

Wheel

April 2022, Vol. 48, Issue 4
Watergate at Landmark Unit Owners Association

GOLDFISH

Symbolizing Life and
Sign of Pisces with
the Sun is Leaning

MIRROR

Symbolizing
Self-reflection

SIB

(Apple)

Symbolizing

SH

(Garlic)

Symbolizing

EGGS

(One for Each Member
of the Family)

Symbolizing Fertility

Happy Nowruz!

Page 14

Don't Throw That Out

Page 8

**All Hail
the Queen**

Page 17

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For publication consideration, please submit original content (e.g. articles, photos) to commgr@watergateatlandmark.com. High-quality photos are recommended (300 dpi or greater). Management makes content decisions and it is understood that revisions and edits will be made for space and publication style. Publication is not guaranteed.

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| Eileen Greenberg <i>Vice President</i> | Robert Lee <i>Director</i> | Joseph Vecchio <i>Director</i> |
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2022 - 2023 Board Officers

Susan Bouldin, *Treasurer*

Vivian Moran, *Secretary*

HAPPY NOWRUZ!

Residents John Wu and Basma said about their Nowruz experience, "[This is our] first Persian [new year] party...[We are] happy to attend such a nice and warm celebration. [We're] glad to know more about the [event] and to find similarities with Egyptian culture as well. We're glad that we attended and met new friends. We'll be there next year for sure!"

Photo: Basma Eloufi



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KEY WATERGATE AT LANDMARK CONTACTS

Shuttle Bus Updates: Text "watergate" to: 844-612-2165

Resident Services Office: 703-370-7000

FirstService Residential: 703-385-1133

Activities Office: 703-370-7092

Metro Water: 703-461-3418

Gate Communications*: 703-370-2674

**You may call this number for after-hours emergencies.*

Lobby Entrance Camera

Comcast - 971

Master Antenna - 3

WAL CCTV Channels

Comcast - 970

Master Antenna - 8

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

By Phil Schrock, Board President

Old Man Winter gave his last whimpering efforts with his mid-March sleet and snow, but spring truly has arrived. And how we admire and appreciate the beauty of Watergate's flowers and landscape! On behalf of the Association, "Thank You" Landscape Committee and Management!

Just a few days ago we welcomed Watergate's new Executive Assistant to the Board of Directors, Ms. Christina Clark. Watergate is fortunate to welcome this experienced professional to our management team. Welcome aboard!

I want to thank Director Butch Hodges and members of Watergate "Election Committee 45" for their superb job supporting the 45th Annual Meeting of the Watergate at Landmark Condominium Unit Owners Association. As you know this past year the committee tackled one of the toughest challenges yet – Electronic voting, a first for Watergate! The team successfully did this under extremely difficult challenges: adhering to Virginia's law, Association Counsel's legal reviews, Board's required approval of a new policy resolution, absence of an Executive Assistant to the Board, key personnel shortages and a myriad of other obstacles. In spite of these challenges, the Elections Committee's tenacity, perseverance and can-do attitude resulted in a successful annual election. A total of 674 votes were cast and the final voting percentage was 47.9%! We also thank Management, the League of Women Voters and WAL's owners for their support.

We are grateful for the three qualified candidates who applied for reelection for the three open positions on the Board of Directors. As a result we welcome back as returning Board members Greg Wade, Eileen Greenberg and Theresa Mulrane. Congratulations! We also are grateful for all past and current Board members and

officers, including recently-reappointed Secretary Vivian Moran and Treasurer Susan Bouldin,

and committee chairs and members who have served so unselfishly and continue to do so year after year. All are volunteers and make a profound impact on this community!



WAL's landscape is a sight to see in spring! Photo: Suman Nayyar

World Events and Rising Costs.

The first half of 2021 seemed mild compared with what we've experienced since last summer. Jobs are available, but go unfilled and cause labor shortages. Supply chain delays, rising costs at the gas pumps, grocery stores and all manner of other problems, not to mention Putin's war on Ukraine, contribute to the highest inflation the U.S. has seen in over 40 years! What does this mean for Watergate? It means similar rising costs are passed on to Watergate: rising costs of daily operations and maintenance, contracts, services and projects. Owners are rightly concerned when they ask me what the condo assessments will be for next year – FY2023. We can anticipate it will be *significantly higher* than the modest 1.35% increase we enjoyed in FY2022! During the next few months your Budget Committee, Management and Board will be developing the FY2023 budget for approval in August. We will uphold our fiduciary responsibilities: continue to invest in needed infrastructure repairs and pro-

jects, daily operations and maintenance, prioritize "required" vs. "nice to have" projects, and look for ways to improve efficiency and trim costs. We will ensure Watergate maintains its enviable reputation as the best value condominium in northern Virginia.

Back to Normal. In the October 2021 Wheel President's Update, I wrote about "Back to Normal": How after living with the COVID pandemic for more than a year and a half we longed for life as it used to be. Would we ever return to normal? Would we forever remain hunkered down, fearful of the next variant, wondering whether we need booster shots, need to wear masks, etc.? Would there be a "new normal?" So many questions – and so few definitive answers. It has now been two years, and YES – we now have more clarity and it's good news! Consider the following:

- Many States, including the Commonwealth of Virginia, have recently reduced or eliminated mask mandates.
- In late February, the CDC (Centers for Disease Control) released a new tool to gauge a community's COVID risk and assess the need for mitigation strategies going forward.
- From our mayor:
 - Based on this new tool, Alexandria's risk is "low." While this does not mean that COVID is behind us, it does mean that for most residents, we can return to normal life, while taking reasonable precautions for high-risk individuals.
- From our governor:
 - Apply both science and common sense to make sure that we protect both lives and livelihoods.
 - We must all stay vigilant about the health risks of COVID-19.
 - The most important precaution currently available is the vaccine and booster.
 - For some, masking and social distancing are additional steps that they will follow. We should respect that choice.

- For others, especially those who have been fully vaccinated or have natural immunity, they may determine that face-to-face interactions are the best option, and those decisions should be respected too.
- From our president:
 - Just a few days ago, the CDC issued new mask guidelines.
 - Under these new guidelines, most Americans in most of the country can now be mask free.

- And based on the projections, more of the country will reach that point across the next couple of weeks.
- Thanks to the progress we have made this past year, COVID-19 need no longer control our lives.

What does this mean for Watergate at Landmark? It means Watergate will continue to adhere to government mandates and laws, such as the Commonwealth of Virginia laws, Gover-

nor's Executive Orders, and health department and City ordinances. We encourage all residents to follow the science, get vaccinations and booster shots, use common sense and make sure we protect both lives and livelihoods. Let's remain vigilant about the health risks of COVID and respect the decisions of others.

As the spring and summer sun shines bright, so is Watergate's future. Let's enjoy our great amenities, friendships and camaraderie!

THE GENERAL MANAGER'S GAZETTE

By Greg Gardner, General Manager

I recently read the article, "An Introduction to Community Association Living," published by Community Associations Institute, that states "Reasonable restrictions, consistently enforced over time, will preserve the net value of the community and maintain a high quality of life for residents." The Watergate at Landmark's pre-established guidelines provide the framework within which people can live in harmony in a group situation. Most, if not all, of the rules and fees protect and preserve the property and assets of our owners.

The spring season officially begins this week, and the following reminders will help ensure we are protecting property values and meeting the expectations of homeowners and residents.

Balcony Do's and Don'ts

Did you know that balconies and patios are limited common elements? The Association owns those spaces and is responsible for structural repair and replacement, whereas owners and residents are responsible for performing normal maintenance and keeping them in a clean and sanitary condition.

As a reminder, please do not paint the floor, ceiling, railing or any other part of the balconies and patios, as this can affect the protective surfaces and invalidate warranty. Floor coverings are not permitted as trapped water and moisture may seep into the concrete and compromise the structural integrity.

Enjoy use of your outdoor space, but please read other details of the policy in the WAL Rules & Regulations to ensure you're using the space appropriately.

Roadways & Parking

We have observed vehicles parked in fire lanes and loading zones. This is not permitted, and towing will be en-

forced. Let's keep the roadways and loading zones unobstructed so traffic flows freely and we can avoid accidents.

Speeding on the property is very dangerous and can tragically change the lives of those involved in a single moment. What little time you think you can gain by speeding is not worth the cost should an accident occur.

We Love Our Pets!

To ensure our companions are safe and accounted for, dogs must be registered and licensed with the City of Alexandria and registered with Watergate Management. If a registered dog should go lost and be found, we can quickly identify its owner. To help us identify our canine residents, they must have a visible and current WAL pet tag. Proof of current vaccinations, City of Alexandria registration, and a full-view digital photograph of pets will be required to receive WAL pet tags. Please keep in mind that registration fees cover expenses, including the purchase and maintenance of doggie stations and bags; signage; and tags. Please note, there are additional fees or fines for unregistered pets.

[We need everyone to do their part to keep things thriving!]

Please make sure to take your pet to designated areas so they may relieve themselves. This is important to preserve our highly manicured landscape that costs over \$133,000 a year to maintain. Watergate has tremendous grounds with hundreds of specimen trees, shrubs, ground covers and annual flower plantings.

With both management and residents doing their part, the property will continue to thrive for seasons to come.

WELCOME CHRISTINA TO WAL!

By Rashawnda Daniels-Atkinson

Watergate at Landmark has a new Executive Assistant to the Board! Management and the Board are pleased to announce the hiring of Christina Clark, a Maryland native who has seven years of property management industry experience. Her certifications include the CMCA and AMS designations from the professional organization for association management, Community Association Institute.

“I’ve worked in customer service my entire [professional] life,” Christina commented, “However I didn’t initially think I’d be interested in [property management]. An opportunity arose at a National Harbor property, however, and I thought to myself, ‘Why not?’ After that point, I realized this was something I enjoyed doing.”



Christina Clark, WAL's Executive Assistant to the Board. Photo: Christina Clark

Christina attended Stevenson University and earned a B.S. in Psychology as well. This training, along with her

upbringing, provided her the knowledge and expertise in knowing how to effectively handle and communicate sensitive information to residents and owners.

“I understand what it sounds like to get news that I may not want to receive, but it’s important to be courteous and present things in a way that makes residents feel empowered and respected,” Clark stated.

Christina’s calm and collected persona helps her to remain focused amid the many facets that the Executive Assistant encounters while supporting the needs of the Board, residents and management. That will help her fit in just fine around here, along with her love for yoga, crafting and cats (she has two of her own named Roman and Willow).

Please be sure to stop by the Association Office and give Christina a warm Watergate welcome!

CONGRATULATIONS, TONY!

By Rashawnda Daniels-Atkinson



The 8 a.m. Tai Chi group took a few moments from their session to wish Tony well!

After six years as WAL’s Handyman, Tony’s last day in that role was on Friday, March 4. He has accepted a position closer to his home in the District of Columbia. He was celebrated with sweet treats and well wishes from several front desk staff

members and fellow maintenance colleagues. His service to the Association is appreciated and we wish him well in the future.

The 8 a.m. Tai Chi group also presented him a fitting poem:

Tony Can

(To the tune of Sammy Davis Jr.’s “The Candy Man”)

Who can light a room up
With a funny smile
Who can say
“Good morning everybody”
And do it with such style

Who can give such belly laughs
No matter who you are
The handyman can and
He be came our Tai Chi star

The handyman is Tony
and it’s sad to say
He’ll be leaving us soon
He got us through the winter,
made our spirits much more limber
Made us feel like June

We wish him all the best now
We’ll miss him quite a lot
Remember the joy Tony loved to bring
And smile our way through every thought

~ Dick Coleman

REDECORATION ADHOC COMMITTEE

By Joe Vecchio, Board Member

At the January 25, 2022 board meeting, the Watergate at Landmark Board of Directors voted to establish an Ad Hoc Redecoration Committee for hallway interiors. Its charter is to:

- Recommend residential hallway items to be replaced or refurbished.
- Interview design/architectural firms and make recommendations to the Board.
- Assist in development of three designs for Board approval after the Board selects a design/architectural firm.
- Assist with tabulating the results of an owner-wide survey of the leading designs.
- Present survey results to the Board for its vote on the final design.

The Committee will consist of five resident unit owners—one of whom will be a Board Member—who will chair the Committee. It is expected to be active until the end of February 2023 and will meet in person, not virtually, at times to be determined. Meetings will be conducted in accordance with AR-40. Interested applicants with expertise



Apply to join the Redecoration Ad hoc Committee and help the Board make key decisions on redecorating. Photo: Pixabay.

in art, design, contracting, procurement, commercial renovations or similar backgrounds should submit a one-page resume with a summary of qualifications to Christina Clark, Executive Assistant to the Board of Directors (ea2bod@watergateatlandmark.com), by 2 p.m. on Thursday, April 14, 2022.

TUSKEGEE AIRMEN COMMEMORATION DAY 2022

Fundraiser and Silent Auction

Celebrating the 81st Anniversary of the
Tuskegee Airmen Achievements

Please visit our fundraising
and silent auction website
www.one.bidpal.net/tacd2022
to donate or bid!

Your support will help preserve the legacy of the Tuskegee Airmen by funding our educational scholarships and Youth in Aviation Program for future generations of S.T.E.M. and aviation scholars. Donate or bid on a variety of specially curated items including Tuskegee Airmen memorabilia, autographed sports paraphernalia (Washington Commanders and Nationals), limited edition artwork, hotel and entertainment certificates (Arena Stage, Blues Alley, Gaylord National, Bethesda Blues and Jazz) and many more! **Visit www.one.bidpal.net/tacd2022 to donate or bid before the auction ends on Friday, April 15!**

East Coast Chapter of Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. | www.ecctai.org

IT'S NOT *ALL* TRASH...

By *Rashawnda Daniels-Atkinson*

Recycling has many benefits for our community, and occasionally residents have inquiries concerning what can be recycled. Here's a list of recyclable items at WAL:

- Plastic bottles and jugs
- Aluminum cans
- Paperboard boxes
- Empty Aerosol Cans
- Steel and tin cans
- Mixed paper
- Clean Aluminum foil/trays
- Flattened cardboard and non-greasy pizza boxes
- Milk and juice cartons
- Glass containers

There is so much more that can be recycled, repaired, up-cycled or disposed of safely.

What About...

While there are several things our waste management contractor American Disposal Services isn't allowed to receive for recycling, there are alternative options for many items that would typically—or erroneously—be discarded in the trash according to the City of Alexandria's Refuse Collection program website www.alexandria.gov/Recycling. Following are a few items that can be disposed of or recycled elsewhere (accurate at the time of print).

Batteries

Alkaline batteries can be thrown away in regular trash. However, button-shaped batteries and rechargeable batteries can go to the [Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics Recycling Site](#) on 3224 Colvin Street from 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. on Saturdays and Mondays. Be sure to bring your ID or utility bill to show proof of residency.

Cell Phones, Tablets, Laptops and Desktop Computers

If repairing it is not possible, you can drop such off to the Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics Recycling Site or to a local store that accepts computers for recycling (i.e. Best Buy, Staples).

Bulk Trash 101

On Mondays and Thursdays, the Association has a contractor who picks up acceptable bulk items (e.g. sofas, chairs, mattresses) from our buildings. Place such on the Loading Dock no earlier than the night before the scheduled pick up date.

Residents are responsible for the disposal of toilets, cabinets, refrigerators, glass doors and windows, carpet, padding, etc. To view information about those who accept such, visit www.alexandria.gov/Recycling.

The aim of the rules is to minimize the chances of critters and pests making the area its home as well as to provide the space for Environmental Services staff to properly manage the trash pickups that occur throughout the week.



Before you put it in the trash, verify that it's recyclable.
Photo: Pixabay

Hangers

Wire hangers must be trashed; however, some local thrift store or dry cleaners may accept plastic or wood hangers.

Holiday Lights, LED Lights, Fluorescent Lights

Incandescent light bulbs can be trashed; however, as more people switch to other types of light, it's important not to make the same assumption. For instance, fluorescent and LED light bulbs should be bagged and taken to the Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics Recycling Site for safe disposal. [Mom's Organic Market](#) on 3831 Mt. Vernon Ave. also holds an annual drive to collect holiday lights.

Non-Food and Beverage Metal Containers

Partial or full aerosol containers and helium tanks that hold 20 gallons or less can be recycled at the [Covanta Waste to Energy Facility](#) (5301 Eisenhower Ave.). You may drop off items such as these and more at no cost once a week during the hours of 6 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. Mondays through Fridays and 6 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. on Saturdays.

Large Household Appliances

Most appliances (e.g. dishwashers, microwaves, stoves, washers and dryers) can be put in the bulk collection trash. However, refrigerators must be taken to the Household Hazardous Waste and Electronics Recycling Site.

General Guidelines for Recycling at WAL

The City of Alexandria has general guidelines to follow, which are similar to WAL's rules for recycling:

- Please empty and rinse all containers.
- Break down boxes larger than a shoebox.
- Remove plastic packaging, wraps or labels from newspapers, cans, bottles and cardboard.

Just taking a few minutes to dispose of recyclable items and trash properly helps to reduce unnecessary waste and increases the efficiency of the trash pulling process.

HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT

By Leslie Wilder

If you remember Cracker Jacks, raise your hand. Did you save your prizes? I certainly did, and enjoyed finding out the surprise that awaited me in each box.

Whenever I want to indulge in this treat, I no longer have to go to a ball game, the circus, or an ice show to find some. Watergate's own Market/Café now carries Cracker Jacks and Cotton Candy, among many other things.

Need to fill your pantry? The Market/Café has several kinds of Goya canned beans. Also, there are sardines, tuna fish and Spam—for those who remember World War II.

Miss a loved one's birthday? No need to apologize; run to the Market/Café and pick up a cake mix to bake.

If you are a gourmet cook, you will be pleased to find Pink Himalayan Salt and Balsamic Vinegar right on the shelves.

The Market also carries items that most residents don't know about or think to buy there:

- Office supplies? Check.
- Sandwich bags? Check.
- First Aid supplies? Check.

Don't overlook the wonderful soups in the freezer at the rear from BOSO Kitchen, a local family-run company out



You never know what surprises you'll find at the Watergate Restaurant and Market. Photo: Pixabay

of Lorton. Make your choice from lentil, black-eyed peas and spinach with kale, hearty bean, and chili—all are vegetarian. The Market/Café also carries BOSO's spiced nuts in both savory and sweet options.

The Market is more than your typical convenience store; it is full of things Watergate residents use all of the time.

In case you are wondering what my *recent* Cracker Jacks prize was, they are no longer tiny plastic hold-in-your-hand items. The prizes now are digital. Even nostalgia must keep up with the times.

A large advertisement for Watergate at Landmark. The background features a banner with the text "WATERGATE AT LANDMARK" in a stylized font, an American flag, and a view of a large, ornate building dome. Overlaid on the right is a white box containing a portrait of Rob Blitzer, a man with a grey beard and blue shirt. To the right of the portrait is his name "Rob Blitzer" and his contact information: "CRS, GRI - Associate Broker", "RE/MAX Allegiance", "703-625-0899", "remaxrob@comcast.net", and "www.RemaxRob.com". Below the contact information is the RE/MAX Allegiance logo. At the bottom of the banner, the text reads "Call Today for a Private Tour of the Best of Watergate Homes for Sale!"



A RECIPE FOR DISASTER

USE A PARKING SPACE TO DROP OFF AND PICK UP KIDS AT THE SCHOOL BUS STOP

By Javier Ortiz, Chief of Patrol Services

Our Patrol Services Department (PSD) has some significant concerns regarding the manner some residents park their vehicles when dropping off (in the morning) and picking up (in the afternoon) their children at the Yoakum Parkway school bus stop location near the Front Gate.

When vehicles park in “No Parking” areas and block the crosswalk, it creates an unsafe environment for those boarding or getting off the school bus. The children have to maneuver around the parked vehicles, many times walking into moving vehicular traffic to get to the sidewalk. This is a recipe for a potential disaster.

When available, our PSD staff are in the area to monitor the area during pick-ups and drop offs. However, we still need all residents to do their part to keep children safe by parking in nearby parking spaces while picking up or dropping off. This helps to minimize the chance of a related-accident occurring. Thank you for cooperating.



When cars block crosswalks, it creates a dangerous scenario for those walking to and from the school bus.

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Attorney Gregory Wade is a Watergate at Landmark resident and makes home visits for estate planning and probate issues.

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Bea is the first resident at
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~Bea



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5550 Cardinal Place (next to Cameron Station) Alexandria, VA 22304

Our new Alexandria community is Brandywine Living's 29th luxury, active aging community with licensed Assisted Living and Memory-Care, visit us at www.Brandycare.com

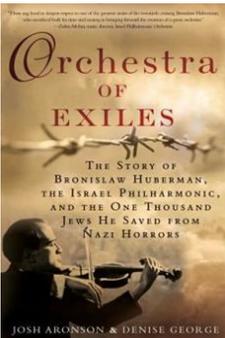
WAL UPCOMING EVENTS

SIP & LISTEN CONCERT FEATURING QUINTANGO

Friday, April 1
Terrace Lounge • 7 p.m.
Tickets: **Sold Out**



Be immersed into the world of tango at the Social Committee's first Sip & Listen Concert in 2022! Doors open at 6:30 p.m.



WATERGATE BOOK CLUB

Thursday, April 7
Conference Room 2 and Virtual
7:30 p.m.

Orchestra of Exiles
by Josh Aronson and Denise George

World-renown violinist Bronislaw Huberman committed his talent and celebrity to aid humanity. Amid the rise of Nazism, in 1936, he formed a world-class orchestra. This gave Huberman an avenue to have the very best Jewish musicians and their families emigrate from Nazi-threatened territories, ultimately saving nearly 1,000 Jews from the approaching Holocaust. Email dpmullens@comcast.net for details.

ARENA STAGE SHUTTLE TRIP: CATCH ME IF YOU CAN MUSICAL

Wednesday, April 13
Pick Up Begins at 10 a.m. • Tickets: **Sold Out**

The highly-anticipated A&E-sponsored trip to view *Catch Me If You Can* is sold out!

PICKLEBALL CLINIC

Saturday, April 23
Racquet Club • Time: 3 – 7 p.m.

Don't miss out on the first pickleball clinic offered by the WAL Recreation Committee! It will be provided by area Pickleball Ambassador Ron Tugwell, and the focus will be on skill development for the Advanced Beginner and Intermediate levels. There will be a 90-minute session for each level. **Registration is limited; email terryschlossberg@comcast.net to register. For WAL residents only.**

KITE FESTIVAL

Saturday, April 23
Meadow • 2 - 4 p.m.

Come make and/or fly a kite with the Youth Committee during its Kite Festival from 2 – 4 p.m.!



LUNCH ON THE PORCH

Saturday, April 26 (Rain Date: April 28)
Lower Terrace • 2 p.m.
Ticket: \$20 per person

Mingle with neighbors and have a scrumptious lunch at the same time! The Seniors Committee has planned a catered lunch featuring sandwiches, tea, lemonade and dessert. To attend, purchase your ticket from the Activities Office. Ticket sales are final; seating is first-come, first-served.

SIP & LISTEN CONCERT FEATURING CROOKED SPARROW

Saturday, April 30
Terrace Lounge • 7 p.m.
Ticket: \$10



Crooked Sparrow has a cool, mellow acoustic sound with a blend of Latin, folk, jazz and a talented fiddler and award-winning song writers. Ticket sales are final; ticket price excludes any tips. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Sponsored by the Social Committee.



MORMON TEMPLE SHUTTLE TRIP

Thursday, May 5
Pick Up Begins at 11 a.m.
Ticket: \$50 (Includes Shuttle Ticket and Lunch)

Ride on WAL's shuttle to Kensington, MD for a tour of this architectural beauty with the A&E Committee! The tour starts at noon, followed by lunch at La Fiamma Italian Restaurant.

WAL UPCOMING EVENTS

YAPPY HAPPY HOUR

SECOND Fridays starting May 13
Upper Terrace • 7 p.m. • FREE

The event where pups and people can mix and mingle is back! This Pet Committee-sponsored event is now held on the **second** Friday of each month. The dates for 2022 are:
May 13 * June 10 * July 8 * August 12 * September 9

GLENSTONE SHUTTLE TRIP

Thursday, May 19
Pick Up TBA • Shuttle: \$12

Enjoy this popular site with the A&E Committee! After the tour, eat lunch at your expense in the museum's café!

INTRODUCTION TO PICKLEBALL

Saturdays, May 21, May 28, June 4 and June 11
Racquet Club • Time: Noon • **For WAL Residents Only**

Explore the ins and outs of the USA's fastest-growing sport with the Recreation Committee! Paddles and balls provided. Email terryschlossberg@comcast.net to register.

SIP & LISTEN CONCERT FEATURING SAM C. JONES

Saturday, May 21
Terrace Lounge • 7 p.m.
Tickets: \$15



No matter what style you hear—country-rock, “60’s” era vocals or “moonshine rock,” there is no doubt that Sam C. Jones’ music is timeless. Don’t miss his appearance at WAL’s Sip and Listen Concert on May 21!

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; the two-hour performance begins at 7 p.m. All tickets sales are final and tips are excluded from the price. Sponsored by the Social Committee.



MEMORIAL DAY BBQ

Saturday, May 28
Lower Terrace • Time: TBA

The Seniors Committee will sponsor this event. Details forthcoming.



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Nowruz 2022

Watergate held its second Nowruz celebration on Saturday, March 12. While the first celebration two years ago was the last major event before the COVID shut down, this one marked the return of WAL's social events. The event was so well attended that it became standing-room only and ran all night. The Youth Committee celebrated the return of spring and the new year with many of our neighbors enjoying a variety of Iranian and Afghani food, music and dancing. Although COVID restrictions have mostly ended, some precautions were still taken in efforts to keep everyone safe.

We hope to see more of our neighbors joining us for future celebrations. After all, nothing brings a community together more than food and dancing!

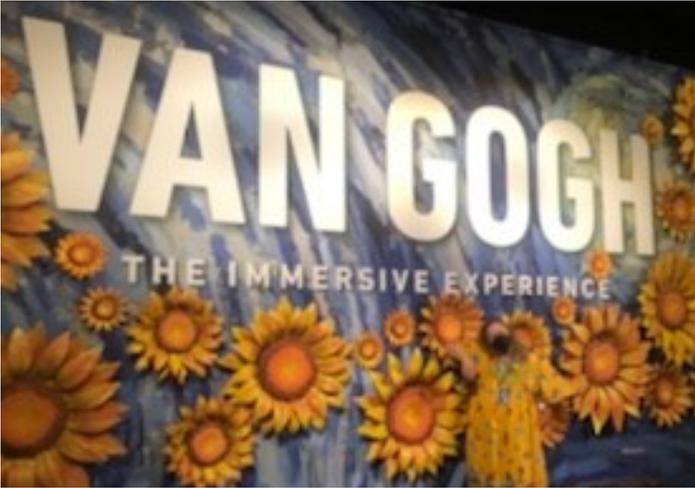
~Zohreh Khoshnamak

Photos: Watergate at Landmark Residents; Design: Rashawnda Daniels-Atkinson



VAN GOGH MANIA: THE IMMERSIVE EXPERIENCE

By Karen Hamlin



Immerse yourself into the work—and mind—of Van Gogh at this interactive exhibit at the Rhode Island Center through May 2022.

As you step into Van Gogh's world, banners of his paintings cascade from ceiling to floor for an overview of his most compelling works. The show is accompanied by the music compositions by Luca Longobardi, pairing art and music to help tell the story of the famous painter.

The brainchild of Massimiliano Siccardi—the pioneer of immersive digital art—created a totally new way to experience art, promoting it to art lovers as well as to non-art aficionados. The exhibit includes his first painting, *The Potato Eaters*, 1885; *Starry Night*, 1889; *Sunflowers*, 1888; and *The Bedroom*, 1889.

Monumental projections guide the visitor to each impressive area, leading from the introductory banners to animated images that focus on his use of color, detail, brush strokes, and symbolism. The final space is an explosion of Van Gogh's genius exposing his most famous works in motion rolling over the ceiling, walls and floor where you are immersed into his fantasy. It is important to keep in mind Van Gogh's time line and mental state when he painted his masterpieces, because they were the impetus for his selections.



Van Gogh's "Starry Night."
Photo: Wikipedia

Had it not been for his sister-in-law, Jo Van Gogh-Bonger, who inherited his nearly 900 paintings after his death, the world probably never would have heard of the master. She had no idea what to do with his collection, so she decided to promote them by organizing exhibitions

and selling them. The world finally caught up to him, to appreciate his genius. But, during VanGogh's life few were interested so he died poor. For context, *Starry Night* sold at auction for \$85 million dollars.

The DC exhibition at the Rhode Island Center (524 Rhode Island Center, NE) has been extended to May. Get tickets at [Feverup.com](https://www.feverup.com).

After attending Smith College, WAL resident Karen Hamlin's travels have taken her all over the world from camel trekking the Sahara led by the Blue Men of Morocco; the fjords of Norway circling the North Pole; to monasteries in the Holy Land; sleeping in Sweden's Ice Hotel and visiting cultures, castles and festivals. Her insatiable thirst for adventure and learning is quenched through absorbing the world's amazing theater of similarities and contrasts.

Ms. Hamlin's accolades include two first prize NATJA awards for travel destination essays, publication in national and regional magazines, L.A. Times, The Herald Tribune, Big Apple Times, travel editor of City & Suburban Magazine, and a guest on several radio talk shows. She also guest lectured at Howard University in Washington, DC and sat on a panel for the travel industry at George Washington University.

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QUEEN OF THE HOUSE

By Susan Day, Bldg. 2 Resident



Queen Bixby is taking her royal nap in the “mother cat’s” chair.

The newest addition to our home is Baby Girl Bixby, and she is a Bengal. Now, that is a cat breed, not a tiger, and although she only weighs six pounds at six months old, Bixby *thinks* she is a tiger. She is queen of the house!

Bixby was the smallest of a litter of six kittens—three girls and three boys—and the last to be adopted. She was only 10 weeks old when I found her sweet face posted on the

internet as the owner of the mother cat could not keep the kittens. The photo of her as a tiny kitten curled up in human hands convinced me that she had to come home with us. I know we got the best one out of the bunch.

For the first three months, she stuck to me like glue as she transferred her feelings to me as the mother cat. Then, she slowly acclimated to her new surroundings and became more independent. She is young, but already in the puberty stage! She loves attention, but it has to be on her terms. Bixby dominates the cat beds and kicks her older brother, Thom Cat, out when she wants to take over his comfy space. These two wrestle, play and toss toys, bite each other's ears and then curl up to sleep together, as they are the best of friends. She has the most precious little cry for a baby cat whenever she seeks attention and approval.

Behavior of cats is all we can watch or judge. They can't communicate with us verbally, but they can act out. And if you pay attention, you can figure out what they are saying. Hungry? Sleepy? Feeling sick? Afraid? They tell you what their thoughts are.

In my lifetime, I have had a series of cats and they all have personalities. If I had it to do all over again, I would have dozens of cats as I love them all, and in turn, they give me the love I need.

Please send your story along with a pet photo to FeaturedPet@watergateatlandmark.com. Be sure to submit your story in first-person rather than your pet's voice.

Mardi Gras at WAL 2022



The Jazz Trollers rocked the house, and the Louisiana Boys brought the heat in the kitchen at this Social Committee-sponsored event! Photos: Dick Coleman and Paul Sonnhaller

PRO-FIT INFORMATION

Spring Group Exercise Schedule

Session Ends on June 30, 2022!



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Call 703-370-7092 to purchase your class today!

Mondays

Pilates • 10:30 a.m. • Terrace Lounge

Wednesdays

Tone/Balance/Stretch • 12:15 p.m. • Terrace Lounge

Saturdays

Gentle Yoga • 9 a.m. • Terrace Lounge

Want to Attend a Fitness Class?

Buy a class pass and use it to attend any of the fitness classes offered at Watergate at Landmark!

10 Classes: \$95 * 20 Classes: \$179 * 30 Classes: \$209

Unlimited Classes: \$229 ***Less than \$4/class!***

Drop-In Rate: \$10 per class

Pro-FIT Referral Program

Don't keep a great thing to yourself! Refer a friend, family member or neighbor to join Pro-Fit's Group Exercise Program! **If they commit to a class pass and mention you as a referral, they receive 35% OFF the price of their class pass AND you get two FREE classes!**

The Spring Group Exercise Class Schedule will run through June 30, 2022. You may join classes at any time; however, classes purchased must be used before the current session ends.



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APRIL 2022 EVENTS

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|---|--|--|---|--|---|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 |
| | | | | | Tai Chi - 9 AM - TL Knit and Stitch - 10 AM - CF2 QuinTango Sip & Listen Concert - 7 PM - TL | Tai Chi - 8 AM - TL Yoga - 9 AM - CR Scrapbook Club - 2 PM - VI |
| 3 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| | Pilates - 10:30 AM - TL Communications - 7PM - TC | Tai Chi - 8 AM - TL Mahjong - 11 AM - CR Seniors - 2 PM - TL/TC A&E - 5 PM - CF2 Covenants - 7PM - TC | Tai Chi - 9 AM - TL Tone/Balance/Stretch 12:15 PM - TL Bridge - 2 PM - CR Recreation - 5 PM - TC/CF1 Youth - 6 PM - TC Infrastructure - 7 PM - TC | Tai Chi - 8 AM - TL Watergate Book Club - 7:30 PM - CF2/VI Pet - 7:30 PM - CF1/TC | Tai Chi - 9 AM - TL Knit and Stitch - 10 AM - CF2 | Tai Chi - 8 AM - TL Yoga - 9 AM - CR Scrapbook Club - 2 PM - VI |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| | Pilates - 10:30 AM - TL | Tai Chi - 8 AM - TL Mahjong - 11 AM - CR Social - 6 PM - CF2 | Tai Chi - 9 AM - TL Landscape - 11 AM - CF2 Tone/Balance/Stretch - 12:15 PM - TL Bridge - 2 PM - CR PRC - 7 PM - TC Catch Me If You Can Shuttle Trip to Arena Stage - 10 AM Pick Up | Tai Chi - 8 AM - TL | Tai Chi - 9 AM - TL Knit and Stitch - 10 AM - CF2 | Tai Chi - 8 AM - TL Yoga - 9 AM - CR Scrapbook Club - 2 PM - VI |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| | Pilates - 10:30 AM - TL Budget - 7 PM - TC | Tai Chi - 8 AM - TL Mahjong - 11 AM - CR | Tai Chi - 9 AM - TL Tone/Balance/Stretch - 12:15 PM - TL Bridge - 2 PM - CR | Tai Chi - 8 AM - TL | Tai Chi - 9 AM - TL Knit and Stitch - 10 AM - CF2 | Tai Chi - 8 AM - TL Yoga - 9 AM - CR Scrapbook Club - 2 PM - VI Kite Festival - 2 PM - ME Pickleball Clinic - 3 PM - RC |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| | Pilates - 10:30 AM - TL Reasonable Accommodations - 7 PM - CF1 | Tai Chi - 8 AM - TL Mahjong - 11 AM - CR Lunch on the Porch - 2 PM - LT Board of Directors Meeting - 7:30 PM - TL | Tai Chi - 9 AM - TL Tone/Balance/Stretch - 12:15 PM - TL Bridge - 2 PM - CR | Tai Chi - 8 AM - TL | Tai Chi - 9 AM - TL Knit and Stitch - 10 AM - CF2 | Tai Chi - 8 AM - TL Yoga - 9 AM - CR Scrapbook Club - 2 PM - VI Crooked Sparrow Sip & Listen Concert - 7 PM - TL |

LOCATION KEY

BL=Building Lobby; BP=Billiard & Ping-Pong Rooms; BR=Blue Room; CF1=Conference Room 1; CF2=Conference Room 2; CR=Card Room; FC=WAL Fitness Center; GZ=Gazebos; IP=Indoor Pool; LB=Library; LD= Loading Dock; LT=Lower Terrace; M=Market; MA=Multi-purpose Area; ME=Meadow; OP=Outdoor Pool; OT=Outdoor Tennis Courts; P=Playground; PG=Putting Green; PR=Party Room; RC=Racquet Club; TC=Teleconference; TL=Terrace Lounge; TS=Town Square; TV=TV Room; UT=Upper Terrace; VI=Virtual

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