we had in the past, thus looking to involve more Residents (owners AND renters) in taking care of our building and building more of a Community among ourselves — important because so many new folks have joined us during the past year or so. Committees address the affairs affecting the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our Community, ensuring the continuing stable financial position of our corporation, as well as maintaining the integrity of our infrastructure.



Committees have been an essential part of managing our Community and we'd like to get many of you involved! Each committee identifies a need/problem, discusses possible solutions/actions, and presents recommendations to the Board for discussion and decision. (With only a few folks volunteering for each committee, it will be easy and safe to meet in the Community Room for a preliminary get-together to set up the committee's structure and goals. The Office can also assist to set up Zoom conference meetings.) Most often the committee will be headed by a Board Member. Please refer to your Handbook, pg. 43, for descriptions of the committees (listed below).

If you'd like to be involved, please notify us at Board@akwcondo.com or Michael@akwcondo.com. Your taking part helps you with exposure to Board tasks and gives you framework for potentially running for a Board vacancy at our Annual Meeting each September.

Building & Grounds (B&G)	Budget & Finance (B&F)
Safety & Security (S&S)	By-Laws Amendments
Fitness Center Facilities	Communications
Landscaping	Pool



You've heard this one before

Do you have a smoke alarm? You are strongly advised to get one. The ceiling sensor in your unit (that thing close to your bedroom) is a horn only and is not a fire alarm (as we normally think of it) or a smoke detector. This horn sounds ONLY when someone has pulled the switch in the hallway. The company that monitors our system is alerted and THEY call the fire department. *The alarm continues until the fire department turns it off!!!* The only way to get away from the awful noise is to leave the building!!



If you are the one pulling the alarm, call 911 to give details of where the fire is, if there's smoke or smell of electrical, etc. It will greatly assist the fire department in sending appropriate equipment.

Tax time is around the corner! April 15, 2021

(For informational purposes; no AKW endorsement inferred or implied.)



For those wishing to use the service from AARP [and I've seen people younger than 50 there!], check out the options on the [AARP Foundation Tax Aide](#) site for FREE preparation!

If virus restrictions permit: There are 37 offices within 20 miles of AKW! One site in Annandale is at the Mason Governmental Center (703-658-0216). Because I went there the first time, I go to the Sherwood Regional Library (Sherwood Hall Lane, 22309; 571-882-9374). All preparers are retired agents and are recertified by the IRS every year, so they know the score! Offices are opened around the first of February, Monday thru Saturday 10:15 to 2pm, plus M-F from 5-8pm. Use the [AARP.org website](#) to get info on what documents they'll need. Call to check times. No appointment needed. (Take a book or your Kindle so you'll have something to read while you're waiting.)

An informative article by Michelle Singletary in the January 17, 2020, [Washington Post](#) offered the following resources to see if you qualify for free tax preparation:

- "United Way" nonprofit offers [MyFreeTaxes.com](#) in partnership with H&R Block; state and federal; no income limit. **Tax Counseling for the Elderly** is offered to low- and moderate-income taxpayers, specializing in addressing retirement and pension-related issues. For both of these: 800-906-9887.
- **MilTax:** DOD through [MilitaryOneSource](#) offers free e-filing software specific to military life (reporting deployment and combat pay, e.g.). Use the link or call 800-342-9647.
- [IRS Free File](#) is a partnership between the agency and Free File Alliance for those whose adjusted gross income is \$72,000 or less. For each of these organizations, check to make sure you can also file state returns along with federal. Double-check any to make certain there really is no charge!

The City of Alexandria is also offers some free options. [See their guidelines here.](#)

A [Michelle Singletary column](#) on January 15 says "the IRS is delaying start of the 2021 tax season to **February 12** to allow the agency to get clear of the double burdens of millions of unprocessed tax returns from last year *and* the stimulus relief payments." However, you may **e-file now** using the IRS Free File program. **BTW, the "stimulus relief" checks are tax-free!** [Several articles dealing with 'taxes' *strongly discourage* filing paper copies unless you have an extremely complicated return; *e-filing is strongly encouraged!*]

Looking Forward to 2021 — [#visitALX](#)

A January 28 article in [Alexandria Living Magazine](#) published a recap of a presentation by [Visit Alexandria](#) detailing travel predictions, as well as new restaurants to come and new cultural opportunities planned for spring and summer. If you haven't browsed the Visit Alexandria site, we suggest you do so. It is chock full of things to do and see in our community.





RECOMMENDED

Who would YOU recommend?

Every now and then each of us has had opportunity to use vendors for jobs like painting, electrical, plumbing, wall papering, upholstery, etc. If you have some favorites, please let us know! Email or drop a note in the Office mailbox and it will be added to the

BuildingLink Local Business Directory so we all can have this resource. Of course, the Association can't endorse these folks, but having a referral from another Resident is easier than trying to pick someone out of the Yellow Pages!

Dishwasher Tips

Dishwashers vary in the amount of water used, but are often use no more than 3.5 gallons. Higher end dishwashers use even less. Some tips to get the most of your appliance are below, with more at this [link](#).



- Check your dishwasher soap. If it includes a rinse aid, no need to add extra; just fill the reservoir with white vinegar.
- Pour a cup of white vinegar into the bottom of an empty dishwasher to clean out old food particles and keep your dishwasher smelling fresh.
- Under the lower spray, there is (may be) a dishwasher trap; a removable piece that collects food or other debris. Remove and rinse until clean.
- Check the rubber gasket in the door and around the soap dispenser for any build-up of gunk or grime. Wipe with damp towel as needed.

(This writer props open the dishwasher door (with a chip clip) and lets the moisture dissipate to avoid mold/mildew.)

Resident Contributions

We are delighted to receive and publish contributions from AKW residents. Regretfully, we cannot accept anonymous suggestions, complaints or contributions. Without a name and a way to confirm or clarify the information, we cannot reliably publish to our community. We invite your contributions, along with your identity. **Thank you!**



We need another holiday this month

February 17 — Random Acts of Kindness Day

The idea of this day is to get lots of people doing something kind for someone they don't know with no expectation of getting anything in return. If you have encountered a homeless person and given them money, that's a random act of kindness. This concept is trickier with 'social distancing,' but even a smile and a "Hi!" from across the street qualifies! At the toll plaza, pay for the person behind you (if you're in a cash lane). Think of ways you can help. [Here are some suggestions](#) that won't cost you anything but can pay big dividends!



FEBRUARY

Important Dates in February

- ◆ Board Meeting Tuesday February 9, 7:00 pm*
- ◆ Random Acts of Kindness Day Wednesday February 17

*Information on accessing the electronic meetings will be provided in advance.
The Board Meeting agenda is available in the Office the Friday before the meeting.



Sharon Grant is a Virginia Notary and offers services to AKW residents by appointment at no charge.
Email sharon@akwcondo.com



Important Phone Numbers

Guard Mobile	571-565-5591
AKW Office Phone	703-751-7541
AKW Office email	office@akwcondo.com
AKW Fax	703-751-2136
A-1 Towing	703-971-2600
CMC Emergency	301-446-2635
Police Non-Emergency	703-746-4444
Police Emergency	911
City of Alexandria Info	311 or 703-746-4311

Board of Directors

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