

The Quaker Hill Quill

February 2020

Board of Directors

Board officers were elected at the January 23, 2020 Association meeting. They are:

President: Mary Beth Cockerham

Vice President: Stephen Stine

Secretary: Lennin Lopez

Treasurer: Rose Gillespie

Director: Marjorie Stein

The Board encourages all residents to attend Association meetings held at the clubhouse on the fourth Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m.

Police Report

Officer Fillinger attended the January 23, 2020 Board meeting and reported that the City police department has issued more traffic citations in the Quaker Hill area in recent months in response to neighborhood complaints about speeding and other traffic violations. Officer Fillinger also indicated that City police are working with residents who may have captured criminal activity on their video door bells to solve crimes and to provide safety alerts to neighbors. This expanded electronic surveillance is discussed in more detail in the article on page 3.

Annual 2019 Meeting Highlights

The Quaker Hill Community Association (QHA) annual meeting was held on December 3, 2019. It provided an opportunity for residents to hear about important issues and upcoming projects. The Board highlighted the financial stability of the Association, ongoing improvement projects, and issues experienced last summer with the pool company. Based on resident feedback, the Board is in the process of exploring the hiring of another pool company for the 2020 swim season. In contrast, the new snow removal company, VCI Commercial Snow Removal, has received positive feedback from residents, but the costs were high. After the Board negotiated fees with the snow removal company, the bill for the 2018-2019 season was adjusted, and VCI Commercial Snow Removal has been retained for the 2020 winter season.

The Board also reviewed major expenditures in 2019 that included the replacement of original pool equipment such as the main filter, pump and other items that had outlived their usefulness and were in need of an upgrade. The Board is also considering the installation of new fencing around the pool that will raise the fence height to current regulations. Although the shorter fence height was grandfathered in, trespassing issues and property vandalism have accelerated the need to address the need for higher fencing.

Long-Term Draining and Erosion Control

As part of a long-term erosion and sediment control initiative, the Board has authorized the testing of the effectiveness of Grasscrete pavers in limited areas where excess storm water results in increased erosion. Grasscrete is a sustainable paving system with a defined pattern of voids, which are typically planted with grass. The pattern of grass and concrete allows water to pass through, increasing storm water absorption and reducing erosion, while providing a hard walking surface and easing the transport of trash bins.



Trash Disposal

Residents of single-family detached homes and townhomes are reminded that trash containers may not be placed outside earlier than 5:00 p.m. on the evening before collection and must be returned to storage not later than 7:00 p.m. on the day of collection. Please put your trash can out of view on non-pick up days.

The regular trash collection day is Tuesday. During a week when Monday or Tuesday is a holiday, you may call the City's Office of Solid Waste at 703-746-4410 or check the city of Alexandria website at <http://ci.alexandria.va.us> for information on trash collection.

TMP

The City of Alexandria requires Quaker Hill to participate in the city-wide Transportation Management Program (TMP) that promotes the use of mass transit. Part of our monthly assessment fee funds this program. As a bona fide resident of Quaker Hill, you are eligible to purchase certain mass transit media at a reduced price. The TMP offers:



ITEM	COST TO YOU
50% off Metrorail fare	
Amount to be specified by resident per SmarTrip card	
Maximum benefit per household, per month is \$250	\$125.00
SmarTrip Card	\$ 1.00
Alexandria DASH pass (1 month unlimited rides)	\$ 22.50

How to Place an Order for SmarTrip cards or Alexandria DASH passes:

1. Call Northern Virginia Management at (703) 941-9002 and leave a message.
2. Email Northern Virginia Management at nvm@northernvirginiamanagement.com.

Please note that all orders must be paid in full in advance before NVM will send your media. Make checks payable to Quaker Hill Community Association.

How to Add fare to your SmarTrip card:

1. Register your SmarTrip card with NVM. A maximum of four cards may be registered with the NVM.
2. The \$250 maximum benefit may be split among the four registered cards. You cannot register cards issued by an employer through an employee benefits program.
3. Mail your payment in advance to:
Northern Virginia Management
4306 Evergreen Lane, Suite 101
Annandale, Virginia 22003
4. If the household has registered multiple cards with NVM, the card number must be noted, along with the amount to be added per card.

Cards and benefits may not be sold or transferred to others. Misuse may result in the temporary or permanent loss of TMP benefits.

Quaker Hill Community Association Information

Board of Directors

Mary Beth Cockerham, President
Stephen Stine, Vice President
Lennin Lopez, Secretary
Rose Gillespie, Treasurer & Newsletter
Marjorie Stein, Director

Clubhouse Telephone

703-823-1911/1912

Northern Virginia Management

703-941-9002
nvm@northernvirginiamanagement.com
4306 Evergreen Lane, Suite 101
Annandale, Virginia 22003

The Quaker Hill Community Association Board of Directors meets at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of every month at the Quaker Hill community center. Association members who wish to bring an issue

before the Board should write to the Board in advance, c/o NVM, 4306 Evergreen Lane, Suite 101, Annandale, Virginia 22003, or call any Board member. Meeting date changes will be posted on the clubhouse bulletin board. Please email NVM to obtain the minutes of monthly QHCA board meetings.

Quaker Hill Condominium Association

Management Company: Sentry Management, 703-642-3246
Association President: John Sesler, jsesler@comcast.net

Important Numbers to Remember

Police—Fire—Medical Emergency*	911
Police Non-Emergency	703-746-4444
Police Non-Emergency TDD line	703-838-4896
Online Crime Reporting	www.alexandriava.gov/police
National Poison Control Center	800-222-1222
Animal Control	703-746-4774

*The Alexandria Police Department is located at 3600 Wheeler Ave.; the closest fire station (#207) is located at 3301 Duke Street.

www.QHCA.org

Electronic Neighborhood Watch Network

The idea behind Neighborhood Watch isn't new — volunteer groups have been patrolling some neighborhoods for years and many residents help by keeping an eye out for suspicious behavior in the community. However, the explosive growth of the “smart doorbell” video device market has resulted in an electronic neighborhood watch network that automates this surveillance.

Several of the leading video doorbell manufacturers, such as Amazon Ring and Google Nest, offer portals and mobile apps to their subscribers, enabling them to share videos with neighbors and law enforcement. Ring also has partnerships with 405 law enforcement agencies in the United States that can access video that has been voluntarily shared by Ring residential customers.

According to Alexandria Police Officer Fillinger, the Alexandria Police Department joined the Ring partner network in May 2019. In addition to accessing videos on the portal, Officer Fillinger explained that officers also look for smart doorbells as they canvass crime scenes and will request assistance from neighbors who may have captured footage involving criminal activity.

What if you're not one of the more than 3.4 million households that have purchased a smart doorbell system? You can still benefit from all this technology — Ring offers a free Neighbors app that provides real-time crime and safety alerts from neighbors and law enforcement, even if you haven't installed video security.

This expansion of electronic surveillance does raise questions for some concerning privacy. In fact, the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) published an article on January 27, 2020, warning of Ring's practice of sharing data with several third-party vendors, who can use the data to construct profiles of the Ring users. Ring contends that the shared data is used primarily for marketing, but the EFF does caution about the extent of the data shared.

For those who are wary of sharing data but do want to receive local security and crime updates, you can also get alerts directly from Alexandria Police Department through Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.



Alexandria 311

Starting in late February 2020, the City of Alexandria will implement “Alex 311,” a new system for reporting issues to or requesting services from various city departments. Alex 311 will feature four ways to contact the City through its website, mobile app, social media, and a newly created 311 call center. The City hopes the new system will simplify and expedite residents' reporting and requests. Moreover, the new Alex 311 system will enable residents to track the status of their public issue/request and give feedback through auto-generated emails.

Remember: if it's an emergency, call 911. Otherwise, use 311 for all city services.

Pet Issues

The Board continues to receive complaints about some pet owners who do not pick up after their pets and/or do not use leashes. While most pet owners are responsible, they should be aware of City Ordinances Sec.5-7 which addresses pet owner requirements and penalties for non-compliance. Ordinances cover many aspects of ownership, from the requirement to register all pets four months of age or older, to noise and leash laws and other legal responsibilities.

The City of Alexandria requires that all dogs must be controlled by a physical leash when walking in public. The use of electronic collars and similar devices as forms of physical restraint for dogs in public areas is prohibited. Electronic collars may be used for training purposes at City dog parks, at sanctioned obedience training classes, field trials, and on private property.

This 2012 ordinance was supported by the Alexandria Animal Welfare League as a way to preserve public safety. In supporting this law, the



League noted that our public areas are shared spaces to be enjoyed by everyone, and a physical leash signifies that a dog is under control by a capable handler.

GLASS



Recycling

Effective January 15, 2020, glass is no longer accepted by the City's curbside recycling program. Residents have two options: 1) drop off glass at the "purple bin" drop-off

locations to ensure glass will be recycled, or 2) place the glass in the curbside trash bins. Glass containers placed in the purple bins will be recycled into new glass bottles or crushed into gravel and sand for use in public works projects. Glass deposited in curbside trash is sent to the City's waste-to-energy facility and converted to ash. Glass that continues to be placed in recycling bins is sent to landfills. This is the least sustainable and most expensive option.

Glass deposited in the purple bins must be clean and empty. All colors are accepted, labels can be kept on, and metal lids and caps are okay.

There are five glass recycling drop-off locations in Alexandria:

- ✓ 4251 Eisenhower Avenue
- ✓ 3224 Colvin Street
- ✓ South Royal and Jones Point Park
- ✓ Tower Court and South Whiting Street
- ✓ 3831 Mount Vernon Avenue

For additional locations in Northern Virginia, visit www.alexandriava.gov/recycling. All drop-off centers are open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Reminder Regarding Cell Phone Use while Driving in Virginia

Although there is no overall ban on the use of handheld devices while driving in Virginia, cell phone use is banned for all drivers under the age of 18 and all commercial vehicle drivers. Using a cell phone or any other type of handheld personal communication device in a highway work zone is also illegal for all drivers and carries a fine of \$250 for a first offense.

Texting is banned for all drivers and is considered a primary offense, which means police can pull you over if they suspect that you are texting while driving.

A ban on holding your cellphone while driving and changes in fines for reckless driving on the Interstate are two of the proposals under consideration in Virginia's General Assembly this year. A ban on handheld cellphone use behind the wheel has nearly passed in the General Assembly in each of the last two years.

Happenings in Alexandria



Historic Alexandria Open Houses

When: February 17, 2020 (hours vary by site)

Where: Throughout Old Town

Admission: Free

In honor of George Washington's birthday, admission is free at many historic Alexandria sites, including the Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum, Christ Church, Friendship Firehouse Museum, Gadsby's Tavern Museum, Old Presbyterian Meeting House, and the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum.

George Washington's Alexandria Tours

When: February 23, 2020; 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Where: Starting point: Torpedo Factory Art Center, 101 N. Union Street

Admission: Free

Contact: 703-599-4010

Explore historic Old Town Alexandria as George Washington knew it. These free 90-minute guided walking tours will explore sites associated with Washington and his closest colleagues. The tours begin behind the Torpedo Factory Art Center's south entrance in front of Vola's Dockside Grill (101 N. Union Street). No advance reservations required.

Story Time for Little Historians

When: March 7, 2020; 11:00 a.m. – Noon

Where: Alexandria Black History Museum, 902 Wythe Street

Admission: \$3 (covers museum admission)

Contact: 703-746-4356

Bring your little ones to the Alexandria Black History Museum for cultural stories and creative craft activities. Story time will take place at 11:00 a.m. at the Watson Reading Room, located next door to the museum. Explore the museum exhibits afterwards to learn about local black history. All ages are welcome but this activity is most suitable for children who are 3-6 years of age.

Cherry Blossom Jubilee

When: March 28, 2020, Noon – 5:00 P.M.

Where: Torpedo Factory Art Center, 105 N. Union Street

Admission: Free

Contact: 703-746-4570

Every year the Torpedo Factory Arts Center hosts an Alexandria satellite celebration for the National Cherry Blossom Festival. Join the fun with a lively afternoon of hands-on activities and performances.





Quaker Hill Community Association

c/o Northern Virginia Management
4306 Evergreen Lane, Suite 101
Annandale, Virginia 22003

