

Stoneybrooke



OF FAIRFAX COUNTY CITIZENS ASSOCIATION, INC.

SENTINEL

JUNE 2017

Letter from the Board

Hello, Stoneybrooke residents!

The SCA board would like to thank everyone who attended our annual meeting last month at Stone Mansion. For those who were unable to make it, here is a recap:

- Highlighted SCA-sponsored activities over the last year, including the Howl & Prowl parade, community yard sales, Easter eggging, and a neighborhood block party.
- Discussed participating in National Night Out. We are still looking for volunteers to lead this effort!
- Discussed re-establishing recurring yard sale dates of first Saturday in May and October.
- Discussed purchasing a sign to better advertise neighborhood events.
- Voted to fill vacant secretary position. The SCA welcomes Megan Mansell to the board!
- Vice chair position will be vacated at the end of the fiscal year (August 31st). Position has not yet been filled.
- Presentation from Fairfax County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).

Now that summer is officially upon us, we'd love to plan some warm-weather events. If you have any ideas, would like to host a block party, or are interested in leading this year's National Night Out, let us know! If you have kids looking for odd jobs for the summer, we'd be happy to advertise them in our newsletter. Finally, if you're interested in filling the vice chair vacancy on the SCA board, please contact us. The board can be reached at scaboard@stoneybrooke.org or via our website at <http://www.stoneybrooke.org/contact-us/>.

Our next community meeting will be held in September at Stone Mansion. We are tentatively scheduled to have Supervisor Jeff McKay join us. We hope you all have a wonderful summer, especially for the recent high school and college graduates (congratulations!), and look forward to seeing you in the fall!

- SCA Board

Highlights from the Community

Toppers Pizza to open first Virginia location at Beacon Center. Toppers is a Wisconsin-based pizza franchise offering more than 30 unique toppings, including Wisconsin mozzarella, tater tots and dill pickles. Toppers makes all their dough in house, and the location will focus on delivery and takeout. The franchise will be located at 6676 Richmond Hwy, in the space formerly occupied by Zinga Frozen Yogurt. The store is hoping to be open by October 1st.

- *Covering the Corridor*

Gold Scam: A warning from the FCPD Financial Crimes Division. A local man is out \$9,000 after con artists targeted him in an elaborate scam. Mandarin-speaking scammers seem to be preying on the Chinese community by selling them fake gold. This is happening around the country and now in Fairfax County. The con men claim to have discovered a sealed jar while working on a construction site with gold medallions, gold Buddha statues, and documents claiming the gold was buried around 1920. They give the victim a small piece to have tested, which is actually authentic gold. The schemers then asked for cash in exchange for the gold, saying they need the money to get back to China. FCPD detectives have recently arrested 3 people accused of running this scam. But the concern is, there are more out there. FCPD detectives say these scammers seem to be very organized, so please be aware!

- *Fairfax County Police Department*

Metro announces new operating hours and fares beginning this summer. When the SafeTrack project officially ends on June 25th, the rail system will begin new operating hours that are aimed at increasing overnight maintenance work:

- Monday - Thursday 5 a.m. to 11:30 p.m.
- Friday 5 a.m. to 1 a.m.
- Saturday 7 a.m. to 1 a.m.
- Sunday 8 a.m. to 11 p.m.

Additionally, most fares will increase by \$.10-.25.

- *Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority*

Huntington metro station to close for 16 days in May 2018. Metro announced that both the Huntington and Eisenhower stations will close for 16 days next spring, between May 12th and May 27th. The closures are to allow workers to rebuild interlocking and grout pads.

- *Covering the Corridor*

New carousel and trail to open at Lee District Park. A new 18-seat carousel at Lee District Park is set to open next month. It will be located behind the Our Special Harbor Spray Park and Chessie's Big Backyard playground. Rides will cost \$2 on weekdays and \$3 on weekends and holidays, and it will operate from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. on weekends and holidays. The ribbon cutting is scheduled for July 8th. Additionally, Chessie's Trail, a new themed recreation trail, is set to open in the fall. It will feature a 1,925-foot concrete section, a 215-foot boardwalk, a 20-foot metal bridge and will have 11 activity areas. The project will also include invasive species management near the park's family recreation area.

- *Covering the Corridor*

Highlights from the Community

Kingstowne Farmer's Market is open for the season. The market is located in the Kingstowne Giant parking lot near the Sunoco station. It's open from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. every Friday through October 27th. The market's new and returning vendors include: farmers, bakers (breads, sweets, and savories), and fresh specialty producers (salsa, hummus, meat, ice cream, fruit ice pops and cake pops, New Zealand-style meat pies, and the ever-popular kettle corn). Easy parking near the market area.

- *Kingstowne Patch*

Fort Hunt neighbors, fed up with airplane noise, form new group to press for change. The Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen), implemented by the FAA in 2015, has redirected jets taking off from the south down the Potomac River and west over several Fort Hunt area neighborhoods. Residents say the noise has become a quality of life issue sometimes starting as early as 5 a.m. and continuing as late as 1 a.m. Now a group of residents, with the support of Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck, have formed a group called the South Flow Alliance to increase pressure on the FAA to address the noise issue. You can visit the **South Flow Alliance's Facebook page** for more information.

- *Covering the Corridor*

What do you do if you encounter a coyote? There has been a rise in coyote sightings in our neighborhood, and at least two confirmed incidents with pets. The Urban Coyote Initiative has some **great resources** on rules to follow when walking your dogs in coyote territory, and also what you should do if you encounter one while out with your pet.

- *The Urban Coyote Initiative*

Key Sources

Covering the Corridor | <http://coveringthecorridor.com>

Kingstown Patch | <https://patch.com/virginia/kingstowne>

The Urban Coyote Initiative | <http://urbancoyoteinitiative.com/>

Need a hand in your yard or garden this season? Some of Stoneybrook's local youth would love to help you out!

Caleb | Caleb's Odd Jobs | calebsoddjobs@icloud.com

Abby & Bailey | The Yardeners | yardenerslw@gmail.com (Age appropriate jobs for 10-year-olds; no power-tools please!)

Highlights from the Community

The Well-Read Fox

What does it all mean? I suppose we can ask that question all day long and never get a satisfactory answer. In fact, it's probably better that we don't ask it at all, for in the space between the asking and the answering is that dark, existential void.

But I'll ask anyway: Why are foxes stealing newspapers all around Washington?

You will recall that last week I wrote about Paula Bailey and Robert Taylor, a Vienna couple whose back yard has become a repository for newspapers dragged there by a fox. Pat Girdi has also seen a fox trotting across her back yard, newspaper in hand, er, in jaw. "We don't know Paula or Robert but we do live in Vienna Woods," Pat wrote.

I also heard from Cheryl Lumsden, a former distributor for The Washington Post. About 10 years ago, she started getting "NP" — no paper — complaints about a carrier whose reputation until then had been spotless. "I was getting frustrated rerunning these complaints," Cheryl wrote. "I was in North Springfield rerunning a complaint and after I redelivered the paper I turned the corner and there was a fox and when it turned to look at me it had a bagged paper in its mouth."

Tom and Kathy Gist live in Fairfax, where two years ago a fox was pilfering papers. "We also discovered copies of Korea News among the papers under our deck," they wrote. "Clearly, our fox was bilingual."

Sherrie Sidman of Round Hill, Va., said while my column about the Vienna foxes was "charming," the foxes in her neighborhood are much more opinionated. "Our Washington Post gets peed on," she wrote.

Takoma Park's Steve Hoffman said the fox behavior reminded him of a delightful story by author George Saunders. "Fox 8" is written from the viewpoint and in the voice of a fox who learns to speak and write "Yuman" by listening outside the window of a suburban home to a mother telling bedtime stories to her "pups."

"Fox 8" isn't as dark as most Saunders stories, Steve wrote. "Anyway, it might or might not be of interest to you and of course only tangentially relevant to your fox story, since it's unlikely those foxes were trying to learn to read."

But how can we be sure, Steve? Not long ago I read a novel called "Glow" by English writer Ned Beauman. It's a glorious, convoluted mess, but one of its most striking images is when foxes all across London start riding double-decker buses.

What I'm saying is, something is afoot.

- By John Kelly

