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# VANTAGEVILLAGER

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In This  
Issue:

Join Us for the  
Vantage  
Annual Picnic!

Pet Safety Tips  
for the Summer  
and the Fourth

Book  
Review  
Club

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## Welcome to the Vantage Villager Quarterly Newsletter

We hope you find the information throughout useful and informative. If you ever have an idea for an article, or any feedback you'd like to share, please contact the editor at:

[newsletter@vantagehoa.org](mailto:newsletter@vantagehoa.org)

All submissions will be reviewed by the editor and published subject to space available and relevant subject matter.

## Vantage Online

Visit us at [vantagehoa.org](http://vantagehoa.org) to find minutes from Board meetings, view sample disclosure package materials, and learn about what's going on in our community. You can also send questions to the Board.

## Vantage on Facebook

Join us on Facebook at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/VantageHOA/>

## Join Us for the Annual Vantage Community Picnic!

**When:** Saturday, September 10, 2022  
11am-2:30pm

**Where:** The Vantage Swirly Slide Park

Join your friends and neighbors for this year's community picnic sponsored by the Vantage Homeowners Association!

There will be bouncy houses, face painting and other fun things for kids at the park, and burgers, hot dogs, drinks and more for all to enjoy.

Don't miss it – we have a blast every year!

Also, if you can spare an hour, please also consider volunteering to help with set up or wrap up this year. This picnic is an all-volunteer event, and we could use your help! If you would like to volunteer, please contact Erika King at the following email: [ErikaD78@gmail.com](mailto:ErikaD78@gmail.com).

Setup begins no later than 9am, and wrap begins no later than 4:30pm. We also have many opportunities to volunteer in advance of the actual picnic day.

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## Pet Corner: Pet Summer Safety

*Erin Shackelford*

As the owner of three wonderful and colorful rescue dogs from Oklahoma (where it is also very hot and humid), I know how the high temperatures can negatively impact our pets. Before our recent move to this area, I dedicated more than 10 years to local animal welfare, advocacy, and rescue in northeast Oklahoma. Every summer, rescues and animal shelters across the state see animals suffering from various stages of overheating and heat stroke.

The heat and humidity can be miserable and dangerous for pets. To keep your dogs and cats happy and healthy during the hottest months of the year, consider these summer safety tips:

- Don't leave your pets in the car. Even with the windows down, the temperature will skyrocket quickly. Pets can suffer from heatstroke within minutes. In Alexandria, it's against the law to leave your dog in a parked car in temperatures of 70 degrees or higher.
- Make sure pets stay hydrated by providing constant access to fresh water.
- Keep little paws away from hot pavement. If you can't comfortably

leave the back of your hand or bare foot on the pavement for 10 seconds, it's likely too hot for your fur friend.

- Recognize the signs of overheating, including heavy panting, glazed eyes, weakness or collapse, increased pulse, excessive drooling, etc. If you see any of these signs, get your pet to a cooler place quickly and contact your veterinarian immediately.
- Be extra cautious with canines more susceptible to heatstroke, including Bulldogs, Pugs, Chow Chows, Boxers, and other snub-nosed breeds, as well as breeds not well-adjusted for high temperatures, like Alaskan Malamutes and Huskies. Strictly limit their outdoor time in extremely hot and humid weather.
- Thin-coated and hairless pets (especially ones with pink skin and white hair) can sunburn. If they're going to be in direct sun for an extended period, consider applying sunblock.
- If your pet stays outside, make sure he or she has access to shelter, plenty of shade, and fresh water.
- With the heat come parasites, like ticks and mosquitos. Make sure your pet is on flea and tick and heartworm prevention. Consult your veterinarian for recommended products.

### *Fourth of July, Fireworks, and Furry Friends*

Fireworks can be incredibly scary for pets. Out of my motley crew, one could snore through a shelling, while another can work herself into a tizzy at a whisper of a single pop miles away. Navigating July Fourth with a severely anxious pet can be difficult.

More pets go missing on and around July Fourth than any other time of the year, so it's critically important to take precautions. Here are a few tips to keep your pets safe and secure while celebrating:

- Keep pets indoors away from loud noises and flashing lights.
- Make them a safe space with blankets, toys, and comfort items. Consider turning on a TV or radio to drown out the noise.
- Try calming aids, like chewy treats or bully sticks, a Thundershirt, or medications if needed (check with your veterinarian first).
- Make sure doors and windows are secure and scared pets can't bolt out an open door or window.
- Keep party food and alcohol out of pets' reach. It's tempting to give them nibbles, but certain foods can be toxic and/or cause pancreatitis.

- Ensure microchips are up to date and pet ID tags are readable and securely fastened to a properly-fitted collar.
- Clean up firework debris and make sure gates are secure before letting pets into the yard.

Here's to a happy and safe summer and Fourth of July!

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## Book Club Reads: *The Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah

*Sherrie Bakshi Clark*

Each month a few ladies in the neighborhood along with other folks from the area get together for some fine food, drinks, and insightful conversation around something in which we all share a common interest—our passion for books (with a soft spot for historical fiction).

Our club recently read [The Four Winds](#), a novel by award-winning, best-selling author Kristin Hannah. I have been an avid fan of Hannah ever since I read [The Nightingale](#), a story inspired by women who were part of The Resistance during War II. When *The Four Winds* hit bookshelves in 2021, I knew that I had to recommend it as a Book Club read, and I am glad that I did.

The book is set during The Great Depression and Dust Bowl with the story revolving around Elsa Wolcott, who for her entire life is “sheltered” by her family in a small town in Texas—that is, until Elsa makes a decision one night that leads

the family she knew to disown her. Years later, Elsa is a mother and wife who finds herself having to keep her family safe and alive during the droughts and dust storms that ravaged The Great Plains. And when her husband abandons his family, their farm and livelihood, she must reckon with the decision to leave everything she had grown to love for her children and go to California where there is work. Like millions who made that decision, she and her children experience unimaginable hardships and struggles, but through her strength and courage she keeps her family together.

Personally, I had limited knowledge about The Dust Bowl. I only knew what I had learned from high school and college textbooks. As one of the largest natural disasters the country experienced, close to 7,000 people died during the Dust Bowl and approximately two million were left homeless. Furthermore, I was astounded by the discrimination that families who migrated from the Great Plains experienced and the atrocious working conditions they endured just to make sure they had food on the table.

Like *The Nightingale*, Kristin Hannah goes beyond the textbook history lessons of this torrential period of history, and captures the hardships and perseverance of many women, men, and children through Elsa. This book captures the American experience and pays homage to the everyday Americans who defined a generation. If you're looking for a great summer read, I highly recommend this book.

Our book club gets together monthly for Sunday brunch. If you're interested in learning more about our book club, email Sherrie Clark at [sherriebakshi@gmail.com](mailto:sherriebakshi@gmail.com).

### **About Sherrie**

*Sherrie lives here in Vantage with her husband Bryan and their dog Simmi. An avid book lover, on beautiful summer days, you'll find her in her hammock engrossed in her latest novel.*