

President's Report

If you thought February was busy around here, with all the snow and ice and the vent stack cleaning, among other projects, check out our March schedule!

We will be starting our garage repairs this month. We recently finalized an agreement with Koons Collision Center to accommodate residents who need to vacate their spaces during the construction project. That said, parking at the Koons location will come with some restrictions. In addition, residents should expect fewer available Visitor parking spaces.

I am happy to report new Committees have formed and begun to hold meetings. These include the Budget & Finance Committee, Safety & Security Committee, Communications Committee and the Pool Committee. We are thrilled to see so many new faces (as well as the familiar faces) actively participating in the management of our community. If you are interested in participating, let us know. If you're simply curious, attend a meeting. Meeting notices are published to the community.

I'd like to remind you to treat our staff with respect and courtesy. If you are experiencing a problem that is not being handled to your liking, you can always bring it to the Board. An Open Session period is offered at every monthly Board Meeting for you to share your concerns. Just let the office know you want time to speak in advance of the meeting, if possible. We will always try our best to address your issues.

Last, I would like to thank Quade Whitmire for his hard work and time served as an AKW Board member and Board President. He will be leaving us this month for his dream home in the South. Although we hate to lose him, we surely wish him well.

Board Meeting Highlights

Reported Financials

	February	January
Total Cash and Investments	\$2,185,716	\$2,125,373
Year-to-Date Income	\$2,074,388	\$1,898,615
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$2,061,405	\$1,823,803
Delinquencies \$	\$37,563	\$33,445
Delinquencies %	1.89%	1.64%
YTD Reserve Expenditures	(\$106,840)	(\$88,665)
Total Reserves	\$1,647,427	\$1,628,102

- \$1,578.68 to Densel to replace a defective actuator on the corridor Air Handling Unit (AHU).
- \$3,225.29 to Densel to replace the fan shaft bearings on the hallways AHU.
- Elevator reservations no longer require a deposit fee. The usage fee remains at \$100. Residents reserving the elevator via BuildingLink will be required to agree to a liability waiver as part of the reservation.



Project Update: C/D Garage Deck Reconstruction

The first phase of the reconstruction of the C/D garage begins on Monday, March 15. Those displaced by the work have been notified and parking accommodations are under way. All residents should be mindful that Visitor parking will be limited for the duration of this phase, expected to conclude in May.



The subsequent construction phase will begin almost immediately upon conclusion of the first phase. Parking will be impacted in all construction phases, but hopefully will be short-lived for small segments of residents at a time. We will experience some trying conditions. Be prepared to live with some inconvenience for the duration.

Courtesy in a Shared Community

One of the nice things (other than the Thank Goodness elevators!) about living in a hi-rise like ours is that we have lots of **grocery carts** available for toting everything from groceries to furniture to pets/children in carriers from the curb to “home.” One of the lousy things about (all those things) is that some folks have difficulty returning them to the trash or storage room so others can use them!

Courtesy is
simply doing
unto others
what you would
like them to do
unto you.

Unknown

QuotePixel.com

We have only 15 carts labeled with our name and a few of the larger carts left from previous iterations. This means we *don't* have enough that you can keep one in your unit. We need them to be returned to the Trash Room “asap.”

Have you seen a cart all by itself next to the elevator? Or just left in the middle of the hallway? Some folks think this is okay. ***It isn't!*** If you use it, it's your responsibility to return it to the Trash Room. Same thing with the **hand truck** (dolly) or **luggage cart** – those are supposed to be *signed out* and then returned to the storage area.

These items are for everyone's use on a short-term basis. Please make sure you return them after use, not keeping them overnight. *And let's give an Attaboy to those who do recover those abandoned carts and return them to their allotted spots!*

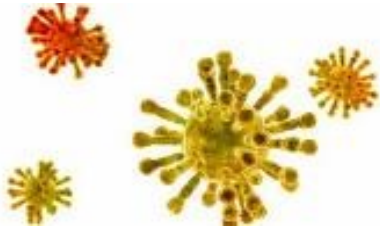
Thanks!

Don't do it without signing in!

- YOU:
- ◆ In the “R” spaces at the canopy, 30 minutes *maximum*
 - ◆ Park in Visitor spot, M-F, 7 am to 6 pm ***only***, excluding holidays.
 - ◆ ***No Vendor Parking in these “R” spots (instant towing)***
 - ◆ ***MUST SIGN IN*** at the lobby desk.



- VISITORS:
- ◆ Overnight parking permitted 10 days per calendar month
 - ◆ ***MUST SIGN IN*** at the lobby desk.
 - ◆ Overnight parkers have until noon the following day to check out OR re-sign for the next day.
 - ◆ M-F, Residents may request hang-tags for a visitor to park for up to a *maximum* of 42 days annually (signing in is not required).



Changes to Mitigation Mandates

Governor Ralph Northam announced changes to the mitigation measures detailed in [Executive Order 72](#) which went into effect on Monday, March 1, due to slowly dropping numbers of COVID-19 cases. These [modifications have no expiration date](#), but will be updated as changes are warranted.

- **Stay at home order:** The curfew that required residents to be home between the hours of midnight and 5 am will expire on February 28.
- **Social gatherings:** The maximum number of individuals permitted in a social gathering will increase from 10 to 25 people for outdoor settings, while remaining at 10 persons for indoor settings. Religious services, restaurants, retail businesses, employment settings and schools are not considered social gatherings, and other rules remain in effect.
- **Dining establishments:** The on-site sale, consumption, and possession of alcohol will be extended from 10 pm to midnight. All restaurants, dining establishments, food courts, breweries, microbreweries, distilleries, wineries, and tasting rooms still must be closed between midnight and 5 am.
- **Entertainment venues:** Outdoor entertainment and public amusement venues capacities will increase from 250 to 1,000 individuals or at 30% capacity, whichever is lower. Indoor entertainment and public amusement venues must continue to operate at 30% capacity with no more than 250 people.
- **Outdoor youth sporting events:** The number of spectators has increased to 250 per field or 30% capacity, whichever is lower, effective February 22.
- **Overnight summer camps:** Registration can begin now for overnight summer camps, which will be able to open with strict mitigation measures in place, effective May 1.

SIGN UP FOR YOUR FREE COVID-19 VACCINE
[Vaccinate.Virginia.gov](https://www.vaccinatevirginia.gov)

Or call 1-877-VAX-IN-VA 7 days a week, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. Available in English and Spanish. Call-back service in 100+ languages. TTY service.

VACCINATE VIRGINIA

- ✓ **GET INFORMATION** on how vaccines work and why they are safe.
- ✓ **GET PRE-REGISTERED** to put your name on the list.
- ✓ **GET VACCINATED** —when it's your turn, we'll contact you to schedule your vaccine.

VDH VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

You've likely heard about the recently launched [Vaccinate Virginia](#) registration site. This Commonwealth-based site is managing vaccination for all but Fairfax County. This comprehensive site provides details on eligibility, registration, and what to expect throughout the process. The City of Alexandria's [registration site](#) is still active; the "registration" link redirects you to the Vaccinate Virginia site.

The number of people who have received the vaccine continue to rise, and hope on the horizon. In the meantime, continue to follow the mandated mask guidelines, wash your hands frequently, maintain social distance, avoid gatherings and stay home if you feel unwell. Stay safe!

Holistic Pet Care

As reported in Alexandria Living Magazine, [Loyal Companion](#) will have it's Alexandria grand opening in March.

Loyal Companion describes itself as a pet wellness store and experience. "We're a community of experts from nutritionists to groomers to behaviorists dedicated to holistic pet wellness. Here, you'll find everything you need under one virtual and physical roof. Natural food. Healthy treats. Supplies. Grooming. Daycare. Training. Vet services. Advice. And a comprehensive loyalty program like no other that rewards you for every way you take care of your pet," reads the brand's website.

The Alexandria store joins other locations in the DC metro area including Fairfax, Arlington, Falls Church, NW DC and Bethesda.

Loyal Companion is celebrating its grand opening the week of March 17 with "5 Days of Free" which includes free samples, free nail trims, free treats and free advice, according to an advertisement through the brand's Instagram account. The store hours posted to the website are Sunday through Saturday 10 am to 7 pm

Alexandria Drive-In Returns

(from [Alexandria Living Magazine](#))

The March movie lineup includes classics such as Jurassic Park, Back to the Future, The Princess Bride, The Greatest Showman and Remember the Titans. A schedule is available on the Alexandria Drive-In website at www.alexandriadrivein.com.

April movies will be announced in coming weeks. [Tickets](#) are \$40 per car and are available online now through the site. Gates open one hour before show time and close 10 minutes before show time. Masks are required when checking in at the gate, and must be worn when picking up food and going to the restroom.

Food trucks including DC Slices, Chix N Stix, Lattimore's Funnel Cakes, Popped Republic, and one weekly rotating food truck will be present. Alexandria Drive-In has partnered with food truck platform Goodynd to help provide an onsite ordering platform for guests to get their favorite movie snacks safely.

The Drive-In is located in the parking lots of the Victory Center, 5001 Eisenhower Ave. For more information about how to purchase tickets, future movies, parking, and other information, visit alexandriadrivein.com.

Reduce, Reuse and Recycle!

The City of Alexandria has launched an online [Reuse Map & Directory](#). This directory allows the user to source locations to donate, repair, and consign materials through local vendors and businesses. The creation of this Reuse Directory was identified as a short-term action item for the City's [WasteSmart Strategic Plan](#) and the [Environmental Action Plan](#). Navigate through the [Reuse Directory Map](#) and for additional information for individual vendors, visit this live [spreadsheet](#).

[Online Interactive Reuse Directory Map](#)

[Shop & Consign](#)

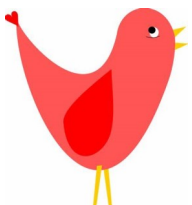
[Donate](#)

[Repair](#)

[Food Donation](#)

[Medication Drop-Off](#)

[Plastic Bags Drop-Off](#)





Essential Service - City of Alexandria Launched "Alex311" Customer Service Initiative



The City of Alexandria has launched a customer service initiative called [Alex311](#), to connect customers to more than 175 City services in a variety of convenient ways. The service includes new web, mobile app, social media and phone options to submit requests for service or information. Call 311 or 703.746.4311 from anywhere in Alexandria, weekdays from 7 am to 7 pm and Saturdays from 8 am to noon (except City holidays), or you can visit [alexandriava.gov/Alex311](#), or use the Alex311 mobile app or connect on Twitter or Facebook. For non-emergency requests requiring police response (such as animal control, motor vehicle crashes without injuries, parking and noise complaints, lost or found property, or crimes that occurred in the past), call 703.746.4444. For immediate police, fire or emergency medical assistance, call or text 911.

Jump Start Your Job Search with AARP Virginia and the City of Alexandria Workforce Development Center - Thursday, March 4 @ 1:00 pm

Whether you're looking for a job or considering a career change, this workshop is designed to help you make a smooth transition. AARP Virginia is teaming up with the City of Alexandria Workforce Development Center to bring you this 60-minute webinar. You'll learn tips and strategies to help you:

- Develop your personal brand: *Take inventory of your skills. *Grow your network.
- Navigate the modern job search with confidence: *Update and age-proof your resume.

Register to receive the Zoom link: [aarp.cvent.com/JumpStart030421](#).

Stay informed with Alexandria eNews!

Alexandria's free **eNews** service lets you sign up to receive information on nearly **100 topics**, including vital emergency alerts and information about COVID-19. The messages, ranging from news releases and department newsletters to public meeting dockets and payment deadline reminders, can be sent as email, text, or voice messages. Don't miss out on important news and emergency alerts, sign up [here](#).

We didn't have this information last month but it's still timely!!

Tax Time is Here! File for Free!

The City of Alexandria is offering free tax preparation for eligible residents with income up to \$55,000. The service is offered from February 13 – April 10 on Saturdays, 9 am – 12 noon and Wednesdays, 6:30 – 8 pm at 2525 Mt. Vernon Avenue by appointment only. Call 703-831-2918. Masks and temperature check required.

And here's a bit more information

By the way, did you know ... "[Senior Services of Alexandria](#)," provider of the "Groceries To Go" and the Transportation programs, is a 501(C)(3) non-profit charitable organization, and as such is always pleased to accept support from residents or from out-of-town owners or grateful families who have moved from the area. They take checks and credit cards for payment. They are also able to take bequests or even donations of stock/mutual funds if you would prefer that method of giving. They may be reached at **703-836-4414** or at **206 No. Washington St., #301, Alexandria 22314**. To give online, go to [www.seniorservicesalex.org](#). *Thank you for your generosity.*

As a Point of Personal Privilege



As many of you know, I have been involved with “hospice” for a number of years, specifically our local [Capital Caring Health](#). CCH is one of the largest non-profit providers of home-based medical care for people with advanced illnesses. They serve all who need care, regardless of ability to pay. They have greatly expanded their range of offerings to the general community to include “Primary Care at Home” (PCH), providing high-quality medical care at home to seniors age 65+ who have one or more chronic conditions and have trouble leaving home. PCH offers comprehensive team-based care at home, *with no additional fees, and you can still see your other physicians*. PCH also offers the security of 24/7 live phone support to address urgent concerns, which helps provide peace of mind for patient and family. This PCH care is available in our City of Alexandria, Arlington, Falls Church, McLean, Bailey’s Crossroads, Chevy Chase and Northwest DC. Planned expansions will be in Fredericksburg, Manassas, Winchester, and other ZIP codes. Visit homecarewithcapitalcaring.org or call toll-free 844-398-4720 to speak with a Care Coordinator.



From the “Farmers’ Almanac”

Named for the Roman god of war, *Mars*, March was the time of year to resume military campaigns that had been interrupted by winter.

Was there really a St. Patrick? Definitely. Did he really drive the snakes out of Ireland? Probably not, since snakes weren’t native to Ireland! We might wear shamrocks (clovers) on St. Patrick’s Day (he was supposed to have used them in religious teachings). Originally the color blue was associated with St. Patrick, but green is now favored (perhaps because shamrocks are green!).



We need another holiday this month . . .

National Scribble Day : March 27

You may think you’re not an artist because you don’t draw an object or a person exactly the way your eye sees it. Not true! Author Diane Alder created this day in 2019 to show kids that even a scribble can be a work of art! *So, go to it and do it; have fun!! Bring out your Inner Child and be happy!*

Pet Registration

The City of Alexandria requires dogs and cats to be registered and licensed, meaning that all vaccines must be up-to-date. AKW requires this, too, asking that you report your pet(s) (maximum of two dogs, remember!) residing in the building. Please stop by the Office and have the proper notations made. *Thank you!*



You may have heard about these

In a full-age article in the 'Local Living' section of The Post on January 28, author Laura Daily says that "Adding a fragrant bath bomb to your tub can transform a routine wash into a relaxing, spa-like soak. Although these popular bundles of stress reduction are especially welcome these days, **they can pose problems for your plumbing.**" Birnur Aral, of the Good Housekeeping Institute, warns against common additives such as titanium dioxide (used in cosmetics and sunscreens). Further in the article, plumber Aaron Mulder with Mr. Rooter Plumbing in San Antonio, gives concise reasons for avoiding adding these 'fats, oils and grease' to the drain pipes.

"Drains are slimy and sticky to begin with, so they catch things like [common additives] flower petals, glitters and other add-ons that aren't biodegradable." A total "no-no" is bath bombs and jetted tubs that use pumps to suck water into and force water out of their jets, not being able to filter foreign material. "If you damage the main pump system, you may have to pull out the entire tub." Mr. Mulder and Ms. Aral suggest using a screening material (panty hose or jewelry bag) to hold the bath bomb. It will activate in the water but catch larger particles. Go to localliving@washpost.com for the entire article. Whether you buy them or make them yourself, this is a very helpful and informative piece. Think of this in connection with possible leaks in our building pipes – for which you may be liable!



Alexandria Spring Recreation Program Registration Begins March 3

Registration for spring classes and activities offered by the City of Alexandria's Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities will begin at 9 am on Wednesday, March 3, for City residents and on Friday, March 5, for non-residents. Spring registration applies to programs taking place April through June 2021.

Get ready for a shower of fun this spring, with a variety of in-person options for all ages and new virtual programs. A [complete list of spring programs](#) is available on the City's website. A printed or online program guide will not be produced for the spring season due to potential COVID-19 schedule and capacity adjustments.

Sports leagues and activities are also available through the following affiliates:

- ◇ [Alexandria Soccer Association](#)
- ◇ [Alexandria Little League](#)
- ◇ [Alexandria Lacrosse Club](#)
- ◇ [Alexandria Rugby Club](#)
- ◇ [Alexandria Titans Youth Football](#)

All health guidelines for staff, participants and spectators will be met, including symptom screening; use of face masks; enhanced cleaning between activity periods; and physical distancing protocols specified for each type of program. To ensure participant safety and prevent the spread of COVID-19, indoor locations will have limited capacity.

Visit alexandriava.gov/Recreation to learn more about the City's spring recreation programs and to register. For in-person registration, call the Registration and Reservation Office at 703-746-5414 to schedule an appointment.



Good heavens, it's here again – already!

Before you go to bed on Saturday night (the 13th), **reset your clocks for one hour ahead.** That's the "spring forward" that we hear, for the beginning of the seasonal Spring. "Daylight savings time" (DST) is **NOT** observed in Arizona, Hawaii, or Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. DST lasts this year until Sunday, November 7th, and we'll remind you then to "fall back."

Spring Things to Do

Spring is right around the corner!

Technically, for 2021, the March equinox happens on **Saturday, March 20, at 5:37 am EDT.** The word *equinox* comes from the Latin words for "equal night"—*aequus* (equal) and *nox* (night). On the equinox, the length of day and night is nearly equal in all parts of the world. With the equinox, we begin to enjoy the increasing sunlight hours, with earlier dawns and later sunsets.

With those long days come new outside opportunities and events. One of the most anticipated spring events is the appearance of the beloved blooms of [the National Cherry Blossom Festival](#). The Festival is scheduled for March 20 to April 11. It may look different than prior years, but the blossoms will be there!

Insta fan? Alexandria has venues and historic homes worthy of that special shot. And the waterfront offers vistas, boats and typically ducks! Look for options [here](#).

Just want a nice meal and to soak up the sun? Alexandria boasts [25 new restaurants](#), including new Ada's on the River, and many others to whet all appetites.

[Groundswell](#), the temporary public art installation from Brooklyn-based artist Mark Reigelman, will be on display in late March to November 2021.

And shopping and strolling along the riverfront, and sitting in the park, and just too many things to mention. Just get outside and see and [experience where you live!](#)



Sometimes it's just a matter of looking out your window. See something or someone that looks suspicious? In a place that looks different? Go ahead and call the police *non-emergency* number.

(703-746-4444) and ask them to do a drive-around of the property. (If you see something that looks like an emergency, dial 911 and then report to the Office or Guard for their follow-up.

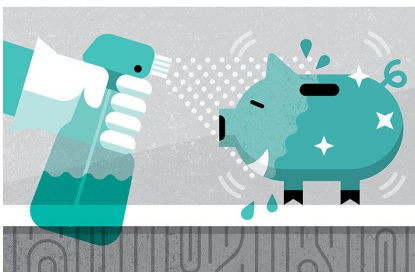
If you're out-and-about, and can think of it in time, use your phone's camera – it's important if we need to make a police report. Remember the woman who stole the birdbath? And the guy who stole the disinfectant wipes from the trash room? They and others were apprehended and charged. Our property cameras and your photo shots are important ways to keep our Community safe! It's important for each of us to BE AWARE. And add the emergency numbers (from the back page) on your speed-dial (landline) or Contacts (mobile phone) – so you'll know where to find them when you need them! **Stay safe!**

Report
SUSPICIOUS
Activity

Financial Spring Cleaning Tips

(Abridged, but many thanks to Terri Hansen)

- Review your credit report. By law you're entitled to order one a year from the three credit bureaus, at no cost from www.annualcreditreport.com. Anything inaccurate? Be in touch with the 'store' and the credit bureau to make corrections.
- Organize and/or shred old financial documents. Sort through bank and pay statements, bills and other financial records and retain only those absolutely necessary, keeping anything related to the IRS for 6 years. Don't just toss in the trash; information on these documents leave you open to identity theft!
- Record your financial passwords and store records in a safe place. Make sure you're not using the same passwords and log-in information on all your accounts. Even if you're on a secure site, there's always the possibility of being hacked. Storing records can be those encrypted and on a thumb-drive. Store in a safe-deposit box at your bank, especially for stock or bond certificates, for instance, or on an online secure vault.
- Review your budget. Is your budget up to date? Noted any increases or decreases in your income? Make sure you're reporting expenses accurately and make some room for savings account contributions. Use a Personal Budget Worksheet to help organize your finances.
- Set up Automatic Bill Pay. "Spring cleaning" isn't only about decluttering, it's also about making things more efficient. Set up auto bill pay linked to your primary checking account. This will eliminate the chances of missing a payment and paying those pesky late fees!
- Pay off holiday debt once and for all! What does your current debt load look like? Spring is a good time to look at your total outstanding debts and see which loans or credit cards could be paid off quickly (and that means saving on the interest charges on those debts!). Cleaning up this debt can put you in a much better financial position for the rest of the year!



It was one of those
March days when the
sun shines hot and
the wind blows cold:
when it is summer in
the light and winter in
the shade.

Charles Dickens

Great Expectations



2021 Board Meeting Dates

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

Important Dates in March

- ◆ Board Meeting Tuesday March 9, 7:00 pm*
- ◆ Daylight Savings Time Sunday March 14
- ◆ Garage Construction Starts Monday March 15
- ◆ St. Patrick's Day Wednesday March 17
- ◆ National Scribble Day Saturday March 27

*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

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