

Wheel



November 2021, Vol. 47, Issue 11

Watergate at Landmark
Unit Owners Association

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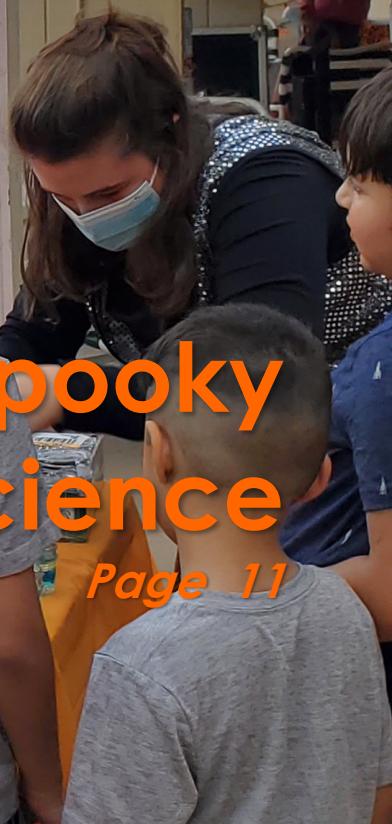
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Picklers Win
Tournament

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Spooky
Science

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WAL GETS SPOOKY

What would our community be without the Spooky Mad Science Expo? Held each year in October, WAL's Science Club, the Youth Committee, resident volunteers, City of Alexandria representatives and STEAM-based organizations gather on the Lower Terrace for an evening filled with fun and all things scary! View a few photos from the October event on page 11.



Photo: Zohreh Khoshnamak



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PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

By Phil Schrock, Board President

You might say that November is America's month of giving thanks. It marks not one, but two holidays that remind us how fortunate we are: Veterans Day and Thanksgiving Day.

On Thursday, November 11 our nation will celebrate Veterans Day 2021. This federal holiday pays tribute to the men and women of the United States armed forces who risk their lives to protect our freedoms. We sometimes take these freedoms for granted in the United States. But as Veterans Day draws near we take time to remember, thank and honor the many owners and residents of Watergate at Landmark who are veterans – and *all* veterans – for their patriotism, sacrifices and honorable service to the defense of our nation. Our heartfelt gratitude to you!

In a similar vein, two weeks later our country celebrates Thanksgiving Day on November 25. Thanksgiving was officially established as a national holiday amidst of one of the darkest periods of our history:

"The year that is drawing towards its close, has been filled with the blessings of fruitful fields and healthful skies. To



President Lincoln's 1863 Proclamation ushered in Thanksgiving as a national holiday. Photo: Pixabay.

these bounties, which are so constantly enjoyed that we are prone to forget the source from which they come, others have been added, which are of so extraordinary a nature, that they cannot fail to penetrate and soften even the heart which is habitually insensible to the ever watchful providence of Almighty God." These are the opening words given by President Abraham Lincoln's Proclamation to the nation on October 3, 1863, "*In the midst of a civil war of unequalled magnitude and severity..."*

Although President George Washington issued a proclamation naming Thursday, November 26, 1789 as a "Day of Publick Thanksgivin" it wasn't until President Lincoln's 1863 Proclamation that Thanksgiving was regularly commemorated each year on the last Thursday of November.

"...slow down and give thanks for the many good things we have in life..."

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Thanksgiving is one of the busiest holidays of the year. Some of us stay home to celebrate, while many others travel to be with family and friends. It's also a time to pause, reflect and take inventory of our lives. There is much for which we can be thankful this Thanksgiving season:

- These United States of America, its freedoms and liberties; our diversity, and the rights that we have such as Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness
- Watergate at Landmark and its diverse population, providing an opportunity for greater understanding and appreciation of people of all ages and various ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds
- Our beautiful grounds, landscape, facilities and amenities
- Our Committee Chairs and Committee members who give their selfless service to make this a thriving community

- The many silent volunteers who humbly donate their time and energy without recognition
- Our paid staff and employees who want to serve our owners and residents
- You, the owners and residents, who have entrusted your Board to represent and serve you

We recognize the many challenges we as a nation and we as a community face. However, during this Thanksgiving season, it's appropriate to slow down and give thanks for the many good things we have in life.

Know that your Board of Directors is dedicated and committed to doing its part in making Watergate at Landmark the best community it can be – one that provides an enviable quality of life and fosters strong community relationships.

For all of these things, I, for one, am thankful!

Board Appoints New General Manager

The Board of Directors of the Watergate at Landmark Condominium Unit Owners Association is pleased to announce the appointment of Gregory L. Gardner as the Association's new General Manager effective November 2, 2021.

A lifelong resident of Northern Virginia, Greg comes to Watergate at Landmark with more than 20 years of knowledge and experience in the management of Common Interest Real Estate Communities.

A graduate of George Mason University, Greg holds CMCA (Certified Manager of Community Associations), AMS (Association Management Specialist) and PCAM (Professional Community Association Manager) certifications from the Community Associations Institute. Less than 3,000 community association professionals worldwide hold the PCAM designation.

Greg served his country in the United States Air Force and received numerous awards during his service. He and his family currently reside in Northern Virginia.



Gregory Gardner, WAL's new General Manager. Photo: Joe Vecchio

ROB BLITZER'S WATERGATE SALES REPORT

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Hi. My name is Rob Blitzer and I am a 34 year Resident and Realtor at Watergate at Landmark. I have been helping my Clients buy and sell Real Estate all over Northern Virginia but there is a special place in my heart for Watergate! Watergate is not just 4 walls and a ceiling or just another community. It's a Life Style and a very comfortable Lifestyle at that. Over my 34 years at Watergate, we have been through a lot... Recessions, Elections, Runaway Stock Markets, Pandemics, Cicada Invasions (Twice) and even an Earthquake. Through it all, Watergate continues to keep on Rockin' and even improving with age. Whether it's the Amenities, Location or just the overall Comfortable LifeStyle, it's great living here and I'm Enthusiastic about Watergate now and what the Future holds.

PESTS, BE GONE!

WAL'S PEST CONTROL SERVICE

By Kat Robinson, Resident Services



Routine pest control services help keep unwanted pests at bay. Photo: Pixabay

Want to keep bugs and rodents at bay? Consider scheduling a treatment or inspection via the Association-provided pest control service.

What pests does the treatment target? What methods are used?
The pest control contractor provides spray treatments for roaches. They also treat for mice, ants and spiders.

The basic treatment involves traps and glue bonds. A more intensive treatment involves spraying, for which residents must be out of unit for at least 4 hours.

How can I schedule a service?

To be placed on the schedule, email resident@watergateatlandmark.com or drop by the office and put in a written work order. Pest control services are scheduled on Mondays and Fridays. Residents are called on the day they are on the scheduled as the technician could arrive at any time.

I think I've spotted a bedbug...

Once a resident suspects that there are bedbugs in their unit, they contact the office. The pest control company is contacted and they conduct an inspection for which the Assn. pays. If it's confirmed that bed bugs are in the unit, the resident and surrounding neighbors are notified. They would then need to contact a pest control

provider of their choice and at their own expense. Notices for bedbug inspections will be sent at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled date.

What are block sprays?

Block sprays are done if bedbugs have been confirmed to be present in the unit. Units immediately above, below, to the left and to the right of the affected unit are notified that the pest control technician will visit.

How do I prepare my unit?

For intense chemical sprays, residents must clear all items out of the kitchen and bathroom as well as be out of the unit for at least 4 hours during spray treatments. Maintenance must be contacted if appliances need to be moved for repairing rodent holes; this service is assessed as a separate fee to the unit. Contact the Handyman Coordinator at handy-man@watergateatlandmark.com to request such. Please be present when the technician visits your home to ensure treatments or inspections are completed in a timely manner.

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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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A CALL TO LEAD: BOARD DIRECTORS WANTED

By WAL Elections Committee 45



The Elections Committee is looking for candidates to present for the 2022 Board of Directors election. Photo: Pixabay

“Great leaders are almost always great simplifiers, who can cut through argument, debate and doubt to offer a solution everybody can understand.”

—Gen. Colin Powell, former U.S. Secretary of State

The 45th Annual Meeting of the Watergate at Landmark Condominium Unit Owners Association (WALCUOA) will take place on Monday, March 7, 2022. Three candidates with the highest percentage of votes will be elected to fill three-year terms on the Board of Directors. Any qualified unit owner may run for one of these positions. This election, the goal of Watergate’s Election Committee is to offer an online voting option through *Vote HOA Now*. More information on electronic voting will become available as the election season nears.

What is the Board and why do we need Directors?

The WALCUOA Board of Directors (BoD) is an elected group of unit owners that meets monthly, at a minimum, to create community management and oversight policies. Its members play a huge role in formulating decisions on behalf of unit owners and performing fiduciary responsibilities through budgetary, capital and expense-related decision-making.

How can you become a candidate?

Potential candidates typically complete and turn in an official 2022 Candidate Petition packet from Resident Services located in the Community Center by the approved due date and time. Petitions must include your name, building and unit number, phone number and signature. Petitions must be endorsed by at least 10-unit owners;

however, you are encouraged to get more signatures in case some of the signatures are later proven to be invalid. Only one owner’s signature per unit is permitted. With your petition, attach a signed autobiographical statement and a campaign statement not to exceed 300 words per document.

“Our Watergate at Landmark community needs engaged, aspiring leaders to help us maintain a well-defined, established governing process.”

~ Butch Hedges, Election Committee Chair

Leaders Needed

Candidates don’t necessarily need to be “great” leaders, but those who endeavor to take on leadership challenges and evolve through their experiences have the potential to become “good” if not great. Our Watergate at Landmark community needs engaged, aspiring leaders to help us maintain a well-defined, established governing process.

If this challenge matches your aspirations, consider this a call to lead.

SIDEWALK COURTESY

By Sylvia Linke, Infrastructure Committee

Two feet.

Two feet is the minimum distance you may need to move to permit someone to pass you on a crowded sidewalk. If you have stopped to talk with a neighbor or are otherwise blocking a sidewalk, please be mindful of those who may need to pass you. By moving a few feet, you may give someone an opportunity to safely continue their journey, such as a person carrying a baby or in a wheelchair.

If you would like to pass by someone, a friendly “Excuse me, please” lets someone know you are about to pass by them. This can help prevent a collision between the slower moving person on the sidewalk and yourself or causing the slower moving person to take a misstep.

A little bit of thoughtfulness goes a long way in a community like ours; it only takes but a moment of your time. Please help all of us to enjoy living here by taking but a moment to be aware of your neighbor’s needs.

And move two feet when someone is trying to pass by you on the sidewalk.



By moving a few feet, it helps someone walk by in a safe manner.
Photo: Pixabay

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WAL UPCOMING EVENTS

TYSON'S CORNER 1 AND 2 SHUTTLE TRIP



buy lunch at one of the mall's eateries. Sign up in the Activities Office.

**Thursday,
November 18**
\$12 Shuttle
Pickup Time TBA

Shop 'til you drop at either Tysons 1 or 2 with the A&E Committee! Plan to

VIDEO/BOARD GAME NIGHT

Friday, November 19

Terrace Lounge/Card Room/TV Room • 6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Calling all Gamers! Bring your own game consoles and/or board games and join the Youth Committee for a night of fun and games! We plan to have multiple stations for gamers to play as well as board games set up in case there's a loss of internet connectivity. To prepare in advance, RSVP in the Activities Office if you plan to attend. **All players attending this event MUST be supervised by an adult; no mature game content is allowed.**

We'll need a little help pulling this off, so volunteers should reach out to dcjess@watergateatlandmark.com or the Activities Office at activities@watergateatlandmark.com. Do you have an Xbox One S, Playstation 4/5, or Nintendo One? Would you consider allowing us to use it for the night? Please let Becca in the Activities Office know if you are willing to lend your gaming system for this event.



PET HOLIDAY PHOTO SHOOT

Saturday, November 20
Upper Terrace
10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

On November 20 (rain date Sunday, November 21), the Pet Committee will offer mini sessions with WAL's own pet photographer Gerry! Ten-minute time slots are available and photos will be shot near the Upper Terrace (where you will meet for your session). To reserve your time, email FeaturedPet@WatergateAtLandmark.com.

RENWICK GALLERY SHUTTLE TRIP

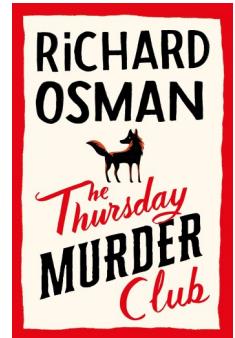
Thursday, December 2
\$12 Shuttle • Pickup Time TBA

Join the A&E Committee as they visit Renwick Gallery in DC! You'll be able to view the current exhibit, *New Glass Now*, which showcases contemporary glass making. The exhibit features works by 50 artists from more than 23 countries. For lunch, you can choose from one of the many eateries in Shirlington Village. Sign up in the Activities Office.

WATERGATE BOOK CLUB

Thursday, December 2
Virtual • 7:30 p.m.

Book: The Thursday Murder Club
by Richard Osman



In a retirement village, four unlikely friends—known as the Thursday Murder Club—meet weekly in the Jigsaw Room to discuss unsolved crimes. When a local developer is found dead with a mysterious photograph left next to the body, the Club has its first case! As the bodies begin to pile up, can this unorthodox yet brilliant group catch the killer before it's too late? Email dpmul-lens@comcast.net for details.

GREENSTREET GROWERS AND PA DUTCH FARMERS MARKET SHUTTLE TRIP

Thursday, December 16
\$12 Shuttle • Pickup Begins at 9:30 a.m.



Take a tour of Greenstreet Growers Nursery and Gardens' collection of themed Christmas trees in Lothian, MD. Learn how to make a themed tree of your own and buy some holiday plants to get you in the spirit of the season! After the tour at Greenstreet Growers, we will go to the PA Dutch Farmers Market in Annapolis, MD. Eat lunch at your expense while at the Dutch Farmers Market.



Mad Spooky Science Expo

Sponsored by WAL's Youth Committee and Science Club

Photo Credit: Zohreh Khoshnamak



Thank you to the following for their help with this event:

Resident Volunteers

Maria, Bridget, Fereydoon, Abdel, Lynda, Razia, Hayat, Jennifer, Gwen and all neighbors who helped with this event

Resident Youth Volunteers

Bldg. 1: Anya; Bldg. 2: Barra, Bldg. 3: Kenzi, Nik, Seychelle; Bldg. 4 Hamed, Sojood

Community Members and Organizations

Alexandria Health Dept., Alexandria Police Dept., Acting APD Chief Don Hayes, City of Alexandria Volunteers (Rosfatima Jamal, Soehirimon Sigalingging, Eunique James), The Campagna Center (Wright to Read), RESET, Farhan Ahmad - Professor of Chemistry, School Board Member Meagan Aldridge, Helena Davis, Sharon Toth - 4H Unit Coordinator, Mayor Justin Wilson, Titan Robotics Team, U.S. Patent and Trade Office

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

LIBRARY OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, December 8

Library • 2 – 4 p.m.



Sponsored by the A&E Committee.

HOLIDAYS AROUND THE WORLD



Wednesday,

December 15

Terrace Lounge • 6 – 9 p.m.



Sponsored by the Youth Committee.

"HAPPY WALIDAYS" PARTY

Saturday, December 18

Terrace Lounge • 5 – 7 p.m.

Tickets: \$30

Drinks, appetizers and live music.

Sponsored by the Social Committee.

"CATCH ME IF YOU CAN" LIVE MUSICAL

Wednesday, April 13, 2022

Arena Stage • 10 a.m. Departure

Discounted Ticket: \$58 plus

\$12 Shuttle Ride

*Estimated Run-time: 2 hrs. 45 min. plus
15 min. intermission*

Join the A&E Committee as they watch this Tony-nominated musical comedy! This excursion price is offered at a significantly-discounted price especially for Watergate at Landmark residents who purchase tickets through the Activities Office. **Arena Stage policy states that all attendees MUST be appropriately masked. They must also have either their COVID-19 vaccination card OR a negative antibody test performed within 6 hours of the show start time at Noon.**

PRO-FIT NEWS

Fall Group Exercise Schedule



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Saturdays

Gentle Yoga • 9 a.m.
Terrace Lounge

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SILVER "PICKLERS"

By Rashawnda Daniels-Atkinson

Building 2 residents Kumi Fukai and Rudy Mareno won silver medals in their first DC DPR Pickleball Challenge and Senior Games for their skill level (3.5 and above) and age bracket (35 - 49).

"I wasn't supposed to play...but since [Kumi's] partner dropped out [of the women's doubles tournament], there was room to consider playing in the mixed doubles. We played together a few times the week before and that was it," Rudy recounts.

"We used to play tennis together sometimes," Kumi chimed in, "and at WAL's pickleball social events, we play with several partners too."

One of those picklers, Bridget Jaspart, introduced them to the tournament and attended to cheer them on. With the support of Kumi's husband,

Joe, and Rudy's wife, who stayed home to care for their baby, the two picklers joined 157 other competitors

for the 2-day event, battling the wind and sun as they played. The duo normally played pickleball indoors, so they had to adapt to the elements and the heavier balls used at this event.



From L to R: Kumi, Bridget and Rudy at the 2021 DC DPR Pickleball Challenge and Senior Games . Photo: Bridget Jaspart

"We tried to hit the ball softly so that it wouldn't blow away," Kumi said.

"We won each of our matches that day except one, [and that was] to a

couple that was ranked nationally. They've played in many [pickleball] tournaments [together] and drove in from Connecticut specifically for this event," Rudy added.

"Pickleball is a fun sport. We really enjoyed ourselves and...are proud of our results," Kumi stated.

They hope to encourage others to try out this fast-growing sport. At WAL, there are meet-ups for beginners, intermediate and advanced players. The WAL Pickleball players also organize friendly tournaments, such as the "Show No Love" and "Battle of the Buildings" events held this year.

"We have a good—and competitive—group here at WAL with around 60 players at all levels and ages...We have extra paddles for beginners and a couple of neighbors offer free lessons on some Saturdays," Rudy shared.

Note: This interview was edited for clarity and space.

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OUR FURRY FRIEND

By Matt Davis, Pet Committee

My wife Akie "Cookie" Davis always wanted a "Frenchie," or a French Bulldog. This was "in the cards" when we established our relationship years ago. So, Cookie and I used to focus our attention on French Bulldogs when we visited pet shops, going through the troubles of driving from our home here at Watergate to a breeder near the West Virginia border looking for Frenchies. There were so many dogs to choose from, but Cookie stated that she "could not bond with any of them." Little did we know that on 30 June 2018 in Green-top, Missouri, ShihPoo 419-18 was born to a male toy poodle and female Shih-Tzu.

Sorry, No Frenchies Available

On one Saturday afternoon in early September 2018, Cookie wanted to look at puppies. I said, "If we go to a pet store, we will come home with a puppy because I do not like seeing animals caged up and left behind." Plus, dog searching had become draining at this point.

Cookie and I made our way to "Just Puppies," in Rockville, Maryland, moments before closing time. Unfortunately, the pet shop did not have any French Bulldogs at that time, so I looked around and came across a cage where three puppies were playing. One of the puppies stopped, sat, and looked at me as if he was posing for a picture, so I asked the shop owner if I could hold him. After play-

ing with him for a few minutes, we noticed how energetic and fun he was. We quickly developed a strong bond with ShihPoo 419-18, so we decided to purchase him. How he got to the DMV from Missouri is unknown; but here we were, bringing him home.



Javy's sporting his "man bun" while out on a walk. Photo: Matt Davis

Welcome Home, Javy!

On our way home, we were thinking of a name for him. Cookie and I gave ShihPoo 419-18 the name "Javy" after our favorite baseball player Javier "Javy" Baez, then on the Chicago Cubs roster and currently with the New York Mets.

After bringing Javy home, the next step was to get him service dog training. Our neighbor Chris gave us contact information for Semper K9 Ser-

vice Dog Training, an organization that trains dogs to assist in many areas. Since Javy naturally has a good demeanor, he quickly followed the training plan and made it through the course. He is not only certified as a service dog, but

he also has a K-9 Good Citizens certificate.

The Perfect "Child"

Although Cookie and I have been married for 12 years, there are no children between us, so Javy fills this void perfectly. He is like the ideal child because he does not talk back, and he follows commands. For example, he understands he is not allowed in the kitchen because he knows it's his mom's "cooking factory." On the other hand, he cannot do dishes or grab a beer from the refrigerator for me.

Cookie grooms his hair in a "man bun" and bushy tail, which captures the attention of others. He is quiet and does not bark, even if other dogs bark at him. He is unnoticeable when we carry him in a vented duffle bag, which surprises people around us when they realize a dog is in their presence. He loves to ride on anything with wheels, shopping carts, cars, or buggies. He even got on someone's skateboard and waited for me to push it!

Javy's Quite the Helper

Javy helps me initiate communication with other people, breaking the ice and suppressing my fears and suspicion of others. Recently, he got my attention to assist an elderly neighbor. He was whining as I tried to pull him away from the neighbor. It turned out the neighbor needed help carrying bags from the Front Entrance to Bldg. Two. After we got the car to help the neighbor with her bags, Javy became relaxed and quiet.

Since Javy has been with us, he has become famous to my relatives in the DMV and North Carolina. I have family members that do not like dogs, but they have come to love Javy. I'd like to especially thank my neighbors Chris, Eileen, Luke, Kim, Mya, Emma, Terri, Steve, Bob, Sandra, and Jeff (Best Buy) who initially welcomed and encouraged us when we first got Javy and remain his favorite people to be around.



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Properties

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NOVEMBER 2021 EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	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 Election Day 6 AM - 7 PM Normal Operating Hours	Tai Chi - 9 AM - TL Tone/Balance/Stretch 12:15 PM - TL Bridge - 2 PM - CR Recreation - 5 PM - TC Youth - 6 PM - TC Infrastructure - 7 PM - TC	Tai Chi - 8 AM - TL Watergate Book Club - 7:30 PM - 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
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Pilates - 10:30 AM - TL Elections - 2 PM - TC	Tai Chi - 8 AM - TL Mahjong - 11 AM - CR Social - 6 PM - CF2	Tai Chi - 9 AM - TL Landscape -11 AM - TC Tone/Balance/Stretch - 12:15 PM - TL Bridge - 2 PM - CR PRC - 7 PM - TC	Tai Chi - 8 AM - TL Veterans Day Observed Normal Operating Hours	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
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Pilates - 10:30 AM - TL	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 Shuttle Trip: Tysons Corner 1 and 2 - TBA	Tai Chi - 9 AM - TL Knit and Stitch - 10 AM - CF2 Video or Board Game Night - 6:30 PM - TL/CR/TV	Tai Chi - 8 AM - TL Yoga - 9 AM - CR Pet Holiday Photo Shoot - 10 AM - UT Scrapbook Club - 2 PM - VI
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
	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	Thanksgiving Day Observed All Offices Closed	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
28	29	30				
	Pilates - 10:30 AM - TL	Tai Chi - 8 AM - TL Mahjong - 11 AM - CR Board of Directors Meeting - 7:30 PM - TL/TC				

LOCATION KEY

BL= Building Lobby; BP=Billiard and 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; 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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SHOWROOM HOURS

Mon - Fri. 9:00am-6pm
Sat. 10:00am-4pm