

Stoneybrooke



OF FAIRFAX COUNTY CITIZENS ASSOCIATION, INC.

SENTINEL

AUGUST 2023

Letter from the Board

Greetings to all our wonderful members! As we push through the last stretch of summer heat, it's time to reveal the exciting lineup of events and updates we have in store for you in this month's newsletter. Get ready to enjoy good times and good tunes at the Fall Community Block Party! Mark your calendars for September 30th and join us for an afternoon of laughter, camaraderie, and delicious treats. There'll be games for the kids, mouthwatering food for everyone, and a chance to catch up with old friends while making new ones. Let's come together to celebrate the spirit of our community as we bid farewell to summer and welcome the vibrant hues of autumn.

Are you ready to add some extra swing to your routine? Read on for information on signing up for tennis lessons, held at Stone Mansion park. As we cherish our beautiful community tennis courts, it's important that we maintain their integrity for the enjoyment of all. The Fairfax Parks Authority provides rules and guidelines for using the courts and explains how to reserve them for lessons.

Thank you for being an integral part of our community association. Your involvement and support contribute to the warmth and unity that make our neighborhood so special. Be sure to read on for more updates, member spotlights, and stories that showcase the heart of our community. As always, your feedback and suggestions are invaluable to us. If you have any ideas, events, or stories you'd like to share, don't hesitate to reach out.

~SCA Board

Neighborhood News

Stoneybrooke Community Meeting and Block Party Set for September 30th.

Your neighbors on Stonebridge Court Cul-de-sac invite you to a Fall Block Party on Saturday, September 30th tentatively starting at 4:30 PM. Following the festivities, we will have a community meeting. Come enjoy the cooler weather and meet some new friends. Bring your own chairs, adult beverages, and cornhole boards! We also encourage neighbors to bring a side dish, potluck-style. Look forward to the following activities!

- **Bounce House!**
- **Burgers!**
- **Band!**

Neighbor Recruiting for Tennis Lessons!

Our neighbor Geneva Park asked us to share the following message:

I have lived in the Stoneybrooke Community for 13 years on Cobblestone Court. It's so wonderful to have the playgrounds and tennis courts so close to our community. I wanted to share my experience with an amazing tennis organization, Advantage Tennis, that has coached my daughter for many years and also let anyone interested know that there could be opportunities for instruction, practice and/or competition for our children and/or social play opportunities for the adults.

My family absolutely loves tennis and really think it's such a fun sport for a longer, healthier life! It's been such a blessing to see my daughter improve her tennis play through the programs she's been participating in. She's increased her confidence and developed such great habits that are so beneficial in life. Advantage Tennis is really unique in that this program focuses strongly on positive motivation/reinforcement and teaches correct classical technique(for injury prevention and skill acquisition).

It would be great if we had more kids in our community playing tennis so my daughter could have other kids to play with and so that other kids could benefit from learning this great sport. It would also be wonderful to have adults play too for some Community socializing!

Please let me know if you're interested and I can coordinate getting some fun tennis play off the ground in our Community.

– Geneva Park, 3824 Cobblestone Court, 703-768-5556, jim.geneva@cox.net.



Image: The Stone Mansion Park tennis courts.
(Photo credit: Samuel Posnock)

Tennis Courts FAQ.

We reached out to the Fairfax Parks Authority to ask about tennis lessons. The responses are lightly edited for clarity.

Q: Can tennis courts be reserved?

A: Tennis courts are available on a first come, first served basis, and can also be reserved for long term, group use, OR business use. Advantage Tennis is a permitted, long-term business group that we work with and will reiterate their need for having their permit on hand in the park.

Q: Is there an online system to track tennis court availability?

A: There is not a publicly available court availability calendar. This is a long-term project that software developing is working on. But you are more than welcome to ask when the courts are permitted. We can also provide recommendations on the next closest courts to you. I included the current times that they are permitted below.

Q: Are there restrictions on when lessons can be taught at the courts?

A: Permitted times for business use of the Stone Mansion courts are as follows:

- Monday 4:30 – 7:30 PM
- Wednesday 5:00 – 6:00 PM
- Thursday 4:30 – 6:30 PM
- Saturday 12:00 – 1:00 PM, 2:30 – 4:30 PM

If you see instruction outside of those hours, please contact Fairfax County Park Authority permitting division at FCPAParkPermits@fairfaxcounty.gov, or Fairfax Parks at parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov (703-324-8700).

Community News

Fairfax County Releases Guidance on Panhandling.

Fairfax County is providing resources for drivers and pedestrians who encounter people who are panhandling. In response to questions from residents, Fairfax County officials have created a webpage with answers to frequently asked questions about the laws, resources and more. The county site reads in part (bolded text is original):

“We discourage people from giving cash to individuals who panhandle. While many of you may get a good feeling by providing money, the reality is that people who panhandle often require more resources than small amounts of money. Donations of cash will not help solve the underlying reasons why someone panhandles. Directing individuals in need to county-provided resources is much more effective in helping them find the long-term, sustainable assistance they require.”

The site also notes that panhandling is legal and is not something Fairfax County can ban. The activity is constitutionally protected by the First Amendment, under current legal doctrine. Police officers may stop an individual from panhandling when the person violates traffic laws or otherwise engages in criminal activity.

More: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/what-you-need-know-about-panhandling-fairfax-county>

Alexandria Restaurant Week Runs Aug. 18 – 27.

Nearly 70 restaurants in Alexandria will offer a \$25, \$35 or \$45 per person prix fixe dinner during Alexandria Restaurant Week. Special menus are available in-person at participating restaurants throughout Alexandria’s neighborhoods, including Old Town, Del Ray, Carlyle and Eisenhower, and the West End.

More: [Alexandria Restaurant Week 2023 \(visitalexandria.com\)](https://www.visitalexandria.com/alexandria-restaurant-week-2023)

Fairfax County Weighs Ending Leaf Service.

Residents are being asked for their thoughts as Fairfax County considers ending residential leaf collection in the 2024 season and beyond. County officials cited a variety of difficulties with leaf collection, from staffing to equipment maintenance. If county leaf collection ended, residents would have the option of having private companies collect their leaves. Some residents may opt to shred the leaves with a mower and let them compost into the ground, which is considered more environmentally-friendly than raking them to the curb.

More: <https://engage.fairfaxcounty.gov/leaf-collection#1>

Pupatella to Open Neapolitan Pizza Restaurant in Alexandria.

According to the filing with the City, the new Alexandria restaurant will feature an outdoor dining area with seating for 34 and bar seats for five, in a 550-square foot outdoor area on private property.

No date for opening has been announced as of press time. Pupatella has locations in North Arlington, South Arlington, Dupont Circle, Reston, Mosaic in Fairfax, Springfield, Leesburg and Richmond.

The popular pizza restaurant first opened in Arlington in 2010 after serving pizza out of food carts at Metro stations. Due to the high temperature of the wood-fired oven, Neapolitan pizzas develop what is known as “leopard spots,” according to the Pupatella website. They are small spots (about size of a dime) on the crust and are a distinct characteristic of true Neapolitan pizza.

More: <https://alexandrialivingmagazine.com/food-and-dining/pupatella-proposes-new-pizza-restaurant-in-alexandria/>

Local Resources

Alexandria Living | <https://alexandrialivingmagazine.com/>

Fairfax County | <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/>

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

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

Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation (SFDC) | <http://www.sfdc.org/>

Reminders**Stay Connected**

Stay up to date on neighborhood happenings by visiting the Stoneybrooke SCA website (www.stoneybrooke.org/), which includes a blog for highlighting recent events and publishing upcoming SCA related events.

Residents can also join an online community on Facebook (www.facebook.com/groups/Stoneybrookcommunity/) for residents of Stoneybrooke, in Alexandria, VA. It is designed for members to connect and share information. Posts containing lost and found, requesting referrals for paid services or items, help with a project, borrowing, ride sharing, announcing yard sales or interesting events in Alexandria area, neighborhood alerts and concerns, giving away items or volunteering your time and any non-profit related posts are welcomed here.

Additionally, a Facebook group exists to advertise events and service or share recommendations here (www.facebook.com/groups/1034208403392227/).