

The exit interview

BRENDON LETS GO

Brendon Weiss stepped down as president of the Villamay Community Association in May, having served on the group’s board of directors for six years – with the last two in the top post. The 40-something Wisconsin native, with boyish charm and dimpled cheeks, sat down with *The Voice* to reflect on his tenure.

“My favorite part was showing my daughters the importance of being involved with their local community and seeing their appreciation for it,” Weiss said of his young daughters Brooke and Kendall.



Weiss credited his team on the Board for their work and commitment to serving the neighborhood, noting the street sign repairs, park beautification

projects, and community social events as highlights of the last two years.

The unique challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic also shaped Weiss’s time as president, though he pointed to the positives. “The pandemic showed just how great of a neighborhood we have. People volunteered to get groceries for neighbors and checked in on single neighbors. We came together with events like the Butterfly Project and people took extra care in the streets for the dozens of kids that were riding bikes and having as close to a normal experience as possible.” It wasn’t all Butterfly Projects and rainbows as president, however. Weiss reiterated his encouragement for residents to support the Association through annual membership. “It was hard to see that despite all of the work neighbors have put into maintaining the stature of the community – from the park, to signage, to events – only 60 percent of households pay their dues. This is something on which I hope we’ll continue to focus.”



Name: Jason Newman
Spouse: Libby
Children: Jack (8) and Amelia (6)
Pets: Otis, Pepper, and Yogi

Hometown: Manlius, NY (a small suburb of Syracuse, NY)
Favorite team: Washington Nationals
Drink of choice: Perfect Manhattan

Jason Newman, pictured here with wife, Libby, was elected president of the Villamay Community Association in May.

A peaceful transition of power

VILLAMAY’S ‘NEW MAN’

Jason Newman of Gatewood Court takes the helm

Jason Newman was elected president during the Villamay Community Association’s annual meeting and dinner held at Belle Haven Country Club on May 12. Newman, a Villamay resident for three years, most recently served as chair of the covenants committee. *The Voice* sat down with Newman this week for a brief interview.

The Voice: What drew you to the neighborhood?

Newman: Our good friends, the Burgers, moved to Marlin Forest in 2012 and then Villamay in 2019. So we have been coming to the area for many years and fell in love in the process. We were drawn to Villamay initially because of the benefits of being in a quiet neighborhood. We used to live on a busy street, and we wouldn’t even let the kids play in the front yard. Here our kids can safely play in the street and run from house to house. That’s pretty rare in the DMV. What we didn’t realize at the time,

but have come to value more than anything else, is the people. Everyone in the neighborhood has been so friendly, and we have found some great friends.

The Voice: Have there been changes to the neighborhood since you moved here and if so, what’s changed that you liked?

Newman: We haven’t been here that long, but I know we all experienced a lot of pandemic-related upheaval over the past two years. I think the fact that so many of us now work from home has led to an uptick in dogs and neighbor interaction. Both great things!

The Voice: What is your top priority as the new president?

Newman: Goal number one is do no harm. Beyond that, I’d love to continue to drive engagement within the community, both in terms of active members within the (cont. on p. 2, ‘New-man’)


Community Calendar

7/4 – Independence Day parade and celebration. (10 a.m.; Admiral Dr.)

7/15 – Villamay Potluck (6 p.m.; Lloyd Residence, 7412 Admiral Dr.; A-I main dish | J-Q salad/bread | R-Z dessert)

8/12 – Villamay Happy Hour (6 p.m.; Laronde Ct.)

Neighborhood Notes

 Follow us on Instagram
[@villamayneighbors](https://www.instagram.com/villamayneighbors)

Visit us online at villamay.org

Email the President:
Jason Newman: jdnewman@gmail.com

Join The Association Just \$55 per year



One year: \$55



Two years: \$110

SUMMER SAFETY

Let your foot off the gas and give an extra brake pump this summer as you cruise through the neighborhood. Villamay boasts one of the most active kid-friendly neighborhoods in Alexandria. With school now out, the neighborhood is crawling with kids on bicycles, scooters and skateboards. Villamay safety officer Patrick Smith encourages joggers and dog-walkers to wear bright colored clothing or carry a flashlight if walking at night. "It can get dark around some of those corners. Better to be safe than sorry," Smith advised.

Increased traffic on Park Terrace Drive is under assessment as the Board hears from residents. If you live on Park Terrace and have concerns or opinions, please submit them online at villamay.org.

Elections 2022

MEET THE NEW BOARD

The Villamay Community Association met and elected a new board of directors in May, with several new faces stepping into volunteer roles to serve the neighborhood.

Jason Newman was elevated to president serving a one-year term. Chris and Jen Goode of Villamay Blvd. join the board as Vice President and Treasurer, respectively. Both are serving a one-year term. Lydia Lutt of Burtonwood Ct. is also new to the Board serving a one-year term as Secretary.

Margot Denh of Admiral Dr. and Betsy Grady of Belle Vista Dr. join Mark Pastin and Whitney Gunderson as directors.

Denh and Pastin will serve two-year terms.

Meaghan Jones of Admiral Drive will continue in her role as social chair. Christian Adams replaces Newman as chair of the Covenants Committee.



Villamay kids line up their bicycles for the neighborhood's annual Independence Day Parade on Admiral Drive.

A tradition like no other

BIKER GANG TO ROLL IN FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY

Villamay's annual Independence Day celebration will continue this year on Admiral Drive at 10 a.m. on July 4. Children are encouraged to bring their bicycle or scooters for the celebration.

As has become tradition in Villamay, the patriotic street party will include sidewalk chalk art, snow cones, donuts, coffee and adult beverages, and it will feature the singing of the National Anthem.

"Parade" participants will ride or walk the one-street route to the cul-de-sac where water balloons will be on hand for the annual Battle with the Brits with Simon and Julie Boyle joining in the spirit of the holiday outside their home at the intersection of Admiral Drive and Belle Vista Drive.

Treats and refreshments will be provided by Partners in Real Estate and Kelli Emerick and Marc-Anthony Signorino of Admiral Dr.

'NEW-MAN'

association and socially. I love that we are getting back to doing happy hours and other events. In addition, we have started to see an increase in paying dues members, which benefits the entire neighborhood. Continuing to drive membership and engagement will be a key focus for me and the Board in the coming year.

The Voice: Fast forward 40 years from now: What will be your favorite Villamay memory?

Newman: If I'm able to remember anything at that point it will probably be sitting on the back patio with neighbors while our kids run around the neighborhood, playing without a care in the world (since it happens every weekend).

The Voice: How much arm-twisting did it take for Brendon to convince you to take this job? It took two Manhattans. (Editor's note: See profile).

FROM THE EDITOR

Villamay Voice is published and printed by volunteers and does not use association dues for its publication. If you have a suggested feature, question, or comment, please pass them along online in the comments section at villamay.org. And don't forget to follow @villamayneighbors on Instagram for news, events and photos.