

Stoneybrooke



OF FAIRFAX COUNTY CITIZENS ASSOCIATION, INC.

SENTINEL JANUARY 2020

Letter from the Board

Welcome to 2020! The start of a new year means a fresh round of resolutions and personal commitments to a “new you”, whatever that means. If you are like me, you have a laundry list of things that you either need to do more of, or do less of, in order to achieve the goals that you have set over the next 12 months. Whatever those goals are, just keep in mind that nothing comes without commitment and hard work and there is nothing that cannot be accomplished once you set your mind to it.

The first snow event is behind us and it brought to fruition every expectation of Washington DC winter weather and driving. Areas north of us suffered the worst of the storm but for us it was primarily just rain and freezing rain that hopefully had little impact on your evening commute. School dismissals and the federal government closing early created packed roadways but, in the end, it was really just nothing more than a crummy day. Use this first 24-hour storm as a rehearsal for things to come and be better prepared for the one or two good accumulations that we can expect before springtime rolls around. Grab your shovel out of the shed, get a fresh bag of sidewalk salt and dig the hat and gloves out from the back of the closet. When the snow comes, the best bet is to stay in but “cabin fever” has a tendency to set in quickly. Just plan accordingly.

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 salt 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.

When the snow does come, it will eventually melt and it has to go somewhere. Driving through the neighborhood earlier in the week, I noticed in many places there are still lots of leaves and debris left over from autumn on the ground. Also, along the curb, especially for those whose don't live on a hill, dirt and silt can quickly settle and accumulate as the water flows. The impact, with the leaves, sticks, and silt is in effect a dam that forms and prevents the waterflow into the storm drains. With some relatively mild weather forecasted over the next week or two (considering it is January) take some time to make sure the curb in front of your place, and your neighbors is clear and that runoff is unimpeded to the sewer.

That's it...2020 is underway and hopefully it is off to a great start for you and your family. Winter has just begun but when the next newsletter comes out, we will have a Superbowl champion, we will be talking about the groundhog's prediction, and either looking forward to, or dreading tax time. Point being is that if you are not a fan of the winter, spring really is just around the corner!

-Happy New Year from the SCA Board!

Upcoming Events

Help Fight Hunger by Helping Fill-a-Fastran Bus

January - February

Fairfax County's Stuff the Bus program is returning in January and February, collecting food donations for those in need in Fairfax County. Every week from Jan. 18 through Feb. 15, a Fastran bus will stop at a different locations to accept food donations.

The stops closest to Alexandria are:

- Saturday, Jan. 18: Cardinal Forest Giant, 8320 Old Keene Mill Road in Springfield, 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Saturday, Feb. 8: Annandale Giant, 7137 Columbia Pike in Annandale, 9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Saturday, Feb. 8: Falls Church Giant, 1230 W. Broad Street in Falls Church, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- Saturday, Feb. 15: Springfield Giant, 6426 Springfield Plaza in Springfield, 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
- Saturday, Feb. 15: Fort Hunt Safeway, 7900 Fort Hunt Road in Fort Hunt, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

While Fairfax County is one of the wealthiest in the nation, there is significant hunger in our community. According to Fairfax County's research:

- 8% of Fairfax County Public Schools students reported going hungry in the past month.
- 30% of Fairfax County Public Schools students receive free or reduced price lunches.
- 4.2% of Fairfax County residents access SNAP for food assistance.
- More than 75,000 Fairfax County residents live below the federal poverty level.

Community News

Franconia Shoppers Officially Closing

United Food & Commercial Workers Local 400, the union that represents Shoppers workers, said in a press release that the store will close on February 16 and that all employees currently working there will be laid off. UFCW Local 400 said that approximately 50 union employees work at the store, with an average of 16.5 years with the company.

The closing seemed all but inevitable after news broke last month that permit applications had been filed with Fairfax County to partition Shoppers into three different spaces for future businesses.

UNFI acquired Shoppers from another parent company in 2018. Since then 19 store closings or store sales have been announced, and the future of other Shoppers — including the Hybla Valley location at Mount Vernon Plaza — remain unclear.

Fairfax County Cable Service Survey Available

For many residents, cable (or at least Internet) service would be difficult to live without.

Now through Jan. 31, Fairfax County wants to hear from residents (and people who work in Fairfax County) about cable service options, prices, service and more.

Please take a few minutes to provide your feedback, as part of the cable TV franchise renewal process.

The survey is available at <http://cablesurvey.fairfaxcounty.sgizmo.com/s3>. There are plenty of open-ended questions asking for examples of the best and worst aspects of your cable service.

Fairfax County’s 2019 Most Popular Books

For a lot of people, cold winter nights call for a blanket, a comfortable seat on the couch and a good book (or ebook). Alexandria was named one of the country’s most well-read cities by Amazon.com in 2014; Washington, D.C. made the list in 2016, the last year Amazon.com released the list. If you’re looking for suggestions on books to add to your reading list, these were the most popular books from 2019 borrowed from the Fairfax County Public Library system.

Most Popular Adult Fiction:

- *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens
- *The Reckoning* by John Grisham
- *Kingdom of the Blind* by Louise Penny
- *Long Road to Mercy* by David Baldacci
- *Dark Sacred Night* by Michael Connelly

Most Popular Adult Nonfiction:

- *Educated: A Memoir* by Tara Westover
- *Becoming* by Michelle Obama
- *The Library Book* by Susan Orlean
- *Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis* by J.D. Vance
- *Fear: Trump in the White House* by Bob Woodward

Most Popular Teen:

- *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak
- *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas
- *The Hunger Games* by Suzanne Collins
- *The Giver* by Lois Lowry
- *To All the Boys I’ve Loved Before* by Jenny Han

Most Popular Children:

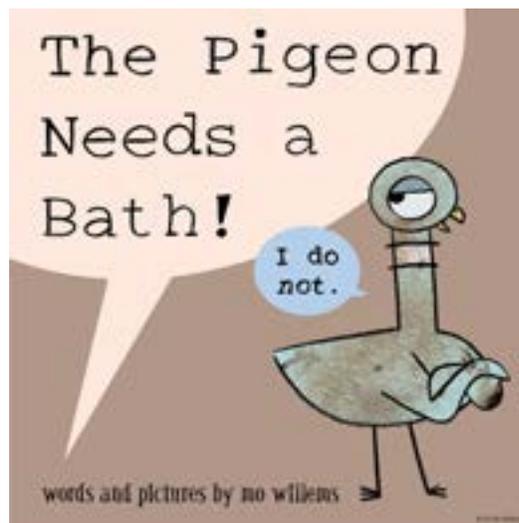
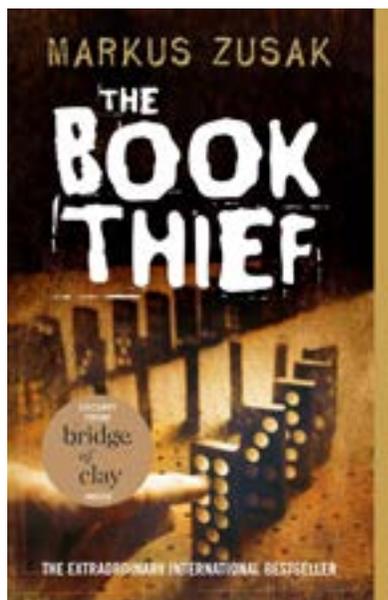
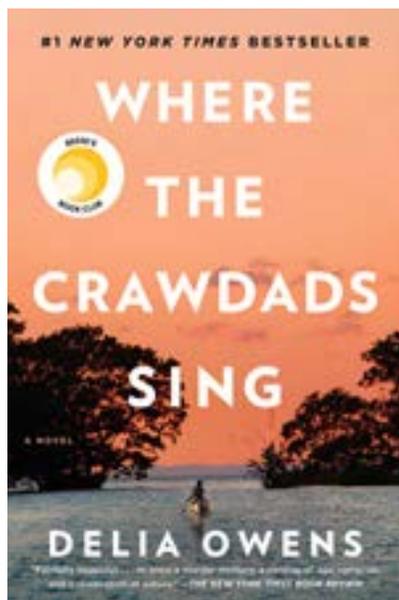
- *The Pigeon Needs a Bath!* by Mo Willems
- *The Duckling Gets a Cookie!?* by Mo Willems
- *Goldilocks and the Three Dinosaurs* by Mo Willems
- *That is Not a Good Idea!* by Mo Willems
- *The Day the Crayons Came Home* by Drew Daywalt

Most Popular eBook and eAudiobook (Adult):

- *Astrophysics for People in a Hurry* by Neil DeGrasse Tyson
- *Everything I Never Told You* by Celeste Ng
- *The Great Alone* by Kristin Hannah
- *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt
- *The Handmaid’s Tale* by Margaret Atwood

Most Popular eBook and eAudiobook (Children and Teen):

- *Mary Poppins* by P.L. Travers
- *The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak
- *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeleine L’engle
- *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them* by J.K. Rowling
- *Children’s Favorites, Volume 1: Disney Bedtime Favorites* from Disney Press



Mount Purrnon - Alexandria's First Cat Café Seeks Approval to Open this Spring

Alexandria will be getting its first cat café, which will combine food and drink service with separate areas featuring adoptable cats. Mount Purrnon Cat Café and Wine Bar applied for a special use permit from the city to open at 109 South Alfred Street.

Headed by Kristin Cowan, Mount Purrnon will act as a foster space for up to 15 adoptable cats from the Animal Welfare League of Arlington. Cats would be on first and second floor areas, while the separate café would be on the first floor. The pets will live at the property until adopted or if it's deemed appropriate to return them to the shelter.

Café offerings would include pre-packaged food, beer and wine in shatterproof containers. The cat areas will be open to customers to interact with the adoptable pets. Customers can bring food and drink into the cat areas, but cats are not allowed in the café area.

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.

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



OF FAIRFAX COUNTY CITIZENS ASSOCIATION, INC.

MEMBERSHIP FORM JANUARY 2020 - DECEMBER 2020

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!