



Sentinel

Volume XL, Issue 4

April 2016

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**Important neighborhood meeting
Stoneybrooke Citizens Association
May 24 at 7pm
Stoneybrooke Mansion**

Message from Supervisor McKay

Budget Adoption for FY 2017

On April 26, 2016 the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voted to increase funding for schools by \$104 million and made strategic investments that protect the quality of life in Fairfax County. By way of a 7-3 vote, the Board voted in favor of a \$1.13 tax rate for FY2017, an increase from the FY2016 rate of \$1.09 per \$100 of assessed value. The 4-cent increase will generate approximately \$93 million in additional County revenue that will invest in valued County services such as education, public safety and human services.

As our Board's Budget Committee Chairman, I've been working to strike a balance between all of our great County services and the financial challenges that many of our homeowners are feeling. We listened to hundreds at hearings, town hall meetings, in letters, emails, phone calls, etc. about their strong opinions and budget advice. I believe that this budget addressed what we heard.

We're committed to investing in what makes our County great: its schools, its employees, and its services. Education is absolutely a top priority -- and this budget reflects that. I'm also pleased to be able to make crucial steps forward in the areas of public safety, human services, parks, libraries, and many of our other vital County services. I have no doubt that our Board's investment today will have a major positive impact on Fairfax County.

The major change the Board made to the County Executive's Advertised Budget was to provide an additional \$33.6 million to Schools. This was done by allocating an entire penny of the tax rate and using reallocated funds from Third Quarter Review. With FCPS receiving 52.7% of the County's General Fund budget, the elected School Board will have enough funds to increase teacher pay and begin working to decrease class sizes.

In this budget package, the School Operating Transfer increased by \$88.4 million, or 4.84% over FY2016. Including School Debt Service and School Capital Needs, total support for schools increased by over \$104 million, or 5.18%. By comparison, the non-school side of the County's General Fund Budget increased by 4.35% (or 4.91% including allocations to County reserves).

There was some good news specifically for South County in this year's budget, too. Funds for the maintenance and future use of Old Mount Vernon High School, as well as dollars towards the construction of a new police station in Lorton, were included. A new station in South County will reduce response times countywide, especially in Mount Vernon and Lee Districts. Getting more police on our streets has been a long goal of mine and this budget will do that.

It was no doubt a tough budget year. We know that many of our citizens are struggling in this sluggish economy and continued increases in the real estate tax rate are not sustainable. Collaboration between our Board and the School Board, revenue diversification from Richmond, and potential efficiencies in County programming are very important moving forward.

Neighborhood Meeting on May 24

Please plan to attend the annual meeting of the SCA on Tuesday, May 24 at 7:00 at the Mansion. This is the first "annual" meeting in many years. The plan is to hold elections for new officers at that time. Any decisions on how to proceed with meetings after the May 24 meeting will be up to the next Board. All SCA members are eligible to vote; see membership form attached to this newsletter. In order to have elections, there must have a quorum, which means 20 SCA members. You may join the SCA at the meeting.

If you are interested in running for an office, please contact Mike Jurkowski (H: 703-765-2736; C: 703-785-6404).

Open positions include Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, and Parliamentarian. At the meeting, the SCA Board will also be looking for volunteers to take over welcoming new residents as well as organizing community events, including kids' activities (such as an Easter Egg Hunt at the Mansion, as well as a Christmas party), and the land use representative for the neighborhood.

Stoneybrooke's Updated Website!

Rachel Neely Cramer has volunteered to undertake a sorely-needed update to our neighborhood website. Check out <http://www.stoneybrooke.org/> Rachel has set it up so that there is an accompanying blog as well as space for posting announcements, pictures from community events, and newsletters etc. There is also an event calendar and back issues of The Stoneybrooke Sentinel. Upcoming additions include resident recommendations, a members-only area with access to the membership directory, resident classifieds, and information and events for surrounding parks and rec centers. Thanks, Rachel!



www.vahillspool.org email: info@vahillspool.org

Slide & Dive board	Snack Bar	Large Deck Area
Bath House	Tot Lot	Basketball Court
Adult & Family Socials	Free Wifi	Float-in Movies
Swim Team	Swim Lessons	Private parties

OPEN HOUSE
Sunday, May 22nd
12pm – 4pm

6500 Virginia Hills Pool Drive, Alexandria VA 22310

May is National Wetlands Month

Since we live so close to one of the area's premier wetlands, Huntley Meadows, it is a good time to think about the many benefits of wetlands. Following is a short article, taken from an upcoming U.S. EPA publication, about the value of wetlands....

Wetlands play a critical role in sustaining healthy surface and ground waters. The physical structure of wetlands can allow them to intercept the flow of surface water, resulting in the retention and filtration of nutrients, sediment, and pollutants. Microbes living in wetlands can break down or transform potentially toxic compounds. Plants and microbes also consume and transform excess nutrients, improving water quality and slowing eutrophication of downstream waters. Together these wetland processes often reduce the amount of undesirable substances entering other surface water bodies (e.g., rivers, streams, lakes, coastal waters) where they can degrade water quality and pose environmental and human health risks.

Wetlands can act as natural sponges, capturing and slowly releasing surface water resulting from heavy rains, snow melt, and other floodwaters. Trees, grasses, and other wetland plants help slow the speed of floodwaters and disperse the excess water across floodplains. These processes lower flood heights, reduce erosion, and decrease the otherwise destructive effects of swiftly moving floodwaters. In addition, wetlands at the edges of lakes, rivers, bays, and the ocean buffer shorelines from the damaging effects of storm surges caused by hurricanes, tropical storms, and other powerful weather events.

The position of wetlands at the interface of land and water make them some of the most biologically diverse and productive ecosystems in the world. Many unique plant communities provide diverse plant species, physical structure, and distinct aesthetics to wetlands. A great variety of life from the tiniest microbes to plants, birds, fish, and mammals inhabit and depend upon wetlands for part or all of their life-cycles. Chemical and biological processes occurring within wetlands provide abundant supplies of food for a diverse range of species. Microbes and small aquatic insects break down dead plant material, forming small particles of organic material that feed larger aquatic insects and shellfish. These, in turn, feed fish and wildlife. Wetland dependent fish species make up 71% of the commercial and recreational fisheries in the U.S.. Ducks and other waterfowl depend on wetlands for food and shelter. About 50% of threatened or endangered animal species in the U.S. depend on wetlands for their survival and 28% of threatened or endangered plant species are associated with wetland ecosystems

Wetlands provide plentiful opportunities for recreation and enjoyment by people. Bird and other wildlife watchers are drawn to wetlands to view or photograph the diverse species that call wetlands home. Hunters wade or boat through wetlands to hunt waterfowl. The abundance of fish in some types of wetlands attracts fishermen to these habitats. Marsh ecosystems line our coasts and provide food supply, shelter, and nursery areas for both marine and freshwater species, fueling a commercial and recreational fishery economy worth billions of dollars. The 2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation revealed that over 90 million U.S. residents participated in wildlife-related recreation such as fishing, hunting, or wildlife watching. This recreation is entirely dependent on having clean and healthy waters, including wetlands, to support the fish and wildlife at the center of these activities.

Note from the Editors

Please contact the editors with your news and information: Carrie Wehling Michaud and Jessica Kaplan (cwehlingmichaud@verizon.net and floreskaplan@gmail.com)

Letters to the Editors

No letters this month.

Neighborhood Watch

Don Faxon will be at the May Neighborhood meeting to discuss some new ideas for the Neighborhood Watch and answer any questions folks have.

D. Faxon
Stoneybrooke Citizens Association
Neighborhood Watch Coordinator
571-437-7696 (cell)

2016 Stoneybrooke Board and Committees

Board

Chairman	Vacant
Vice-Chairman	Vacant
Secretary	John Finamore
Treasurer	Bernie Tabarini
Parliamentarian	Vacant

Committees

Directory	Marie Ernst
Lee District Land Use	Jim Van Duesen
Membership	BJT Associates
Registered Mail Agent	Mike Jurkowski
Welcoming	Ruth Feist
Youth	Vacant
Neighborhood Watch	Don Faxon
<i>Sentinel</i>	Jessica Kaplan, Carrie
Wehling Michaud and Heather Martin	
Webmaster	Rachel Neely Cramer



Stoneybrooke Babysitters

- Mitchell Flores-Kaplan: (703) 765-9448, floreskaplan@gmail.com
- Ashlyn Hendrix: (703) 298-2073 (Red Cross Certified), ashlynrhendrix13@gmail.com
- JD DeLorenzo: Red Cross Certified babysitting and mother's helper (703) 768-0895, rangersrulejd@yahoo.com
- Tiffany Carter, 703-509-9098, tiffielc@gmail.com
- Emily Lyon: (703) 765-6582 (Red Cross Certified)
- Christina Dillard: Cell (703) 981-0926; cjdillard98@gmail.com
- Adrianna DeLorenzo: (703) 768-0895; (Red Cross Certified); adsmiley36@yahoo.com
- Lily Michaud: (703) 768-9723; lmichaud.5@gmail.com
- Molly Sternberg: Home: (703) 768-7879; Cell-703-772-7801 (Red Cross Certified); mollysternberg@yahoo.com

Announcements

Registration for Bethany Lutheran Preschool. A registration application and forms are available at the church website or by contacting the preschool office. We offer classes for children ages 2 – 5 years-old. Learn more by contacting Tonia 703-765-8687 or PRESCHOOL@BETHANY-LCMS.ORG . Visits during the school day are welcomed. Interested in viewing pictures of what happens in the classrooms during the day? Check us out on Facebook (www.Facebook.com/BLPreschool). It's guaranteed to put a smile on your face.

Free Yoga Class. Free, Family Friendly Yoga Class is open to the community. Class meets weekly on Tuesday evenings from 7:00PM - 8:00PM at Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 1301 Collingwood Road, Alexandria, VA 22308. Appropriate for 3 Year olds and up. Contact Judy Jurkowski at 703-765-6555 ext 626 or JJurkowski@aldersgate.net for more information.

Streetlights. If you notice streetlights that are out, it's easy to get them fixed. Just call Virginia Power at 1-866-366-4357 and provide the street address where the streetlight is located.

Stoneybrooke on Facebook. Please join the Stoneybrooke community ("Stoneybrooke Neighborhood (Alexandria, VA)") on Facebook for up-to-date community news and information.

MOMS Club of Alexandria-South Chapter: The MOMS Club is a social support group designed for stay-at-home moms. They sponsor activities for moms and kids, with most activities taking place during the day. They also offer small playgroups, a book club, and community service opportunities. If you or any of your friends (in zip codes 22303, 22306 and 22307) are interested in joining or would like more information, visit the MOMS Club website <http://www.southalexandriamomsclub.webs.com>.



*An award winning portrait
photojournalist captures the depth of the
moment in the visual world.*

**For my dear Stoneybrooke neighbors, I
would like to extend a gift of \$50
discount.**

Zoya DiCaprio

www.Zoyaphoto.com

703.313.8787

202.413.2501

Supervisor McKay's Newsletter: If you would like to be on the distribution list for Supervisor McKay's electronic newsletter, please send an email to leedist@fairfaxcounty.gov and include 'subscribe' in the subject line.

The plant club of Stoneybrooke: The Plant Exchange provides a place where gardeners in the community can offer plants, cuttings, seeds and bulbs for trade and make requests for what they are seeking. Items for sale are not permitted. If interested contact: Zoya DiCaprio at zoya@zoyaphoto.com. Here is the link for the plant club: <http://zoyaphoto.com/PlantClub.htm> We hope you can join us.



Other ways to find out what's going on in Stoneybrooke: Join the Stoneybrooke group email list, which includes most of the neighborhood. It's a secure way for neighborhood residents to view messages and information about the community. Contact the SCA email coordinator, Dina Staskiewicz, at Stoneybrooke_Citizens@yahoo.com for more information

Classifieds

NOTE: Any SCA family member that would like to place an ad, please send a note or email to the editors with the ad information and your contact information. Listings of items for sale are limited to one year. Ads for contractor services require at least one written recommendation (e.g. email) from a Stoneybrooke resident. The editors reserve the right to remove or reject such ads.

Free Perennial Plants. Amsonia (3-4' tall, shrubby native plant, light blue flowers in spring, yellow leaves in fall, sun or partial shade), Crocosmia (2-3' tall, orange-red flowers in summer, corms, sun or partial shade), Daylily (peach-pink flowers or unknown colors), Iris (small plants, misc. colors not identified), Hellebores (12-18" tall, evergreen, mostly white flowers in very early spring, shade) Maltese Cross (*Lychnis chalcidonica*, small seedlings, eventually 3-4' tall, orange/red flowers, sun or partial shade), Italian oregano (very mild oregano flavor), Garlic chives (culinary and/or ornamental: garlic-onion flavor, plus white flowers in late summer). Contact: Amy Aycock amy.aycock@verizon.net or 703-765-3617

Caleb's Odd Jobs. If you need jobs done, from dog walking to lawn-mowing to anything else that you can think of, Caleb's Odd Jobs has your back! No job is too big or too small, that's our motto. You can call us at 703-768-4249, or shoot us an email at CalebsOddJobs@icloud.com

Aspiring singer/songwriter available to sing at your event: Available for one to two hours

- Birthday parties
- Graduations
- Holiday parties
- Retirement parties
- Any social gathering you wish, large or small

Adrianna is a 15 year old at West Potomac High School. She has 9 years of singing experience and has been self-taught in guitar for almost two years. Adrianna has performed at the White House, at Wolf Trap, and was selected to sing in the Carnegie Hall High School Honors Performance Series Choir in February of 2015.

For more information or if you are interested in hearing a sample of her singing, please email [ADRIANNASINGS@YAHOO.COM!](mailto:ADRIANNASINGS@YAHOO.COM)

Real Estate Services: Contact John Hajduk, Realtor, Samson Properties to list your home for a 4 1/2% commission fee. Full services provided. Savings to sellers, and if buying, cash rebates to all buyers! Call 703-507-5193 or email: johnhajduk@cox.net.

Notary: Complete Notary Services available. Contact John Hajduk at 703-507-5193 or email johnhajduk@cox.net. Professional, experienced, licensed.

Shaista's Baby Bear Daycare. Shaista Mirza has more than 15 years of experience in daycare and is certified in CPR, First Aid, and MAT. She is also State licensed and has a USDA food program. 6803 Blue Slate Court, Alexandria, VA 22306. Phone 703-660-1688. Email: shaistamirza@cox.net. Website: http://www.shaistasdaycare.com/home.html

Happy Day Care. Licensed, CPR and First Aid Certified. Excellent References. 22 years of experience. Safe, loving, educational environment with outdoor and indoor activities. CDA certified. Flexible schedule, reasonable rates. For more information, please call 703-660-8499 or email at soumya.assassi@gmail.com.

Piano lessons: Gerard King at 6909 Stoneybrooke is offering piano lessons for children and adults. Please call for details. 703-718-2156.

Ron's Totally Reliable Lawn Service: call 571-236-7154.

**"THE RAINBOW CONNECTION" MUSIC CAMP
CAMPER REGISTRATION FORM
(one per child)**

Child's name _____
 Male/Female: _____ Child's age: _____ Date of Birth: _____
 Last school grade completed: _____
 Name of parent/guardian(s): _____
 Street address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____
 Child's T-shirt size: Please circle one: youth or adult Please circle one: small medium large
 Home telephone: _____
 Cell phone 1: _____
 Cell phone 2: _____
 E-mail address(es): _____
 Home church: _____
 Allergies or other medical conditions: _____

 (attach additional info if necessary)

In case of emergency, please contact: _____
 Phone: _____ Relationship to Camper: _____

**Campers should bring a bagged snack.
We will provide bottled water.**

**BE A PART OF THE CREW AT "THE RAINBOW CONNECTION" MUSIC CAMP
(One per potential volunteer – Rising 6th graders to Adults)**

There are many different ways to volunteer with "The Rainbow Connection" Music Camp. You can help for just one evening or for the whole event. Please submit this form, and we'll contact you regarding your availability and interests.

Volunteer's name _____
 Adult T-shirt size (circle one): small medium large extra-large
 Preferred phone: _____
 E-mail address: _____



Campers will learn and present the musical '100% Chance of Rain' on Friday evening, and will ring two pieces on handbells and choir chimes.

**This program is open to rising
Kindergartners and children in grades 1-6.**

Cost: (includes T-shirt) \$20 perchild/ \$30 max perfamily.
Registration forms can be found at www.bethany-lcms.org
Questions? Please call 703/765-8255

**Stoneybrooke Citizens Association
2015-2016 Membership Drive**



Why join?

1. It's easy and inexpensive!
2. It funds the community directory.
3. It funds our monthly newsletter.
4. It funds year-round social activities for adults and children.
5. It funds our new website!
6. The association is the best source of local information including transportation and school initiatives.
7. Strong membership builds credibility with other local associations and local politicians.
8. Your involvement promotes improved property value and neighborhood safety.

How to join!

1. Make out a \$20 check payable to "SCA".
2. Fill out and print the information slip below.
3. Mail your slip and check to the Stoneybrooke Treasurer:

Bernie Tabarini
3803 Cobblestone Court
Alexandria, VA 22306
treasurer@stoneybrooke.org

Or give them to your block captain.

4. Enjoy our great neighborhood!

Your Name: <input type="text"/>	Directory Information
Your Spouse's Name: <input type="text"/>	
Address: <input type="text"/>	
Phone: <input type="text"/>	
Check One: Include us in the Community Directory <input type="checkbox"/> OR Do not include us in the Directory <input type="checkbox"/>	
Email: <input type="text"/>	To receive your copy of The Stoneybrooke Sentinel by email Not for community directory or other mailings

www.stoneybrooke.org