

Stoneybrooke



OF FAIRFAX COUNTY CITIZENS ASSOCIATION, INC.

SENTINEL DECEMBER 2019

Letter from the Board

Hard to believe that the holiday season is upon us and that the second decade of the 21st century has only days remaining. It has been (nearly) 20 years ago on New Year's Eve that everyone waited with anticipation for the turn of the century (a once in a lifetime event) while fearing the worst with the Y2K bug and the impacts of "00" on the computer systems.

The first dusting of snow is behind us and if predictions hold true, Northern Virginia can expect colder-than-normal temperatures, a couple of significant snow events, and arctic like conditions from the end of January stretching into February. But, predictions and what fosters into reality can be vastly different; only "old man winter" truly knows what is in store for us over the next few months. Following the old adage that "it is better to have and not need, than to need and not have", take a few minutes now and prepare the house and car for winter safety.

For the home:

- Now is a good time for an inspection on the chimney and furnace;
- If using portable space heaters, ensure that they are operated safely and away from curtains, blankets, or other potential fire hazard, and never leave unattended;
- Get your snow shovel and ice melt now;
- Unhook your hoses, turn off the water line, and drain the spigot;
- Anticipate power outages and prepare as needed.

For the car:

- Keep the fuel tank as full as possible and "top off" more frequently;
- Stock the car with the winter essentials...blankets, kitty litter or sand (for extra weight and traction), a candle and coffee can, a small shovel, and an extra phone charger are all good ideas.

With the holiday season in full swing, we can expect delivery drivers running through the neighborhood from morning to night and leaving packages on our doorsteps and in our mailboxes. Be vigilant in tracking your deliveries and securing them as quickly as possible or coordinating with your neighbors for assistance. Make hitting your key FOB the the last thing you do each night and maintain your vigilance on home security to safeguard a home full of gifts.

We are working with the Fairfax County Parks Department to explore the feasibility of installing a "Free Little Library" somewhere near the mansion. For those not familiar, this is really nothing more than a small depository where friends and neighbors can exchange books. This initiative is in part due to a generous donation from one of our former residents and we are working with the parks department for a couple of reasons:

- There is no, or virtually no, common or community areas within the neighborhood that would make a suitable location;
- Safety is a top concern and anywhere along Stoneybrooke Lane is unacceptable, due to the traffic, the hill, and the curve;
- Access to Stoneybrooke Park, and its use, is primarily limited to residents of our neighborhood due to the barriers at the bottom of the hill.

Much more to follow on this...but additional information on the program can be found at Littlefreelibrary.org.

Finally (and briefly) take time to reflect on this past year as you are making your New Year's resolutions for 2020. Consider both your triumphs and tragedies, the highs and lows, and the circumstances of each. Give thanks where needed, take personal responsibility for shortfalls, and strive to be better in every way

One of the great things about our neighborhood is our diversity, and out of fear of leaving someone or some tradition out, let the Stoneybrooke Community Association simply wish you all the very best this holiday season and a very happy New Year!

-SCA Board

Holiday Happenings

Enchant at Nationals Park

Thru Sunday, December 29th

An evening at Enchant is a storybook come to life. Glide along the ice-skating trail underneath light-adorned arches. Take in live performances and be serenaded by carolers. Enjoy a delicious cup of hot cocoa or mulled wine, visit with Santa, and listen to storytime with Mrs. Claus. With specially curated food experiences inside the Christmas Market, a visit to Enchant is a treat for all the senses.

Christmas Illuminations at Mount Vernon

Friday, December 20th and Saturday, December 21st

Join Mount Vernon for an evening of family-friendly fun and fireworks choreographed to holiday music. Before the fireworks begin around 8PM, take a stroll through the estate while being serenaded by local choirs and visit with re-enactors from the First Virginia Regiment.

Harmonizers Holiday Concert

Saturday, December 21st

The Alexandria Harmonizers present their annual Holiday Show featuring the award-winning Pratt Street Power and the 2019 BHS International Junior Quartet champions, "Quin-Tones," for a fun-filled evening of music and laughter.



Mark Pugh, "Here Comes Santa Clause". Available at Principle Gallery, 208 King Street.

Waterskiing Santa

Tuesday, December 24th

Now in its 34th year, this favorite D.C.-area Christmas Eve event returns to Old Town Alexandria. Gather along historic Alexandria's Potomac River waterfront for a spectacular show by Waterskiing Santa and his merry crew.

First Night Alexandria

Tuesday, December 31st

This annual live music and performing arts festival is the largest New Year's Eve party in the D.C. region that is safe and fun for the entire family and culminates with a fantastic fireworks finale over the Potomac River at midnight.

Community News

Fairfax County Seeks Dog Park Input

Thru Sunday, December 15th

The Fairfax County Park Authority is seeking resident input on dog parks in the region.

A survey, open through Dec. 15, asks about dog park usage, concerns about conditions such as surfaces, fencing and cleanliness, and rules and etiquette.

According to Fairfax County's website, the purpose of the study is to assess current and future needs and priorities for dog parks throughout the county, and to adopt strategies for long-term planning, development, and management of dog parks.

The Park Authority is also accepting comments from residents outside of the survey.

Both the survey and comments email are available at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/planning-development/dog-park-study.

Fairfax County has 11 official dog parks. Three of those are in Southeast Fairfax County — Lenclair Park off South Kings Hwy. in the Groveton area, Westgrove Park near Belle View, and Grist Mill Park west of Mount Vernon.

George Washington Parkway to Go on the Next Road Diet?

The George Washington Memorial Parkway could be the next road to go on a “diet.”

The National Park Service asked for comments from residents about safety traveling the George Washington Memorial Parkway — and received hundreds of them.

Road diets are being considered particularly around Morningside Lane, Wellington Road, Collingwood Road, Waynewood Boulevard and Vernon View Drive.

Throughout the region, the road diet would be combined with enhanced pedestrian crossings, driver education and additional enforcement. While speed cameras are allowed only in very limited circumstances in Virginia, the Parkway is National Park Service property and speed cameras could be a part of the enforcement solution.

The Park Service is still taking public comments until Jan. 10. (You can submit comments here: <https://park-planning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkID=186&projectID=89079&documentID=99978>.) Park Services officials hope to have a final report ready by the end of Spring.

Shaded Playground at Lee District Park to be Renovated

The shaded playground at Lee District Park is set to undergo a total renovation over the next few months.

Work on the project, which is expected to run through March, will include removal and replacement of the current playground and shade structure. There will also be sidewalk improvements and other work at the site.

The popular playground is located next to the tennis courts at Lee District and is one of the few playgrounds with a shade structure in the area.

Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams Opens in Old Town

Jeni's Splendid Ice Creams has opened at 102 South Patrick Street in Old Town Alexandria. The ice cream shop is at the former location of Misha's Coffee, which moved around the corner to 917 King Street.

Founded in Ohio by Jeni Britton Bauer in 2002, Jeni's offers traditional and eclectic ice cream flavors. Among the holiday flavors are boozy eggnog and sweet potato with torched marshmallow. All ice creams are made with whole ingredients and dairy from grass-pastured cows without any synthetic flavorings or dyes. Pints of Jeni's ice creams are available at select grocery store locations and through online orders.

Kingstowne Topgolf to Close in January

The nation's first Topgolf, in Kingstowne, will be closing in January. The Topgolf property owner filed plans with the Fairfax County government more than a year ago to replace Topgolf Alexandria with townhomes, multifamily units and commercial space. Now that the more modern, larger Topgolf facility is open near National Harbor, the Kingstowne location will close.

Topgolf's Kingstowne location opened in August 2005 to much higher demand than the company originally anticipated. The 6625 S. Van Dorn Street property was a driving range before Topgolf built its facility there, introducing residents to tech-driven driving range target practice and more.

Craft Store A.C. Moore Is Closing All Locations

For over 30 years, our stores have been servicing the creative community with a vast selection of art and craft materials, with one common focus, the customer,” A.C. Moore CEO Anthony Piperno said in a release. “Plans for closing specific A.C. Moore locations will be shared in the upcoming weeks on our website.”

Parent company Nicole Crafts said it will end retail operations, but it has made a deal with competitor Michael's to re-open 40 stores under the Michael's brand. There is no set closing date yet for the Bailey's Crossroads area location. There is also an A.C. Moore further west near Fairfax City.

The Alexandria area already has several Michael's stores, including Bradlee Center, Potomac Yard and the Hybla Valley area.

Shoppers to Close Potomac Yard Store

The Shoppers grocery store at Potomac Yard is one of four in the region that will be closing permanently. The other stores that are closing are one in Manassas, and two in Maryland. Shoppers has 26 other locations. The company says that 13 of those locations will be sold to other grocery store companies (operating under the Shoppers flag for the time being). That includes the Burke location which is being sold to Lidl. The fate of the remaining 13 stores is uncertain, including the one in the Hybla Valley area at Mount Vernon Plaza and the one in Franconia at Manchester Lakes.

The Potomac Yard store will be closing sometime between now and the end of February.

Curbside Community Composting

While cleaning vegetables or scraping off dinner plates, do you sometimes think about the impact of food waste on the environment? As you read about global warming in the paper, with your coffee cup in hand, do you ever wonder if your coffee grounds could do more than add to the local landfill? If so, COMPOSTING might be right for you. Read on! And then check out compostcrew.com!

To introduce easy composting to our neighborhood at a low cost, members of the Stoneybrooke Community have the opportunity to join with The Compost Crew COMPOSTING PROGRAM and begin simple, clean, and convenient composting as a community. The Compost Crew will provide the tools (compost containers and bags) and the weekly at-home curbside pick-up services.

HOW WILL IT WORK? The Compost Crew will supply each participating household with an airtight bin and compostable bags. Each household only needs to separate out organic waste, just as we already do with our plastics and paper, and leave the composting bin at the curb on the designated day of the week. The waste will be processed at a permitted composting facility in Maryland. As an additional benefit, each household can request to receive finished compost twice per year.

WHAT CAN BE COMPOSTED? As a rule of thumb, anything that grows or is made from the Earth can go in the bin. This includes meat, dairy, vegetable and fruit scraps, coffee grounds and filters, tea and tea bags, egg shells, breads and other grains, napkins, paper towels, pizza boxes, dryer lint, etc. A comprehensive list is located here: [The List](#). By diverting the compostable portion of our solid waste away from the landfill and returning nutrients to our soil and food system, we significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, while conserving valuable nutrients and improving the health of our local soil.

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST? The rate will be based on the following scale:

<5 registrations: \$30/month

5-9 registrations: \$28/month

10-14 registrations: \$25.00/month

15-24 registrations: \$22.50/month

25-34 registrations: \$20.00/month

35-49 registrations: \$18.00/month

50+ registrations: \$16.00/month (note if you get significantly more than 50 registrations we can discuss further discounts)

The price for subscribing as an individual household outside of the program is \$32/month, so this program is a good deal. No long-term commitment is required.



Elizabeth Floyd, "Dahlias in Silver Creamer". Available at Principle Gallery, 208 King Street.

When calculating the long-term discounted rate for all community members, we will include any existing customers in the community in addition to new participants.

WHO MAY JOIN? Anyone in Stoneybrooke can join! Just email Kathleen at kathleen@thecompostcrew.com if you are interested in composting at your home.

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>

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

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 on-line 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/).

Dean's Dog Sitting



Hey do you need someone to watch your dog while you are on vacation or at work? If so I am here! My name is Dean, I am 12 years old and I am a local dog sitter. Here are a few reasons why you should pick me:

- my older brother has taught me many things in dog sitting
- I am young so I can run around and play with your dog
- I love dogs so I would be more than happy to help out

You can email me at- deanthebean6911@yahoo.com or call at 703-768-0895
I hope to see your dog soon!

Ladies!

Here's your chance to own a Real Housewives of Stoneybrooke wine glass.

Glasses are available to purchase for \$7.

Contact Rachel Moran (racheldyas@gmail.com) to place an order.

Cheers!



Stoneybrooke



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MEMBERSHIP FORM SEPTEMBER 2018 - DECEMBER 2019

Why join?

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

How to join:

1. Make out a \$20 check payable to 'SCA'
2. Fill out the form below and print.
3. Mail the form and check to the Stoneybrooke Treasurer:

Candy Thompson
6825 Lamp Post Lane
Alexandria, VA 22306

OR

1. Send \$20 via PayPal to scaboard@stoneybrooke.org.
2. Include the information in the form below.

Your Name: _____ (for the Community Directory)

Your Spouse's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Check One: Include us in the Community Directory OR Do not include us in the Directory

Email: _____ (To receive your copy of the Stoneybrooke Sentinel by email.
Not for Community Directory or other mailings.)

Visit us online at www.stoneybrooke.org!