

Wheel

WATERGATE AT LANDMARK UNIT OWNERS ASSOCIATION



Conserve Today, Save Tomorrow

PAGE 6

The 148th Run for the Roses

PAGE 10

Our Home Sweet Home

PAGE 11

Where Renovation Dreams Become A Reality

Water Gate of Landmark Residents

**City of Alexandria Permits and WAL
Modification approval submission included!**

Our Services

Kitchen



**Painting / Popcorn
Removal**



Drywall / Framing



**Electrical
Panel Box**



Bathroom



Flooring



Electrical



Plumbing

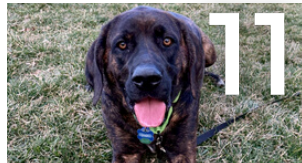


INSIDE The Wheel

COVER PHOTO

WAL Residents danced the night away in celebration of the Nowruz Persian holiday. The Youth Committee hosted an event full of festivities, Iranian and Afghani food, arts, and music by two DJs.

Photo: Zohreh Khoshnamak



TUNE IN TO WAL

Lobby Entrance Camera

Comcast - 971 Master Antenna - 3

WAL CCTV Channels

Comcast - 970 Master Antenna - 8

Wheel is a publication of the Watergate at Landmark Unit Owners Association

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NEWS

- 04 PRESIDENT'S UPDATE
- 07 COMMUNITY SHRED-IT
- 13 PRO-FIT INFORMATION
- 14 UPCOMING EVENTS

IN THIS ISSUE

- 06 CONSERVE TODAY, SAVE TOMORROW
- 08 PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT HITS NEW HIGH!
- 10 THE 148TH RUN FOR THE ROSES
- 11 OUR HOME SWEET HOME
- 12 PRO-FIT ACTIVITES

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WAL CONTACT CORNER

Resident Services Office Hours

Monday - Friday	Saturday
8 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.	9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Email: resident@watergateatlandmark.com	

Resident Services Office: 703-370-7000

Activities Office: 703-370-7092

FirstService Residential: 703-385-1133

Gate Communications 703-370-2674

After-hours Emergencies:

Metro Water: 703-461-3418

Shuttle Updates
Text "Watergate"
to 844-612-2165

Operations Coordinator 703-461-2498

Email: operations@watergateatlandmark.com

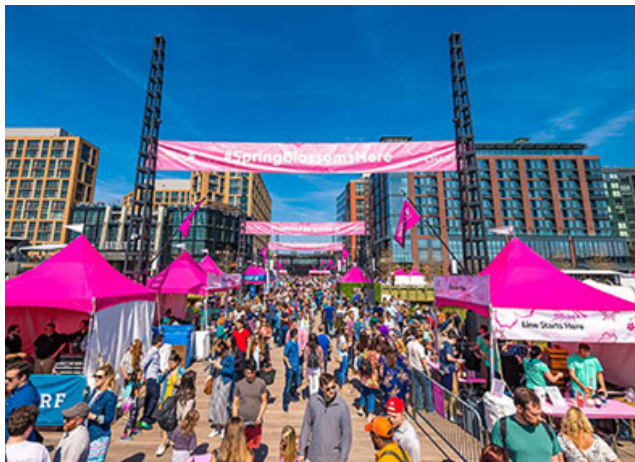
Common Area Maintenance Related Requests:

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

By Rudnaldo Hodges, Board President

A new season has arrived early, welcoming spring flowers, budding trees, and new plant growth here at Watergate at Landmark. Greenery abounds! We can thank our Landscape Committee who have worked very closely with our landscape contractor in making our Watergate at Landmark (WAL) grounds as beautiful as possible. This is another WAL tradition I hope everyone can enjoy—watching our environment transform into wonderful landscapes.

Another tradition that is upon us is the National Cherry Blossom Festival taking place March 20 - April 16 in D.C. Blossoms will likely have peaked by the time you read this article, but there should still be plenty of opportunities to take in this beautiful spectacle.



Petalpalooza is a day-long celebration that brings art, music, and play to multiple outdoor stages. Photo credit: .buildinginnovation.org

Your family might like to celebrate spring at Petalpalooza on Saturday, April 8 for great family entertainment and fun. It's an all-day celebration with art installations throughout, music and multiple outdoor stage venues featuring local entertainers. If you stay late, you can view the Festival Fireworks Show set to music at 8:30 PM.



Last month Watergate witnessed another milestone event here at WAL—the formation of a new Board of Directors. Our previous President of the Board, Phil Schrock, presented an awesome annual report replete with an abundance of timely achievements to the benefit of our association and our community.

During the same event our Board election culminated in the selection of Patricia Espinet, Stephen Allenbach and Barry Crosby. Congratulations to our new Board directors!

A few days later the new Board elected as its president, me- Butch Hodges and as its new vice president, Joe Vecchio. Congratulations to us! We re-elected Vivian Moran as our board secretary and Susan Bouldin as our treasurer. How fortunate for the Board to have these highly experienced and competent officers volunteering their extensive knowledge in their respective areas of expertise! Unfortunately, the Condominium Unit Owners' Association lost decades of experience with the retirements of Phil Schrock and Bob Lee. They will TRULY be missed. Thankfully, Alex Davila, Joe Vecchio, Eileen Greenberg, Theresa Mulrane, Greg Wade, and Stephen Allenbach are returnees to the Board, we shall continue providing leadership on behalf of our Association and our community at large.



Upcoming Meteor showers in April is expected to produce 100 meteors per hour.

Are there any aspiring astronomers out there? April starts the season and is a great month for meteor showers. Most meteor showers are caused by debris from a passing comet. Between April 15 and 29 (esp. 21-22), the Lyrids meteor shower can surprise watchers with as many as 100 meteors in view per hour. The Eta Aquariids meteor shower can be seen after April 21. Remember to look up into as dark a sky as possible for maximum visibility.

Make sure you check out this section of future Wheel magazines for a board's perspective of what's happening here at WAL.

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2023 -2024

Board of Directors	Term Expires
Eileen Greenberg	2025
Theresa Mulrane	2025
Stephen Allenbach	2026
Alex Davila	2024
Barry Crosby	2026
Patricia Espinet	2026
Gregory Wade	2025
Board Elected Officers	Term Expires
Rudnaldo Hodges, President	2024
Joseph Vecchio, Vice President	2024
Susan Bouldin, Treasurer	2024
Vivian Moran, Secretary	2024

CONSERVE TODAY, SAVE TOMORROW

By Brianna Hawkins, Communication Manager



Running water can be costly due to a variety of plumbing systems, inefficient fixtures and appliances and high water usage habits. Some areas may have higher water rates or fees for excessive running water usage. It's essential to be mindful of water usage and address any leaks or inefficiencies to help reduce potential association related fee increases.

Fortunately, WAL has a contractor that fixes the source of major water loss from leaking toilets at no extra cost to you. When you dial 703-461-3418, leave a message for Metro Water, the Association's contractor for water conservation. Metro Water will schedule a time to investigate the case and resolve the issue. Each call or report helps the Association reduce water consumption and save money on utility costs!

Who is Metro Water?

Metro Water provides water consumption control services for WAL. South Boston, VA native David Wilborn has been a water conservationist for nearly 50 years and WAL has been a full-time client of Metro Water since 1992. Our community was the first client to receive such service from Metro Water after an initial contract to replace aging toilet components with better technology aimed at reducing water waste.

"We were working on conserving water when it wasn't talked about so much back then," David said, "but we knew that to control consumption levels and costs, you have to stop the leaks ASAP." Metro Water focuses on water conservation by reducing toilet leaks and water consumption, while our Maintenance Department repairs distribution leaks and toilet backups.



The comparison between (photo to the left) the few parts David started off using that were able to fit in one hand. vs. the variety of necessary parts needed today (to the right)

"Metro Water uses a three-fold system of monitoring, on-call service and attending to consumption increases. This helps us reach the goals our client want - money saved and water waste reduced," he explained.

Monitoring Service

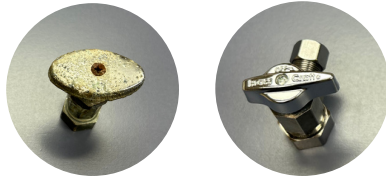
Each week, Metro Water staff read the water meters and analyze how much water is used. This monitoring process permits the community to calculate how efficiently the building consumes water. According to Virginia-American, water and sewer service costs \$18.51/1000 gal. That is an increase of more than \$5.00/1,000g in the last four years. When coupled with the fact that a running toilet can add thousands of gallons to a building's consumption in one day, it's easy to see how much the costs of an undetected leak add up. Currently, WAL is using a total for all four buildings approximately 93,364 gals. a day LESS than was being consumed when we began in the early 1990s. The hard part and the constant challenge is keeping the improved consumption from increasing and this is why we rely so heavily on the cooperation of the residents.

"Water leaks can happen quietly, especially if you aren't attentive. I've gone into units here and the toilet is running. The resident was not aware of the water loss," David shares. Don't let this be you. Even if you suspect hearing water, David suggests that you let someone know, as there have been times when the diligent ear of a resident helped detect the source of the leak.

It's also important to know where the toilet shut-off valves located so that you can turn off the water supply until Metro Water arrives."

On-Call Service

Should you hear that ghost flush or water running in the toilet, don't hesitate to call Metro Water at 703-461-3418 and leave a message. Typically, calls are answered within the same day and after making an appointment, Metro Water supplies the parts and labor aimed at resolving the water issue at no charge to residents.



(Left) Original Shut Off Valve vs. the new quarter turn stainless steel ball valve (to the right) WAL currently uses.

Out With the Old, in With the New

Original Shut off Valves become increasingly problematic due to missing rubber washer pieces needed to properly shut off water in units. WAL encourages all residents to switch to the new stainless steel quarter-turn valve for easy water shut-off.

Increased Consumption

The final component of the Metro Water partnership with WAL is what to do when the consumption increases and no one has reported a problem. This is a serious issue, per David, because if just one toilet keeps running, it can lose thousands of gallons of water each day. To notify the affected building and as a reminder to check for leaks, Water Alert Notices are distributed to each unit. If necessary, Inspections are then conducted to find the leaking toilet.

To notify the affected building and as a reminder to check for leaks, Water Alert Notices are distributed to each unit. If necessary, Inspections are then conducted to find the leak and fix it.

Help save water and Association money. Call Metro Water at 703-461-3418.

COMMUNITY SHRED-IT

By WAL Management

The Association has arranged for *Shred-It* to come onsite to shred those documents on your behalf while helping the environment at the same time. Items *Shred-It* can shred include white and colored paper, newspapers, magazines, file folders, plastic cards (i.e. credit cards), staples and paper clips. Some items they **cannot** shred are: food, hanging folders, metal objects, plastic objects, binders with plastic coverings and batteries/cell phones (these can cause a fire). A copy of the full list of shredding dos and don'ts can be downloaded from our website (Residents > Resource Documents > Other Helpful Documents). You can also pick up a copy at the Resident Services Office.

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Saturday, April 22			
Your Bldg. Loading Dock • 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.			
10 - 11 a.m. Bldg. 4	10 - 11 a.m. Bldg. 3	Noon - 1 p.m. Bldg. 2	1 - 2 p.m. Bldg. 1



PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT HITS A NEW HIGH!

By Terry Schlossberg, Racquet Club



WAL Pickleballers challenged each other to a semi-annual Round Robin Tournament. Players at all skill levels competed together. Winners walked away with gold, silver, and bronze medals of triumph. Ten teams of three spent five hours playing for prizes as they laughed and played together on the indoor courts at WAL.

The WAL resident, Brian Darling, shared his appreciation of the tournament and how unique the Racquet Club community is to him.

“I don’t know that I’ve seen such a large group of people who get along so well and have so much fun together!” “It truly is a wonderful experience sharing your time with other players.”

Introduction to Pickleball Lessons

Learn to play the fastest-growing sport in the U.S. and become a part of the WAL pickleball community! Four free consecutive Saturday lessons for residents are offered by the Recreation Committee, beginning April 8, on the indoor courts from 11 a.m. to noon. Balls and paddles are provided during all four lessons. To register for lessons, contact Terry Schlossberg at terryschlossberg@comcast.net.

Pickleball Lesson Dates (11 a.m. - noon)

Saturday, April 8	Saturday, April 22
Saturday, April 15	Saturday, April 29



The winners of the Pickleball tournament. Photo by Joe Breed

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THE 148TH RUN FOR THE ROSES

By Carolyn Winters Social Committee Chair

The Kentucky Derby, first held in 1875 at Churchill Downs racetrack in Louisville, is the longest-running sports event in the United States. Dubbed the “Run for the Roses,” the Kentucky Derby features three-year-old thoroughbreds racing a distance of 1.25 miles annually gathering on the first Saturday in May at Churchill Downs. It’s sometimes referred to as the greatest two minutes in sports! Besides placing bets on horses, Derby fans are famous for drinking mint juleps, singing “Old Kentucky Home” and wearing flamboyant hats for good luck.



Photo Source: share.america.gov

The Kentucky Derby was started by Meriwether Lewis Clark Jr., grandson of explorer William Clark, of Lewis and Clark expedition fame. Clark was inspired by a horse race he had seen in Europe, raised the money to build Churchill Downs on land donated by his uncles.

According to kentuckyderby.com, During 1872, Clark traveled to Europe, where he visited leading horse racing sites in England and France and was inspired by England’s Upsom racetrack. Clark returned home to Kentucky, founded the Louisville Jockey Club, and raised money to construct a racetrack on land donated by his uncles, Henry and John Churchill. Known for throwing extravagant parties, Clark envisioned his racetrack as a place where the city socialites would gather.

On May 17, 1875, some 10,000 people attended the first Kentucky Derby, which featured a field of 15 three-year-old thoroughbreds racing 1.5 miles. Derby has evolved over the years. Originally, 13 of the 15 jockeys in the inaugural Derby were black, and black riders played a dominant role in the Derby race in the early years. Between 1875 and 1902, 11 black jockeys rode 15 of the winning horses.



Photo Source: brooklynbackstretch.com

However by the early 20th century, prejudice and jealousy of those jockeys success resulted in African-American riders largely disappearing from horse racing. Jimmy Winkfield, the last black jockey to win the derby, did so in 1901 and 1902.

Another change for the derby that occurred in its early years was the shortening of the race. In 1896 following complaints by some members of the racing community that the distance was too long, it was reduced from 1.5 miles to 1.25 miles - the length it remains today.

In 1973, Secretariat became the fastest Derby winner in history with a time of 1:59.40, according to kentuckyderby.com. A record that still stands today. To qualify to ride in the derby, a horse must compete in designated prep races at a series of tracks. The top four finishers in each race receive points, and the 20 horses to accumulate the most points are eligible to enter the derby. The last race for entry will be April 15. After that, 20 horses are picked, with four standby horses in case horses drop out. Don’t think that whoever holds the number one spot is the best. The horses are rated by the weight of the rider, the bridle and his kit!

Roses are another long-time Derby tradition. In 1884, Meriwether Clark started the practice of giving the winning jockey a bouquet of roses. In 1925, a New York sports columnist nicknamed the Derby the “Run for the Roses.” Since the early 1930s, it has been customary to place a large garland of roses over the winning horse.



SATURDAY 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
MAY 6 Terrace Lounge
Tickets \$10 (No refunds)

Wear your fabulous hat or fascinator, lucky outfit and bring your own beverage and snacks to share with your table. See if your favorite comes in 1st, 2nd or 3rd while watching the exciting races on the big screen. Take part in a trivia game to reveal how much you know about the Derby. Cheer on and celebrate with us in the Terrace Lounge!

Happy Nowruz 2023



"WE LIVE IN A MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITY AND NEED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE VARIOUS (CULTURES HERE) FROM EACH OTHER." ~ LYNDY SOAFY

Photo Credits: Zohreh Khoshnamak



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~Bea



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OUR HOME SWEET HOME

By Lindsay H. & Joe S., Bldg. 1



Squatch enjoys days of fun in the sun at WAL.

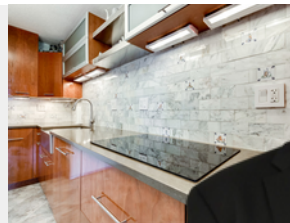
We brought Squatch home after adopting him in Georgia on August 1, 2021. It was also the first day we officially lived at Watergate. We both grew up with dogs, but Squatch is the first we've been responsible for. We didn't anticipate how important he would become to us. He had a medical emergency when he was about six months old that required severe surgery, and we are thankful every single day that he pulled through.

Squatch is coming up on two years old now, and he has turned into a total teddy bear. He always has to be touching one of us, and at 90+ pounds, that can sometimes make things interesting. He is very playful and energetic; his favorite hobby is running around with his best friends, Ziggy and Penny, from Building 1.

He's spoiled and definitely not the most well-trained dog in the world, but we like him the way he is. He can sit on command as long as treats are involved, and oddly enough, he has learned the command "go to bed," which he listens to quite well. He's very friendly to most dogs and people, although sometimes small children make him nervous. Sometimes people think he's scary because he is so big, but he is just a "big softy."



ROB BLITZER'S WATERGATE SALES REPORT



ROB BLITZER
GRI, CRS, Associate

ROBBLITZER8@GMAIL.COM
703-625-0899

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Recent
Watergate Sales

ST#	FLOOR	MODEL	BR/FB/HB	SQFT	DATE SOLD	SOLD PRICE	GARAGE
205	3rd	A	1/1	881	1/23/2023	\$246,500	No
307	5th	E	2/2	1098	3/23/2023	\$265,000	No
205	9th	E	2/2	1098	3/22/2023	\$325,000	Yes
307	18th	E	2/2	1098	2/22/2023	\$399,900	No
309	5th	G	2/2	1309	2/22/2023	\$310,000	Yes
307	17th	G	2/2	1309	2/22/2023	\$331,000	No
307	2nd	K	2/1/5	1621	3/22/2023	\$340,000	Yes
205	15th	K	3/1/5	1621	2/22/2023	\$360,000	No
307	15th	J	3/2	1621	2/22/2023	\$385,000	No

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PROFESSIONAL FITNESS MANAGEMENT

Want to attend a Fitness Class?

The Spring Group Exercise Class Schedule will begin in April. You may join classes at any time, but the purchased classes must be used during the schedule. For example, classes purchased in the winter must be used during the winter class schedule.

Schedule runs from April 1 - June 30
Call 703-370-7092 to purchase your class today!

Buy a class pass to use for any or all fitness classes. Join at any point during the season. Passes purchased for the Spring Exercise Schedule must be used by June 30, 2023.



10 Classes: \$95 * 20 Classes = \$179 * 30 Classes: \$209
Unlimited Classes: \$229 *Less than \$4/class!*
Drop-In Rate: \$10 per class



Spring Group Exercise Schedule

MONDAYS

Pilates - 10:30 a.m. - Terrace Lounge

WEDNESDAYS

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

THURSDAYS

Aqua Zumba - 6 p.m. - Indoor Pool

SATURDAYS

Gentle Yoga - 9 a.m. - Terrace Lounge

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!

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UPCOMING *Events*



Apr
12

WATERGATE BOOK CLUB

WEDNESDAY

THE PARIS LIBRARY
BY JANET SKESLIEN CHARLES
7:30 p.m. • Conference Rm 2
+ Virtual
For more information, contact
Diane Mullens at 703-973-4373 or
at dpmullens@comcast.net.

Apr
15

HOW KIDS SHOULD APPROACH A DOG
SATURDAY

2 p.m. • Terrace Lounge • Free



The Youth Committee is partnering with Frolick Dogs Training to host an event for kids to learn how to positively interact with dogs. Frolick Dogs Trainers are ready to work with WAL kids to achieve optimal results and tackle any behavioral challenges or situations that may need addressing.

Apr
27

CRUISE TRIP MEET & GREET
THURSDAY

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.
Terrace Lounge. Open to Residents Attending 2023 Cruise Sailing from Baltimore, MD, to the Bahamas and Bermuda for nine days of fun with neighbors! Meet your neighbor at the Cruise "Meet & Greet" before the Royal Caribbean Cruise, May 25 - June 3, 2023. The Social Committee will provide light snacks. Cruise attendees are encouraged to bring personal refreshments to the event.



June
15

SOLOMONS ISLAND SHUTTLE TRIP
THURSDAY

Pick-ups start at 9 a.m. Returning at 5 p.m.. Tickets \$25 (No refunds)

Join the A&E Committee to a trip to Solomons Island in MD. The first stop will be at Annmarie Sculpture Garden & Sculpture Park. Then the group will be dropped off at the Calvert Marine Museum, where residents can explore the small island. A variety of exhibits are included in your price of admission. There are plenty of restaurants within walking distance of the Museum. And, you can also pick up food and bring it back to the museum and sit at picnic tables looking out at the water.

May
6

KENTUCKY DERBY PARTY
SATURDAY
5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
Terrace Lounge. Tickets \$10
(No refunds)

Wear your fabulous hat or fascinator, lucky outfit and bring your own beverage and snacks to share with your table. See if your favorite comes in 1st, 2nd or 3rd as we watch the exciting races displayed on the big screen. There will be a trivia game to challenge how much you know about the Derby. Cheer on and celebrate with us in the Terrace Lounge!

May

20



ALPHA DOG BLUES SIP & LISTEN
SATURDAY

7-9 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. \$15 (no refunds)
Bring your own beverage and a snack to share with your table.
Harmonica wizard Roger Hart brings his acoustic band back to Watergate for the third time! This is always a sold out crowd with Tom Muck at the guitar and Bass Guitarist Nancy Lisi. Sign up at the Activities Office to snag your front row seats!



APRIL

2023

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
LOCATION BL=Building BP=Billiard & Ping-Pong BR=Blue Room CF1=Conference Room CF2=Conference Room 2 CR=Card Room FC=WAL Fitness Center GZ= Gazebo 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 Court P=Playground PA=Picnic Area PG=Putting Green PR=Party Room RC=Racquet Club TL=Terrace Lounge TS=Town Square TV=TV Room UT=Upper Terrace VI=Virtual						
KEY						
	2 Pilates - 10:30 AM - TL Communications -12:30 PM - TL + VI	Tai Chi - 8 AM - TL Mahjong - 10 AM - CR Seniors - 2 PM - TL A&E - 5 PM - CF2 Covenantants - 7 PM - VI	Tai Chi - 9 AM - TL Tone/Balance/Stretch- 12:15 PM - TL Bridge - 2 PM - CR Redecoration - 2 PM - CF1 Recreation - 5 PM - VI Youth - 6 PM - VI Infrastructure - 7 PM - VI	Tai Chi - 8 AM - TL Aqua Zumba - 6 PM - IP Pet - 7:30 PM - VI Shuttle Trip: Botanical Gardens (Pick-ups start @ 10:15 AM) SOLD OUT	Tai Chi - 9 AM - TL Knit and Stitch - 10 AM - CF2	Tai Chi - 8 AM - TL Yoga - 9 AM - CR Pickleball Lessons - 11 AM - Noon - RC
9	Pilates - 10:30 AM - TL 10	Tai Chi - 8 AM - TL Mahjong - 10 AM - CR Social - 6 PM - CF2	Tai Chi - 9 AM TL Bridge - 2 PM - CR Tone/Balance/Stretch - 12:15 PM - TL Landscaping - 11 AM - CF2 PRC Meeting - 7 PM - VI Book Club - 7:30 PM - CF2 + VI	Tai Chi - 8 AM - TL Aqua Zumba - 6 PM - IP Reasonable Accommodation - 4 PM - CF1	Tai Chi - 9 AM - TL Knit and Stitch - 10 AM - CF2	Tai Chi - 8 AM - TL Yoga - 9 AM - CR Pickleball Lessons - 11 AM - Noon - RC How Kids Should Approach a Dog - 2 PM - TL Robotics Club - 3 PM - CF1
16	Pilates - 10:30 AM - TL Budget - 7 PM - VI	Tai Chi - 8 AM - TL Mahjong - 10 AM - CR	Tai Chi - 9 AM - TL Bridge - 2 PM - CR Tone/Balance/Stretch - 12:15 PM - TL	Tai Chi - 8 AM - TL Aqua Zumba - 6 PM - IP Cruise Trip Meet & Greet - 5:30 - Terrace Lounge	Tai Chi - 9 AM - TL Knit and Stitch - 10 AM - CF2	Tai Chi - 8 AM - TL Yoga - 9 AM - CR Community Shredding Day 10 AM - 2 PM Pickleball Lessons - 11 AM - Noon - RC
23	Pilates - 10:30 AM - TL 24	Tai Chi - 8 AM - TL Mahjong - 10 AM - CR Board Meeting - 7:30 PM - TL + VI	Tai Chi - 9 AM - TL Bridge - 2 PM - CR Tone/Balance/Stretch - 12:15 PM - TL	Tai Chi - 8 AM - TL Aqua Zumba - 6 PM - IP	Tai Chi - 9 AM - TL Knit and Stitch - 10 AM - CF2	Tai Chi - 8 AM - TL Yoga - 9 AM - CR Community Shredding Day 10 AM - 2 PM Pickleball Lessons - 11 AM - Noon - RC
30						Pickleball Lessons - 11 AM - Noon - RC

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