

## A FEW WORDS FROM WOTCA

March 31, 2020

### ABOUT US...

-The mission of the West Old Town Citizens Association is to promote the interests of the residents of Alexandria and, in particular, the general welfare of the residents and real property owners of our neighborhood. We do this by fostering constructive cooperation with local officials, encouraging free and open discussion on all appropriate organizational matters & stimulating community service and responsible citizenship.

-The governor issued the “stay-at-home” order in the Commonwealth yesterday. We have postponed our face-to-face neighborhood meetings for the time being. The next meeting, when viable and appropriate, will be posted at [www.WOTCAalexandria.org](http://www.WOTCAalexandria.org).

-The most effective community outreach for WOTCA continues to be via social media, where we have typically posted daily on Twitter and weekly on Facebook.

### DURING THESE UNPRECEDENTED TIMES...

-We take pride in keeping our neighbors up to date on local issues and activities via social media. And this is perhaps more important now than ever. But **we are finding, these days, that we are less consistent and thorough in that approach**. And we know that different households consume news in different ways. So here are some suggestions for you to consider in the coming weeks (months?):

**1-Follow @WOTCAalexandria on Twitter & Facebook** for pertinent area information that we pass along in our channels, as best we can, from the many local outlets we follow and sources we maintain. We still aspire to provide interesting content there.

**2-Follow these core Alexandria organizations directly for what we always find to be important and informative local perspectives.** They will provide you, on a very regular and consistent basis—normally daily, and often even hourly—with original and focused content via your preferred format (website or social media or other):

A-There is a red banner across the top of [www.AlexandriaVa.gov](http://www.AlexandriaVa.gov) for Important and Current Updates Regarding the City’s COVID-19 Coronavirus Response

B-There is a Business Updates & Resources During COVID-19 image featured on [www.TheChamberALX.com](http://www.TheChamberALX.com) on which you can click to view and submit information.

C-There is a blue banner along the top of [www.VisitAlexandriaVa.com](http://www.VisitAlexandriaVa.com) for FAQs about COVID-19 and how you can experience the best of the City from the comfort of your own home.

**3-Use @WOTCAalexandria on Twitter and/or Facebook as a place for engagement with your neighbors.** Post—or ask—what you think is important. Or, please just share your favorite (unimportant!) diversions to provide a bit of wellroundedness to what are otherwise virus-dominated topics. Let’s aspire—especially now—for actual engagements and not just announcements.

**4-And here’s one more.** How about this. **How about we all pledge to nod, wave or greet our neighbors whenever we are enjoying the fresh air outside.** Keep your distance, sure. And don’t feel the need necessarily to meet everyone in West Old Town you don’t already know. But just fill the need for some kind of human interaction and to support the “we are all in this together” vibe that is critical to our blocks, and to the world.

### OTHER NOTES...

-Annual dues for 2020 are \$10/person or \$25/business via [www.WOTCAalexandria.org](http://www.WOTCAalexandria.org). Simply paying membership dues—just \$10/person or \$25/business!—provides support for your community. Your financial support enables us to better address and communicate the area and neighborhood issues important to you... even if, nowadays, there are not many ways to participate.

-Contact us any time on any issue at [WOTCAalexandria@gmail.com](mailto:WOTCAalexandria@gmail.com).