

# Stoneybrooke



OF FAIRFAX COUNTY CITIZENS ASSOCIATION, INC.

---

## SENTINEL JUNE 2020

### Letter from the Board

Over the past couple of months, there have been numerous reasons why I believe we have one of the best neighborhoods in northern Virginia. If you are a member of one of the Facebook groups you most likely saw neighbors headed to the store, reaching out to see if anyone needed anything, or friends in critical need of something being happily helped with no expectation of anything in return. A true story...one of our neighbors was in need of some eggs and another, a complete stranger, reached out saying to just stop by; well the neighbor in need showed up at the wrong house and said "I am here for the eggs"...and without batting an eye, the unsuspecting homeowner went to the fridge and handed over some eggs. That is what it all boils down to... neighbors helping neighbors. Whether it is a lawn that needs mowed, or just some words of encouragement, there always seems to be someone in the right place at the right time to lend a helping hand.

The impact of the COVID-19 has impacted us all in ways that just months ago no one could have predicted. When the kids went back to school in January no one could have guessed that we would be moving our college students back home in mid-March, that the remainder of the school year for students of all ages would be distance learning, and that for many of us, telework would become the new way of life. Empty shelves at the grocery store, increased demands for toilet paper and hand sanitizer, and the cancelation of many of our favorite hobbies and past times has defined the spring of 2020. Despite eventual plans for the state to open back up, the new norm will most likely be far different from summer times past. And, if you are like me, you have a new found appreciation for the safety and sanctity of your own home.

We have seen our fair share of spring showers and there is lots of green outside. With lawns requiring attention every weekend, keep in mind that Fairfax County (and therefore your trash pickup service) is changing their rules for yard waste collection. Many private companies that service our area had temporarily suspended yard waste pick-up (as a non-essential activity) but I believe most are back to picking up organic debris, though it may be on a reduced schedule. Below is the link with lots of great information on current restrictions and recommendations for putting your limbs and clippings on the curb for pick up.

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/trash-and-yard-waste-collection-changes-explained>

The fresh air, the green grass, and the warm weather makes us all want to get outside...and by all, I mean the critters as well. I have had my first two snake sightings two weekends in a row as I was mowing the yard...he was checking me out and I was checking him out with neither of us sure of what to do next. Despite my disliking of them (huge understatement) I knew that he just wanted to go about his business and that he meant me no harm. Point is, just be on the lookout for them and other creatures as we are spending more time at home and outdoors. We all know what is native to the area and with wood line surrounding us we just all have to be vigilant. Keeping your property cleared of debris, yard maintained, and trash picked up goes a long ways in preventing unwanted visitors.

I mentioned earlier that many of us have been newly assigned to telework roles but for others it is just business as usual and to those folks we owe them a big thank you. The neighborhood is home to many first responders whose sacrifice can never be truly appreciated, but it goes beyond these great folks...plumbers, grocery store workers, many in the retail industry, and service industry are still going to work each and every day in order to help us maintain some resemblance of normalcy. To everyone...thank you.

While social distancing forces us to cancel the community yard sale and May social, it didn't prevent the Easter Bunny from making a visit! This was a great day!

*-SCA Board*



## Neighborhood Events

### Stoneybrooke Food Truck Socially Distant Summer

Saturday, June 13, 2020, 4-7pm at the corner of Stoneybrooke Lane and Lamp Post Lane

Due to the popularity of the Food Truck Socially Distant Summer Kick-Off, organizers are planning on bringing food trucks into the neighborhood every other Saturday (6/13; 6/27; 7/11; 7/25...).

This Saturday will feature THREE food trucks and a Kidcreate Studio Pop Up Shop!



- **Buskey's Hard Cider:** A Richmond-based hard cider company.
  - » Pre-order for take-out cans and growlers of hard cider or nitro-brewed coffee. Limited cider cans for walk-ups.
- **DC Slices:** A DC-based pizza food truck vendor
  - » Both pre-order and walk-up ordering will be available (with pre-ordering encouraged).
- **Anita's Frozen Cotton Candy:** Original New Orleans style shaved ice food truck vendor
  - » \$4 small / \$6 large – over 25 refreshing exotic flavors in regular and sugar free.
- **Kidcreate Studio:** A new Old Town art and craft studio just for kids
  - » They have art kits that you can pre-order to do at home in the price range of \$15 or less. They will bring examples to show the community.

All companies have ensured they are using the highest safety precautions

Volunteers are distributing flyers out to the neighborhood. In an effort to be environmentally conscience, we encourage you to recycle this flyer. This will be the final flyer distributed for the Food Truck events.

Please check Stoneybrooke Events website (<http://www.stoneybrooke.org/event/food-truck-summer-schedule/>) for updates and food truck vendor announcements (and menus / pre-order links, etc).

## Community News

### Local Farmers Markets Set to Open

The farmers market will open with guidelines following the governor's executive orders.

After delayed openings due to the coronavirus pandemic, Kingstowne Farmers Market and three others operated by the Fairfax County Park Authority will open in June. The Oak Marr, Annandale, McLean and Kingstowne markets are the latest of the park authority's 10 farmers markets scheduled to open. The Reston, Mount Vernon/McCutcheon, Burke, Wakefield and Lorton farmers markets opened in May. The opening date for the Herndon market has not been announced.

The Kingstowne market is open between 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. Fridays from June 19 to Oct. 30. It is located in the Giant parking lot at 5870 Kingstowne Towne Center. Pre-orders are encouraged but not required.

### **Fairfax County Libraries Start Curbside Pickup**

Fairfax County is beginning contact-free curbside pickup of items on hold Monday, June 1. Curbside pickup will happen between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday at all library branches. Library patrons can place items on hold online or call a library branch to request a specific books. Staff-selected grab bags based on reading level and preferences are also available.

Items should be returned to book drops, not staff or pickup tables. While book drops are open any time, the library is suggesting return times based on last names to accommodate returns of 500,000 items currently on loan.

- Mondays: Last names beginning with letters A-H
- Wednesdays: Last names beginning with letters I-Q
- Fridays: Last names beginning with letters R-Z

Interlibrary Loan (ILL) materials cannot be returned at this time. Patrons will be notified when items can be accepted.

### **Parking Lots Along GW Memorial Parkway Reopening**

The National Park Service is joining local park systems in restoring visitor access to parks along the George Washington Memorial Parkway in Northern Virginia. This includes reopening parking lots and restrooms that were closed due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Reopening began on May 29, and all parking lots and restrooms will be open by June 3. This includes Theodore Roosevelt Island, Gravelly Point, Fort Hunt Park, Jones Point Park, Collingwood Picnic Area, Riverside Park, Belle Haven Park and Fort Marcy. The parking lot at Great Falls Park has reopened, but the visitor center remains closed and fees are suspended. Gravelly Point visitors are reminded parking is not allowed in the grass area.

NPS says the reopening aligns with guidance from the White House, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and state and local public health officials. Visitors are asked to follow public health orders as well as avoid crowded areas and high-risk outdoor activities.

### **Workhouse Arts Center Revives Drive-In Movies**

The Workhouse Arts Center is opening a drive-in movie theater on its campus starting Friday, June 12, with movies to be shown Friday and Saturday evenings.

The first weekend will feature Beetlejuice on Friday, June 12 and Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone on Saturday, June 13. Showtime is 9 p.m., with gates opening at 8:15 p.m. Titles and ticket sales for the other weekends will be released the week of June 8. Links to purchase tickets can be found on the Workhouse Arts Center website at [www.workhousearts.org/drive-in-movies/](http://www.workhousearts.org/drive-in-movies/).

The parking lot will be limited to 75 vehicles at \$30 per vehicle. Larger trucks and vans will be parked in areas behind medium- and small-sized vehicles so that everyone will be able to view the screen.

All tickets must be purchased online. Audio will be delivered via FM transmitter. Guests should bring a portable radio or be prepared to tune their car radio to an FM station. There are also a number of apps for smartphones that guests can download to tune to the FM station.

### **Aldi Is Hiring for Its New Kingstowne Store While Also Preparing for Its Replacement**

Discount German grocer Aldi is currently hiring for its newest store, which will replace part of a 53,000-square-foot Toys R Us that shuttered in 2018 at 6001 Kingstowne Village Parkway. Aldi, which acquired the Toys R Us lease out of bankruptcy, is taking 23,000 square feet and Ashley Furniture took the other 30,000 square feet. The two are located in a larger retail building that is also home to a 20,000-square-foot La-Z-Boy store.

But in just a matter of years — it's unclear exactly how many — it will all come down.

Silver Spring firm The Halle Cos., owner of the 7.15-acre retail center at Kingstowne Boulevard and Kingstowne Village Parkway — as well as Kingstowne Towne Center across the street, and Kingstowne Shopping Center just down the road — has filed final development plans to redevelop the Aldi-anchored center as a 324-unit multifamily building. The application is scheduled for a Fairfax County Planning Commission hearing in July.

The plans call for 2.75 acres of open space — featuring a dog park and activity lawn in place of surface parking — courtyard, pools, lounge areas, outdoor seating, fitness center and club room.

The application states that this development will occur “upon the conclusion” of the Aldi and La-Z-Boy lease terms. The Aldi lease runs at least until 2022, according to documents tied to the Toys R Us bankruptcy, but there may be options to extend in 5-year increments, pushing Halle's residential plans out perhaps a dozen years.

### **More Affordable Housing Slated For Huntington and North Hill**

Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority and affordable housing developer Wesley Housing announced the closing on a development called The Arden. The 126-unit, seven-story multifamily development will be located one block from the Huntington Metro station at 2317 Huntington Avenue.

Construction will begin in June and is expected to be completed by June 2022. Once completion is near, Wesley Housing will accept applications from the public and referrals from the Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority waiting list.

The Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority also announced work will begin on a development in the North Hill area. The area, home to the former Woodley-Nightingale Mobile Home Park, was purchased by the authority decades ago. Part of the land became the Woodley Hills Estates mobile home community, while the remaining 33 acres will become the North Hill development.

The development will include five four-story buildings located along Richmond Highway with 216 affordable multifamily apartments and 63 units of affordable independent living for older adults. In addition, 175 townhouses along Dart Drive will be priced at market rate. A 12-acre public park is also planned as part of the development east of the apartments and north of townhouses. A public plaza will be located at Richmond Highway and Dart Drive.

The affordable housing development is CHPPENN, LLC. Project staging and grading will begin this summer, and construction will happen between fall 2020 and summer 2022. Occupancy is planned for fall 2022.



*Rendering of the proposed North Hill property*

### **Confederate Statue Removed In Old Town Alexandria**

The controversial Confederate Appomattox statue was removed earlier this month from its place in Old Town Alexandria by the group that owned it. The statue, belonging to the Daughters of the Confederacy, was first put up in 1889 at Prince and Washington streets as a tribute to Alexandria's Confederate soldiers.

The statue has been a source of controversy for many years. Aside from serving as a symbol of the city's conflicting racial history, it has also been the site of traffic crashes.

Alexandria's local officials have worked to remove other Confederate symbols as well. The city officially re-named Jefferson Davis Highway (Route 1) as Richmond Highway in early 2019. In 2017, the city removed a picture of Robert E. Lee from City Hall.

### **AMC Theatres Could Close**

The movie theater chain said Wednesday it may not survive the coronavirus pandemic.

AMC Theatres said Wednesday it has "substantial doubt" the company can remain in business after the coronavirus pandemic forced the closure of all of its locations.

In a regulatory filing, AMC officials said the company is generating "effectively no revenue."

All AMC locations are closed through June, and the company said it has enough money to reopen theaters this summer. However, if not allowed to reopen, the company said, it may be unable to borrow the funds needed to continue operating.

Even when theaters are allowed to reopen, AMC predicts it will still have problems should entertainment companies decide to delay the release of new films.

### **La Tasca Files for Bankruptcy**

Another casualty of the coronavirus pandemic, La Tasca announced that it is filing Chapter 7 bankruptcy and closing its Old Town Alexandria and Rockville, Maryland restaurants.

In a note on its website, La Tasca's owners noted they were grateful for all the good years and thankful to their team and the community for their success.

"We know this is an unbelievably hard time for those in the hospitality industry. This decision was not an easy one, but we did not see a path forward for a restaurant that relies on groups gathering and sharing food," they wrote.

### **Covering The Corridor Calls It Quits**

Regular readers of the website may have noticed a slowdown in articles over the past couple months, particularly in the past few weeks. For a variety of reasons - professional, personal and financial — the publisher of the online publication has decided to cease publication of Covering The Corridor.

Covering The Corridor was founded in 2016 to help fill a gap in local news in the Route 1 corridor of Fairfax County. The site grew steadily each year, and 2020 was on pace to shatter last year's records in both page views and visitors.

From Phil Creed, Publisher of Covering the Corridor: "It is a tough time for local news publications nationwide. I hope that the Richmond Highway area is eventually home to a robust online publication that keeps residents informed, does real reporting and helps build community. The residents of this wonderful area deserve nothing less."

**Some Cicadas This Year. Many More Next Year.**

Entomologists are expecting a healthy number of cicadas this spring in Northern Virginia, but next spring's emergence (in 2021) will be one for the record books.

A number of news reports are predicting a lot of cicadas in Virginia — but the large brood emerging this spring will be in West Virginia, Southwest Virginia and North Carolina, not around here. This spring will be “typical” for cicadas in the Alexandria area, meaning we'll see (and hear) some but they won't be everywhere.

2021 is when Brood 10, the infamous 17-year cicadas, are expected to arrive here in the Alexandria area. Brood 10 last emerged in the D.C. metro area in 2004.

Cicadas, while loud and crunchy and scary (to some because they're quite large), are mostly harmless to humans. In fact, a variety of restaurants have come out with cicada-based dishes. Cicadas are high in protein, glucose-free and low fat.

Pet owners should try to prevent dogs from eating the bugs or the carcasses, as they can cause stomach upset.

**Key Sources**

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

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

Fort Hunt Herald | <https://forthuntherald.com/>

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

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

Washington Business Journal | <https://www.bizjournals.com/washington/>

**Reminders****Stay Connected**

Stay up to date on neighborhood happenings by visiting the Stoneybrooke SCA website ([www.stoneybrooke.org/](http://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/](https://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/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1034208403392227/)).

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](http://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.

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@compostcrew.com](mailto:kathleen@compostcrew.com) if you are interested in composting at your home.

Thank you!  
Kathleen