

President's Report

from Michael Sullivan

Dear Residents,

Happy Spring and Here Comes The Sun!

I am happy to report that the current garage project is going well. There is, unfortunately, a lot of noise and the inconvenience of having to park your car off site. Please be aware that our Visitor parking is very limited and an active towing policy is in place. Signs are clearly posted, so it's to your benefit to become familiar with those. We are grateful for your cooperation and assistance and hopeful it will continue until the completion of this project.

Good News: It looks like we will be able to open the pool this year. Our pool company has informed us that they have plenty of lifeguards available. That said, we will need to closely follow all of the State and CDC guidelines. More on this as the season gets closer.

Our Budget & Finance Committee continues to work diligently to invest our reserve monies to maximize our earning power while still limiting our risk, especially during these costly improvement projects.

Again, many thanks for your cooperation and patience. Please continue to stay safe and well.

Board Meeting Highlights

Reported Financials

	January
Total Cash and Investments	\$2,026,725
Year-to-Date Income	\$175,756
Year-to-Date Expenses	\$144,361
Delinquencies \$ (February)	\$23,459
Delinquencies % (February)	1.15%
YTD Reserve Expenditures	0
Total Reserves	\$1,685,478

February delinquencies were comprised of 5 accounts of more than \$1,000 past due (totaling \$21,760), with another 13 accounts (\$1,699) making up the rest.

Board Actions

- \$1,083.88 to Densel to replace the water level control and sensor on one boiler.
- \$4,031.45 to Seeviv Security to provide and install an upgraded surveillance server with 3 year warranty.
- \$1,545.00 to Best Technical Services to renew a one-year maintenance contract for the fitness center equipment.



Project Update: C/D Garage Deck Reconstruction - 3/26/21

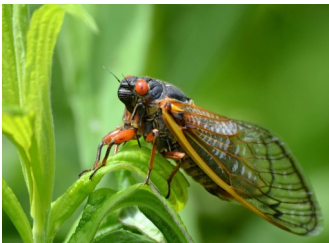
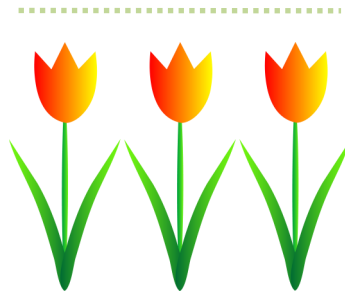
Parking

Residents impacted by the first phase of the garage work have been accommodated through a combination of reserved spaces at the former NTB parking lot on Edsall Road and the selective use of Visitor parking spaces.



ETC Report

- Coating removal completed
- Excavation 75% complete
- Expansion joint is now 100% removed
- Additional concrete demolition has been completed in the lower garage
- Steel bridge (near tennis court) has been removed and replacement is 80% fabricated.



They're Back!!!

“They’ve been buried — alive — for 17 years,” reported the [Washington Post](#) on March 9.

“The last time Brood X appeared, Greece was preparing to host the Olympics, Barack Obama was a state senator in Illinois, and President George W. Bush was fighting for a second term And now, [Brood X](#), one of the world’s largest swarms of giant fly-like bugs called cicadas, is ready to rise. When the ground warms to 64 degrees, they’ll stop gnawing on tree roots and start scratching toward the surface by the hundreds of billions.

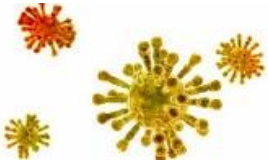
Georgia and other Southern states will probably be where they first emerge around the end of March, experts say. But residents of the Washington area are standing at ground zero. The District, Maryland and Virginia are likely to host more of these animals than any other of the [14 states](#) that share the experience.”

We’ve seen smaller broods over the years and most summers you will hear some cicada activity. But, have no fear: cicadas don’t bite and don’t consume plants or shrubs; their sole focus is to procreate during their short duration on the surface.

But, they are noisy! You will likely want to keep your balcony doors closed. “The males will start mating songs that reach up to 100 decibels. That’s the sound of a chain-saw, a lawn mower, a jet overhead.”

Brood X is a “Thanksgiving-like feast for wildlife. As they emerge, birds, squirrels, chipmunks, skunks, ants, raccoons, snakes, frogs and possums will gorge themselves for about a week until they collapse into food comas.” And “your dog will eat cicadas if given the chance. It’s very much like when you go to an all-you-can-eat crab feast.... The very first bunch that you throw down on your table, everybody grabs crabs and you start cracking them, and you take every last molecule of crab meat. About the fourth tray ... people only take the claws. As this orgy of eating goes on, there are animals that actually won’t touch them anymore. They’re full.”

Forewarned is forearmed!



COVID Corner

Governor Northam announced changes to [Executive Order 72](#) that go into effect on Thursday, April 1. These changes come as Virginia's vaccination rate is steady and case counts are fluctuating.

- **Social Gatherings:** Limits will increase from 10 to 50 for indoor gatherings, and from 25 to 100 for outdoor gatherings.
- **Restaurants and Other Private Events:** Maximum party sizes will increase from 10 to 50 people inside, and from 25 to 100 outside.
- **Entertainment and Public Amusement Venues:** Limits will remain at 30% occupancy, but the cap for indoor venues will increase from 250 to 500 persons, and the cap for outdoor gatherings will be removed.
- **Recreational Sporting Events:** The number of spectators allowed will increase from 25 to 100 indoors, and from 250 to 500 outdoors, and remain limited at 30% capacity.
- **Graduations and Commencements:** Limits will remain at 500 persons indoors and 5,000 persons outdoors, as previously announced.

All other guidelines of Executive Order 72, including wearing masks at all times indoors and outdoors where 6 feet of physical distancing cannot be maintained, remain in effect.

Celebrate Vaccination Cautiously

The Virginia Department of Health is urging caution when sharing pictures online about getting a COVID-19 vaccine. Vaccine cards contain sensitive personal information, such as full name, date of birth, and more, and sharing photos of them could make you vulnerable to identity theft. Celebrate getting your vaccine, telling your story, and encouraging others to do the same by posting pictures of the button or sticker you receive after getting vaccinated at an AHD clinic, and tell others about your experience.

Continue to stay home as much as possible, wear a [mask over both your nose and mouth](#), and wash your hands frequently. [Pre-register to receive the vaccine](#) and you'll be notified once appointments are available.



Earth Day — April 22, 2021

There is so much to do — and that can be done — to heal our collective home. Check out the link and see how each of us making small adjustments can make a difference.

[Earth Day 2021 | Restore Our Earth™ | EARTHDAY.ORG](#)





Senior Services of Alexandria partners with this service for your benefit:



The **City of Alexandria Fire Department's "Community Paramedic Program"** has a mission to improve the health outcomes of city residents through education and collaboration with community resources. A Paramedic will visit your home for: *fall risk assessment; *home safety check; *medication review and inventory; *health education; *clinical monitoring and assessment; *referral to relevant City Services; *transportation assistance. *No fee or insurance required for your in-home visit.*

Contact: Capt. Jeff Woolsey, 703-746-5234.



Senior Services of Alexandria hosting Virtual Spring Academy starting in April – Register Now!

Senior Services of Alexandria is hosting its Spring **Senior Academy** virtually via Zoom starting in April. This 4-week free course will meet every Wednesday morning starting April 7 from 10 to 11:30 am. The Senior Academy is for Alexandria residents 65 and older to learn how the city operates and what programs and services are offered for older adults. Speakers will include Mayor Justin Wilson, the City Manager's Office, and other departments including Transportation, Planning, Office of Housing, Alexandria Health Department and the Division of Aging and Adult Services. Attendees will also hear from our first responders, Police, Fire and Sheriff. Participants will have an opportunity to ask questions and receive a lot of great information about city programs and how to get engaged. Register at [April "Virtual" Senior Academy - Senior Services of Alexandria \(seniorservicesalex.org\)](https://seniorservicesalex.org) or call 703 836 4414 ext. 110.

Retirement Planning: Tues April 6 from 6-8pm. Learn about setting goals, spending realities during retirement, and types of retirement income. [Register here.](#)

Investing Basics: Tues April 13 from 6-8pm. Learn about setting financial goals, the benefits of saving and investing, and types of investments. [Register here.](#)

Alexandria's 50+ Workforce Rapid Reskilling Cohort

Alexandria's Workforce Development Center 50+ workshops will begin in April on Tuesdays – 10 am – 12 pm April 6-May 11. Pursue your career goals and upskill to today's mission critical jobs and building job search confidence. Workshops include: federal job application process; resume polishing and mock interviews. For more information contact Emilia Turcios at Emilia.turcios@alexandriava.gov with your resume.

Know the 10 Warning Sign of Memory Loss – Tuesday, April 13 – 10:30 am via Zoom

Hosted by Alzheimer's Association and Virtual Center for Active Adults

If you or someone you know is experiencing memory loss or behavioral changes, it's time to learn the facts. This workshop is for everyone. It provides compelling information about Alzheimer's disease, a greater understanding of the difference between age-related memory loss and dementia and what to do if you see signs of Alzheimer's. Meeting ID: 901 8752818 – passcode 8727; call-in number 301-751-8592, or here for Zoom [Direct Link](#).



Outsmart Scammers and other Fraud

We're repeating the "MoneySaver" column from a 2020 *AARP Magazine* about The Fear Equation, how phone scammers are increasingly turning to threats and scare tactics to separate you from your money *and* your identity! Those tactics identified are:

- The Social Security imposter: Your social security number has been used in crimes, and you're going to be arrested unless
- The dreaded computer virus: You're about to lose all your information, documents, photos, and (they'll often say they're calling from Microsoft headquarters!) only they can fix the problem. [A time limit and Google *Play* cards are involved.]
- DNA cancer screening: "People like you have died because they didn't take the DNA test we're offering!"
- Missed jury duty: There's a warrant for your arrest because you didn't show up for your jury duty assignment.
- The IRS warrant: You made criminal mistakes in your past tax filings and will be arrested shortly unless...
- The fake utility company: You're behind in your bill and you'll lose power if you don't provide cash now
- Changes to your Medicare coverage: We can make sure you're covered for the pain you're experiencing that until now always meant cash payments by you.

Don't give in to what seems like a frightening situation that you have to solve right this minute. Reacting to the caller's claims creates anxiety, anger or embarrassment that can lead to your own judgment mistakes. Don't let the scammer's high-energy negative emotions lead to your taking foolish chances! "Pay attention to the downside risks. What could go wrong? That thought can quickly bring you to your senses!"

Saving on Your Homeowner Insurance



We're repeating from a 2020 issue of *Washington Consumers' Checkbook*, in an article in a "Real Estate" section of the *Washington Post*, some interesting tidbits, saying that they looked at major insurers for seven local [various Zip codes] and "found that each could save more than \$1,000 per year by choosing a low-price company over a high-priced one." Here are some tips on minimizing premiums:

- **Take a high deductible.** You'll get a big discount and make it less likely to file small claims that may generate future premium increases.
- **Maintain a good credit record in Virginia.** With many companies, your credit score will influence the rates you're offered more than anything else.
- **Consider buying your homeowners and auto policies from the same company.** Many companies offer dual-policy discounts; however such discounts are small and won't make a high-cost company a good deal.
- **When shopping for insurance, speak with several companies and agents** – and question price quotes that seem excessive or include unrequested coverage.



Department of Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities Announces Spring Pop-Up Rec Programs

Release date: 3/19/21



The Pop-up Rec is a mobile recreation center that promotes active, healthy lifestyles and social engagement, within the City of Alexandria, by activating parks and green spaces with programs. Programs and activities are age-specific; see the schedule for details. Visit the [Recreation Activities & Classes](#) registration website and select “Activities & Trips” for a list of Pop-up Rec programs. For in-person registration, call the Registration and Reservation Office at 703-746-5414 to schedule an appointment. Contact jackie.person@alexandriava.gov or call 703-746-5423, Virginia Relay 711 for reasonable disability accommodation.

Summer Recreation Classes, Specialty Camps and Out of School Time Programs

Release date: 3/22/21

The Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities will offer a variety of summer classes and camps in Sports, Enrichment, Nature, Creative and Performing Arts, Exercise and Fitness, and Aquatics, in addition to the Out of School Time (OSTP) Modified Summer Camp. Review the details [here](#). Registration begins on Wednesday, April 7 for City residents, and Friday, April 9 for nonresidents.

OSTP Modified Summer Camp Eligibility & Pre-Registration Process

The OSTP Modified Summer Camp program is designed with limited capacity to ensure the safety of participants and prevent the spread of COVID-19. Priority will be given to families who qualify for financial assistance and applicants are required to verify eligibility by completing an eligibility form [available here](#). Forms must be submitted by Wednesday, April 7. Visit alexandriava.gov/Recreation to register for summer activities or for more information.

All health guidelines for staff, participants, and spectators will be met, including symptom screening, face masks; enhanced cleaning between activity periods; 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.

The Future of Alexandria

[Alexandria Living Magazine](#), 2/2/4/21

Alexandria Living Magazine asked readers and local leaders what the Alexandria area will be like for residents in the year 2050.

For those of you who “bought into” the Jetson’s flying cars, well... you know how that turned out. Check out the thinking that a select number of individuals believe is on the horizon.

[The 2050 Project: Envisioning Alexandria's Future - Alexandria Living Magazine](#)

And take a look “Back to the Future” and check out how an ardent fan of the movie is [turning heads!](#)



How the Association Addresses Delinquencies

The Association's collection efforts are meant to bring Owners current. Delinquent Owners can expect specific actions:



- On the 16th of the month a late fee of 10% is assessed on the delinquent amount.
- At 30 days late, CMC sends a letter advising of the delinquency and warns of future steps that could be taken.
- At 60 days late, the account is handed over to the Association's legal counsel. At this point the late owner is assessed fees associated with the effort to collect from them. Also at 60 days the Board will review the account and decide whether to accelerate the Owner's dues through the end of the calendar year and/or seek wage/account garnishment, conveying the seriousness of the matter.
- At 90 days late, the Board will ask the Delinquent Owner to attend a hearing to discuss revocation of privileges, including the pool, gym, in-unit-service program, and visitor parking. The Board may also direct legal counsel to pursue foreclosure on the Owner.

If you are delinquent, please bring your account current. If you are more than 60 days late, reach out to the Association attorney as soon as possible to discuss a repayment plan. The Association wants to work with you and make your Co-Owners whole.

Enjoying Your Balcony

Since it may be possible to enjoy our balconies when it warms up enough, keep this in mind:

One of the most common complaints the Office gets is about dirt, water, and debris coming onto residents' balconies from above. What your neighbors below are experiencing ranges from a little water-dirt mélange caused by overwatered plants to a torrent of filth caused by a full-on balcony washing. Unfortunately, our balconies aren't like patios adjoining a single-family home, so **you must not scrub and wash them with water and soap because that water and dirt will land on balconies below**. Remember: Everything you push--or let fall--from your balcony will certainly land on the balcony of one of your neighbors below. And, this is an owner-to-owner issue, so any damage you cause to your neighbors' balconies is your responsibility to clean, fix, and repair—and this doesn't come cheaply. Be sure to tell your contractors—including your cleaning staff—not to leave you on the hook by pushing dirt and water off your balcony!

Being considerate also requires that you do not feed the birds visiting your balcony. Feeding those lovely harbingers of Spring leads to too much poop on the balconies of your neighbors (if not your own!!!). They are able to find their own food and we implore you to curb your kind-hearted impulse!

Balcony Cleaning 101

So, if you're not allowed to clean your balcony with a soap and lots of water, what to do? The key is to keep on it: make sure you are dry-mopping your balcony regularly and thoroughly. This keeps the pollen and dirt under control and manageable. One neighbor bought a robovac and says that he turns it loose on the balcony three times a week and that it does the job quite nicely. Another says that she dry-mops once a week and follows up with a Swiffer. If you happen to have a small carpet strip out there, how about just vacuuming it? Take care of spills as soon as they happen with some paper towels and Windex or your favorite cleaner.

Consideration for our neighbors is one of the requisites for condo living. Our spacious balconies are spectacular outdoor living spaces, and they're worth a little extra attention to cleaning and upkeep, but not if "stuff" continues to detract from enjoyment.

Landscape Committee Update

Rick Treviño

*"That is one good thing about this world ... there are always sure to be more springs."
L.M. Montgomery, Anne of Avonlea*

Another spring is here and the longer days have helped some early colorful blooms pop up around the grounds – daffodils, star magnolias, forsythia, vinca, and cherry blossoms. It won't be long before we see some later-blooming plants and trees show us their color too. What a welcome sight after the dreary winter!

Spring is also the perfect time of year to take care of some maintenance on the grounds. You may have noticed that some of our shrubs have been pruned, some quite drastically, but there's a reason for that. Pruning overgrown shrubs will rejuvenate them, stimulate new growth, and improve their shape. They may look a bit ragged for a while as they start new growth, so we ask that you please be patient.

The Landscape Committee will continue to find ways to improve the AKW grounds. If you are interested in being part of the committee, please let Capri in the AKW office know of your interest.

National Library Workers Day (April 6)

We can't think of a more worthy holiday than National Library Workers Day! It's been a tough year with many libraries closed for visitor browsing, research, and in-person story hours. But library workers have risen to the occasion with online activities and pick-up book bundles. Send a message thanking your school or community librarian today, and let them know what you're reading!



And how appropriate: A Library Update

Barbara Righter

The Library Committee continues to welcome new donations to our Library. As a reminder, we accept hard cover and trade paperbacks in fiction and nonfiction (same size and format at the hard cover edition). Please do not donate mass market paperbacks (also called pocket books), magazines, cookbooks, textbooks, or oversized books.

Since we last published a blurb in *Knolls News*, we have donated four boxes of books to the Salvation Army. (The local public libraries have not been accepting donations during quarantine.) That has given us some additional space for donations to keep our collections as fresh as possible. Remember that the books you choose do not have to be returned! If you have books to share, please do so by leaving on the empty shelf on the left-side bookcase.

And we were happy to see that the Alexandria Library has reopened effective March 15 with adjusted hours and covid guidelines. See the details [here](#).



2021 Board Meeting Dates

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



Alexandria Asks for Resident Input on Spending Federal Windfall

[Alexandria Living Magazine, 3/22/21](#)

Alexandria will receive money from the federal government for pandemic relief

Alexandria is turning to its residents for ideas on how to spend nearly \$60 million coming its way as part of the American Rescue Plan.

The City of Alexandria will receive about \$59.4 million. The funds will be received in two equal parts — in May 2021 and May 2022 — for use between now and December 31, 2024.

“On behalf of all Alexandrians, I want to share my heartfelt gratitude to Senator Warner, Senator Kaine and Representative Beyer for their assistance in achieving this legislation,” Alexandria Mayor Justin Wilson said. “The assistance from the American Rescue Plan will help our residents and business community in many ways over the coming years and will certainly expedite our recovery after the devastating economic and personal impacts of the last year. We will continue to persevere together, and this aid will help to see us through to the other side of this global pandemic.”

In addition to the timeframe of use, the law specifies how the allocated funds can be used.

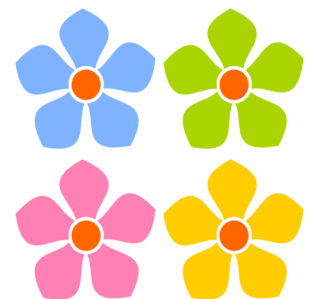
- To respond to the public health emergency with respect to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality; or
- For the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue of such metropolitan city, non-entitlement unit of government or county due to such emergency; or
- To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure.
- Many City and ACPS programs may also receive substantial new ARP provided funds separately through additional direct, state or grant programs.

In partnership with the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership and Visit Alexandria, the City asked for community feedback to develop a plan to decide how to use ARP funds. The process for developing the plan and timeline was presented to City Council for consideration at the March 23 Legislative Meeting, which can be viewed [here](#).



What's Up in Alexandria this Spring?

We have it for you right here!



Important Dates in April

- ◆ National Library Workers Day Tuesday April 6
- ◆ Board Meeting Tuesday April 13, 7:00 pm*
- ◆ Earth Day Thursday April 22

*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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