

 12 February 2022

Hello Neighbors,

First, Happy Valentine’s Day a little early! Second, here are three upcoming events to mark on your calendar:

* Alexandria City Manager James Parajon invites the public to a [virtual presentation](https://apps.alexandriava.gov/Calendar/Detail.aspx?si=39830) of his **proposed Fiscal Year 2023 Operating Budget and Capital Improvement Program** on Thursday, February 17, at 7 p.m. If you plan to watch on Zoom, you must register in advance. Go to <https://apps.alexandriava.gov/Calendar/Detail.aspx?si=39830> for information on registering. Visit [alexandriava.gov/Budget](https://www.alexandriava.gov/Budget#FiscalYear2022BudgetDevelopment) for more information, including proposed budget documents (available after February 15) and a detailed schedule of planned work sessions and public hearings, concluding with the [budget adoption](https://apps.alexandriava.gov/Calendar/Detail.aspx?si=38099) by City Council on May 4, at 7 p.m.
* On Friday, 18 February at 9:00am, **St Stephens and St Agnes will host a campus tour** and Q&A session for the neighborhood to discuss future construction plans at the upper campus. Plan to meet in the lobby. If you have questions, please contact Beth Chase, bchase@sssas.org.
* On Thursday, 17 March, 5-7:00pm, SRCA will host a **St Patrick’s Day get-together** in one of the cul-de-sacs to enjoy a sampling of Irish beer. If your cul-de-sac would be interested in hosting this outdoor get-together, please contact Kate Hennigan, kate@bertlesrealestate.com and check our website, seminaryridge.net, for updates.

In other news, the February SRCA meeting was very well attended by residents – it was terrific that so many could join the discussion. Here are some of the highlights from the meeting. The detailed minutes will be available on our website after the minutes are approved at the March meeting. Similarly, the January meeting minutes have now been approved and are on the website.

* As you may have seen through other media, check-washing is an increasing problem across the country, not just here in Alexandria. If you need to mail a check, police suggestions are to: use gel/rollerball ink (it’s harder to wash), do not use company-provided envelopes (it’s more obvious a check is enclosed), do not put a check in the mailbox when it would sit overnight. Of interest, most of the thefts from the mailbox on Seminary Road occur on Tuesdays and Sundays. One challenge to making the mailboxes more tamper-proof is that the mailboxes use a master key, so replacing all mailboxes would be prohibitively expensive.
* During the February meeting, our Police Department liaison, Sgt. Tony Moore, was joined by Marcel Bassett, ACPD Public Education and Outreach (PEO). Discussions included whether ACPD, as one of the City’s first responders, would be taking a public position to potential changes on Duke Street and/or be committed to working with City staff to ensure first responder concerns are taken into consideration before any changes are finalized; data provided by ACPD on “calls for service” along the portion of Seminary Road that was subject to the Road Diet; the apparent increase in violent crime in the City; and the challenges of hiring and retaining police officers. More detail on these discussions will be in the meeting minutes.
* Clearance of downed tree limbs remains on the City’s schedule, and repaving on some streets has now begun. North Garland Street and Griffith Place are on the repaving schedule, but if you see other streets that require fixes (e.g., bad pot holes, etc.), please contact the City by calling 311.
* There are now 174 households that have paid their dues for 2021-2022, bringing the amount of dues collected to just over $9,300. Thank you to those who have recently paid; we hope more who have yet to pay will do so in the near future to ensure we can host the range of events we all enjoy in the neighborhood.
* The March SRCA meeting will review and approve the budget for planned 2022 activities. We expect those activities to include: St. Patrick’s day get-together (adults only); annual yard sale; two Screen on the Green movies; the annual picnic; Halloween pizza party and parade; a holiday light contest; and the traditional holiday party (adults only). If you have other suggestions, please drop us an email at: news4srca@gmail.com.
* SRCA has been working with Seminary Hill Association (SHA) on two letters to be sent to the City: one to revise the sign from Seminary Road turning onto St Stephens Road to “no turn on red when pedestrians are present” and another on scooter parking.
* Over thirty people, including the developer and city staff, joined a Zoom meeting at the end of January on the Karig Estates. It is not yet known when construction will begin as additional permits still need to be obtained, but the final site plan can be found on the City’s website as follows: Log into APEX (the City’s permitting system) at the link below and search for DSP2017-00022. Once the case comes up from the search, click on the case number. The first document under the “attachments” tab is the approved final site plan. [https://apex.alexandriava.gov/energov\_prod/selfservice#/home](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fapex.alexandriava.gov%2Fenergov_prod%2Fselfservice%23%2Fhome&data=04%7C01%7CNathan.Randall%40alexandriava.gov%7C5b4630044f5341dc899308d9d79a6142%7Cfeaa9b3143754aeeadccc76ad32a890b%7C0%7C0%7C637777880347651200%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=TPjK%2BljcHX%2FQANyWGCDbEa0cjpjJSrWZyC1R8lqGUOY%3D&reserved=0). There are also plans to walk the property with the City’s Urban Forest Manager to see what trees will be taken down; date is still TBD.
* An addendum to the SRCA Directory was sent via newsletter on 2 February. This addendum replaces all previous ones. If you missed it, open the newsletter on our website and print out the relevant section.