

Stoneybrooke



OF FAIRFAX COUNTY CITIZENS ASSOCIATION, INC.

SENTINEL MARCH 2018

Letter from the Board

It's great to see the green peaking through the ground driving down the Stoneybrooke hill. Spring is one of my favorite times to drive through the neighborhood, as I get to admire all the great landscaping and personal touches put forth by our neighbors. The warming spring also means it's time for our annual residential "Stoneybrooke Egging." You will see a blog post (<http://www.stoneybrooke.org/>) in the upcoming days detailing this year's event and how to sign up to have the Easter Bunny hide candy and toy filled eggs around your home the night before Easter.

Additionally, the warming weather brings out kids playing and families walking around. Please keep an eye on your speed as you're driving down the hill, it's amazing how quickly one can build up momentum and speed while not paying attention. Let's keep all of our residents safe.

We hope you enjoy this month's collection of local news and upcoming events. We look forward to getting together for a spring neighborhood bbq / picnic type event in May.

And as always, for anyone looking to pitch in, we welcome your participation. The SCA functions solely on volunteers and we invite both new and long-time residents. Current vacancies include a board position (Vice Chair), event plan-ners, Sentinel content managers, and neighborhood watch coordinators. If you are interested in volunteering for a position or helping in some other way, please reach out to the board at scaboard@stoneybrooke.org or via our website at stoneybrooke.org/contact-us/.

- SCA Board

Upcoming Community Events

Stoneybrooke Easter Egging: 4/1/2018

Neighborhood Yard Sale: 5/5/2018

Community Meeting: May

Highlights from the Community

Alexandria Named Best U.S. Travel Destination by Money Magazine

Alexandria has been named the top U.S. destination for 2018 by Money Magazine, beating out Disneyland and other notable destinations.

Alexandria's plethora of activities and reasonable costs of airfare and hotels helped it claim the top spot. The average \$140 hotel price is about half of the downtown DC price, making it an appealing option for DC area travelers and it's not only a place to stay before heading into DC, but a place with many attractions in its own right. Some of the places mentioned are the waterfront, the shops and eateries along King Street, the Torpedo Factory Art Center and The Birchmere.

Chessie's Trail Open at Lee District Park

The Family Recreation Area at Lee District Park continues to grow in appeal to families with the addition of Chessie's Trail – a nature trail dotted with features designed to appeal to children. The 2,160-foot accessible trail winds through the wooded area below the park's treehouse and amphitheater and includes a variety of interactive features and activities including spinning rocks, nest seating, and a sound garden.

Wind Storm Knocks Over Tree George Washington Planted

A tree George Washington himself planted 227 years ago at the Mount Vernon estate was a casualty of the strong wind storm earlier this month. Washington planted the Canadian Hemlock in 1791, two years into his presidency. The Mount Vernon Estate said the tree came in half whiskey barrel from the then New York Gov. George Clinton. Washington planted the tree outside the upper garden gate.

Cherry Blossom Festival 2018

Cherry blossom season is upon us, drawing many visitors to the DC area to see the beautiful pink flowers bloom along the Tidal Basin. The 2018 National Cherry Blossom Festival will run from March 17-April 15 just as the peak bloom begins. The National Park Service predicts the peak bloom of the cherry trees will happen March 27-31.

The Rose Hill Players Present, "Pirates of the Curry Bean"

Join the Rose Hill Elementary School's Rose Hill Players for Pirates of the Curry Bean. Anchors away and set sail for a swashbuckling pirate adventure on the high seas in this piratical musical that's sure to shake your booty!

Performances will be held at Thomas A. Edison High School (5801 Franconia Rd., Alexandria) on Friday, May 11th, at 7pm, and Saturday, May 12th, at 1pm and 7pm. Tickets will be available at the door (\$7 for adults, \$5 for children, \$1 for children at matinee). Concessions will be available for sale. See www.facebook.com/therosehillplayers/ for more information.

Lee District Paving and Restriping

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has scheduled several roads in the Lee District for repaving in 2018. VDOT and FCDOT held a public meeting earlier this month on proposed paving and restriping changes and community members interested in submitting comments may do so through March 23, 2018 at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/transportation/2018-paving-and-restriping/lee-district-paving-and-restriping

Please note that no additional roads can be added to the paving schedule at this time; any suggestions for new paving and restriping changes will be saved for future planning. The paving will take place starting in April and concluding in November 2018.

Stoneybrooke Storm Drain Markings

A local Eagle Scout has chosen to mark the community's storm drains as part of his Eagle Scout project.

Storm drains are located throughout the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay watersheds and what we do in our yards and communities affects the Bay through the storm drainage system. When it rains, the water running along the gutters in the street vanishes down storm drains. This runoff drains directly into a local stream. All our local streams in Fairfax County feed into the Potomac River, which empties into the Chesapeake Bay. Nothing is removed from the water. That means pet waste, yard debris, fertilizer, motor oil, pesticides and trash all have the potential to flow into our streams and the Chesapeake Bay.

Currently our storm drains are not marked. The Eagle Scout will work with the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District and Department of Transportation to apply for and install markers.

This project is expected to be completed during the last week of March. See the flyer at the back of this newsletter for more details.

Get Up to 5 Free LED Lightbulbs at Libraries in April & May

Fairfax County is giving away up to five free LED lightbulbs to help you save money and protect the planet. Get a free LED—and if you bring up to four of your incandescent or compact fluorescent lightbulbs with you, we'll exchange them for LEDs. Come to these libraries on these dates and times to get your free bulbs:

- Sat., April 7, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.: Tysons-Pimmit Regional Library, 7584 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church
- Sat., April 14, 2–4 p.m., City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North Street, Fairfax
- Wed., April 25, 4–6 p.m., George Mason Regional Library, 7001 Little River Turnpike, Annandale
- Tues, May 8, 6:30–8:30 p.m. Chantilly Regional Library, 4000 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly
- Mon., May 14, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Reston Regional Library, 11925 Bowman Towne Drive, Reston
- Tues., May 22, 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane, Alexandria

The LEDs being given away offer a warm white light that's equivalent to a 60-watt incandescent lightbulb. By replacing five old incandescents with LEDs, you could save at least \$25 a year on your electric bill. For more information and other LED giveaway, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news2/free-led-lightbulbs-library/.

This program is partnership between the Fairfax County Library and Energy Action Fairfax, a county program to help residents become more energy efficient.

Community Garden at St. Marks Episcopal Church

Do you like to garden, grow fruits and vegetables, and exercise your green thumb? There are some plots available for rent in the community garden at St. Marks Episcopal Church, right across the street from Stoneybrooke. Small plots-2'x10' are \$15 for the growing season, large plots- 8'x10' are \$40. Part of the rent also includes contributing labor to garden maintenance such as weeding and watering. Please contact Candy Thompson at 703.909.5479 if you are interested.

Key Sources

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

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

Greater Alexandria Patch | <https://patch.com/virginia/greateralexandria>

Old Town Patch | <https://patch.com/virginia/oldtownalexandria>

The Connection | <http://www.connectionnewspapers.com>

BizNow | <http://www.bisnow.com/washington-dc/news>

Reminders**Stay Connected**

Stay up to date on neighborhood happenings by joining the Stoneybrooke Neighborhood Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/210928805722992/>). If you are looking for recommendations, or to sell or buy something, check out the Stoneybrooke Events, Services & Recommendations (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1034208403392227/>) group.

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!)

STONEYBROOKE COMMUNITY

PROTECT OUR WATER: ONLY RAIN IN THE DRAIN



Storm drain markers on drains across Fairfax County tell us that anything washed or dumped down a storm drain goes directly into our streams, not to a water treatment plant. Our nearest stream, **Barnyard Run**, leads to the Potomac River, a source of drinking water and recreation.

Don't let pollutants from these sources go down the drain. Prevention is easy!

- **Sediment:** Bare soil, sand.
 - Grow native plants and use mulch on bare soil.
- **Nutrients:** Fertilizer, yard debris.
 - Limit fertilizer use, compost or bag yard debris, practice bay-friendly yard care.
- **Toxics:** Pesticides, motor oil, lead-based paint, salt.
 - Keep suds from car washing out of the storm drain – they can be toxic to wildlife.
 - Use pesticides only when necessary and sweep up excess.
 - Dispose of motor oil, lead-based paint and pesticides as household hazardous waste. One gallon of oil can pollute two million gallons of water.
- **Pathogens:** Animal or human waste.
 - Scoop the poop! Keep bacteria from dog waste out of waterways.
- **Litter:** Plastic, cigarettes, styrofoam, cans.
 - Put litter in the recycling or trash.

Prevent and report storm drain dumping. If you see hazardous wastes like paint, pesticides, or motor oil dumped in storm drains, report it to Fairfax County at 703-691-2131, TTY 711.

Only Rain in the Storm Drain! Make sure that nothing other than water ever goes down your storm drain. Help keep water safe for children and future generations.

Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd>

(703) 324-1460, TTY 711

