

# Stoneybrooke



OF FAIRFAX COUNTY CITIZENS ASSOCIATION, INC.

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## SENTINEL SEPTEMBER 2020

### Letter from the Board

The unofficial end of summer has come and gone and what a summer it has been. Hard to believe how quickly the time has passed between Memorial Day cookouts, Independence Day celebrations, and the Labor Day weekend. Football is finally back on our TVs though it is still unclear for many of the college fans if you will be able to root for your favorite team; the Big Ten and PAC-12 have both erred on the side of caution and the rivalry game between Virginia and Virginia Tech has been delayed. But, there is so much to love about this time of year that it is hard not to be excited...the cooler weather, the fall colors, fire pits, and for many, the creativity that can be applied to pumpkin spice.

Many were able to get out and enjoy the food trucks that were one of the summer's highlights. We had eight weekends where the tastes of Northern Virginia came directly to our doors. Each was a great opportunity to get out of the house and meet new neighbors, or say hi to ones that you had missed, and just enjoy something different for dinner. A huge thanks to Rachel Moran who made this happen and to Brian LaFleur and Crosstown Sounds whose music made the events that much better.

There will be one additional food truck event for the summer on September 26th. This will serve as our fall community meeting and the intent is to vote two new members onto the board. There are two nominations for 2021 Board Positions to replace Bill Dorr (Chairman) and Candy Thompson (Treasurer) stepping down after December: Kevin Arwood is nominated for Board Chairman and Margaret Calilang is nominated for Board Treasurer.

Some additional upcoming events to mark on your calendar:

The community yard sale is a go for October 3rd. The spring event was canceled out of an abundance of caution; however, we believe that this can be done safely and with minimal risk for those who choose to participate. We will put the sign out along N. Kings Highway the week prior and will begin advertising within the neighborhood on or about October 1st. It will also be posted on Facebook to the local yard sale pages. This is a great opportunity to pass along some of your treasures that are no longer needed.

We are also working on details for a 2020 Halloween event later in October. There will be more to follow on this in the October newsletter.

As quickly as we have seen the summer pass, it won't be long before we are planning Thanksgiving dinners and the December holidays. As the New Year approaches, a friendly request to continue to support the neighborhood community association through the voluntary annual dues for calendar year 2021. These dues go along ways towards making your neighborhood what it is...one of the best in Northern Virginia. Just a few of the things that the association uses your contributions for are the upkeep of the barrier between Stoneybrooke and Woodstone (which limits traffic in our neighborhood to residents and guests), the Easter Bunny's visit, and the spring cookouts. Additional information is at the end of the newsletter.

That is it for this September. For all of us whose favorite time of year is finally here...enjoy it and continue to be a great neighbor to those around you.

-SCA Board

## Upcoming Neighborhood Events

- Stoneybrooke (Socially Distant) Community Picnic - Saturday, September 26th, 4-7 pm in the Old Quarry
- Terrace cul-de-sac
  - » Order from Food trucks
  - » Jam out to Crosstown Sounds
  - » Vote on new SCA Board members
- Fall Yard Sale - Saturday, October 3th (rain date Sunday, October 4th)

## Community News and Events

### First Alexandria Lidl Opens

Earlier this month the Lidl on Little River Turnpike had a grand opening. Lidl is taking the place of a shuttered Staples store in the Pinecrest Plaza shopping center.

Lidl launched in the 1970s in Europe and arrived in the United States in 2017. Most of Lidl's offerings are from its own private label.

Be sure to bring your own bag — Lidl does not provide plastic or paper grocery bags for customers.

### Fairfax County 'Stuff The Bus' Food Drives Returns

Fairfax County's Stuff the Bus food drives are held twice a year at times when donations are known to drop off: after winter holidays and over the summer. This year, the COVID-19 pandemic is increasing demand for assistance.

Stuff the Bus food drives will take place in buses at 21 locations throughout Fairfax County and Fairfax City. To allow for social distancing, buses will be parked in less-frequented locations rather than grocery store parking lots. Buses will be collecting donations at all locations from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sept. 12 and 26.

The most common items requested by nonprofit partners for Stuff the Bus food drives include: canned tuna, salmon or chicken; soup; canned pasta; macaroni and cheese; canned fruit in light syrup or juice; peanut butter; jelly; bags of dry beans; brown or white rice; instant potatoes; canned tomatoes; pancake mix; pancake syrup; hot and cold cereal; canned vegetables; canned beans; and health snacks like raisins and granola bars.

See here for the Stuff the Bus locations: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/neighborhood-community-services/stuff-the-bus](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/neighborhood-community-services/stuff-the-bus)

### Spirit Halloween Opens for the Season

Spirit Halloween has started to open its 1,400 U.S. locations in anticipation of Halloween 2020. The company typically occupies vacant storefronts leading up to Halloween season, and this year it will be at 6721-B Frontier Drive in Springfield.

Halloween this year will fall a bit more on the tricky side as families navigate the usual treat-filled holiday amid a global pandemic. To that end, Spirit Halloween stores will still be there to help with costumes and decorations that range from creepy to charming. Each store sells costumes, Halloween décor, and accessories for children, teens, and adults.

The world's largest specialty Halloween retailer also is calling for people across America to apply for the many seasonal positions. Each year, the company employs 28,000 seasonal workers.

### Drive-In Entertainment Series Comes To Springfield Town Center

A drive-in entertainment series called The Parking Lot Social will be arriving at Springfield Town Center on Sept. 23. The two-week event features an array of socially-distant fun such as movies, comedy and trivia broadcast from a pop-up stage to cars.

Among the events planned are adult comedy nights, movies, The Big Weekender party nights, and the family-friendly Social Kids. The Big Weekender is a socially-distant mix of Car-A-Oke, Boom Boom Bingo, Silent Disco DJ Battles, Trivia Contests, and more entertainment enjoyed from the car. The Social Kids version includes a Big Family Trivia Contest, Boy v. Girl and Parent v. Kid Silent Disco, kids themed Car-A-Oke, and Bingo. The movie nights include midnight screenings and family-friendly options.

Tickets start at \$39. The event address is Springfield Town Center, 6500 Springfield Mall, Springfield, VA. For more information, visit [www.theparkinglotsocial.com/tour/springfield-va](http://www.theparkinglotsocial.com/tour/springfield-va).

### American Horticultural Society to Sell River Farm Property

The American Horticultural Society is planning to sell its 25-acre property and historic building, River Farm, as part of an acquisition by a national trade association.

The AHS may be acquired by the American Public Gardens Association, formerly known as the American Association of Botanical Gardens and Arboreta. APGA is a professional trade and advocacy association of public gardens and public garden caretakers, not a public membership organization like AHS.

River Farm is listed on the Fairfax County Inventory of Historic Sites, but that inventory does not provide the property with any special protections. According to Fairfax County's historic inventory website, being listed is an "honorary designation, and does not impose restrictions or limits as to what an owner can do with his property. The Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan ... encourages their preservation when possible."

Despite its age, the property is not listed on the Virginia Landmarks Register or the National Register of Historic Places.

While the property would be prime land for a significant development, AHS officials wrote on the website that they would be looking for a buyer "who respects the surrounding neighborhoods as well as the conservation and historical value of the property."

However, residents who live near River Farm have said on the discussion board Nextdoor that they are concerned that zoning could change after the sale, which could lead to development and loss of the peaceful, open space.



In the meantime, the property remains open for tours and events. Upcoming events include yoga in the garden, a garden-based skin care workshop and a wildflower watercolor workshop.

River Farm is open to the public from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Admission is free but donations are accepted. Group tours may be arranged for a fee.

Learn more about the property and AHS at [www.AHSGardening.org](http://www.AHSGardening.org).

### **Lorton Indoor Ski Facility May Move Forward**

Alpine-X LLC, a holding company based in Virginia, submitted a proposal in late 2018 to redevelop a section of the I-95 Lorton CDD Landfill into an indoor ski facility, which will also include a hotel, restaurants and shops.

The project proposal may also include the development of tubing, a gravity mountain coaster and a ropes course. The ski area will have multiple runs, including a bunny hill for beginners. The ski runs will slope at about 20 degrees, to comply with ski completion standards, according to the project proposal.

The Fairfax Peak proposal also includes the possible future development of a waterpark and other facilities.

Alpine-X needs to conduct studies to make sure the land will be viable for the construction of the project because of the proposal's complexity. For the project to move forward with development, further regulatory review and permission is needed.

### **King Street Metro Renovation Set to Deliver in 2021**

The project started in November 2018, but has "experienced some delays," to put it gently. The global coronavirus pandemic has squeezed supply chains and put many construction projects locally and globally on a longer schedule, but this project was running late before the pandemic arrived.

When the project is complete, there will be more bus bays, a dedicated ride share and kiss-and-ride area, improved pedestrian access and more lighting, along with new landscaping. There will be no parking in the lot to the south of the Metro station like there was in the past.

The first phase, focused on a new bus loop, was supposed to open in March 2020 but is now being "reassessed" according to the project website. "City staff are working with the construction contractor to provide an estimated date on which the bus loop will reopen and Phase 2 (partial reconstruction of Diagonal Road) will begin." The first phase was supposed to last just 18 months and had started in late 2018.

The hope is that the bus loop will be completed and usable in the next four to six months. The full project, which includes partial reconstruction of Diagonal Road and repaving the parking lot, should be done by the end of the spring in 2021.

Learn more about the project and its history at [www.alexandriava.gov/tes/info/default.aspx?id=85338](http://www.alexandriava.gov/tes/info/default.aspx?id=85338).

### **Fairfax County Named A Top Place For Working From Home**

Fairfax County made the top 30 in a study on the best places to support a working from home environment.

The pandemic has shed a light on the ongoing discussion of working remotely becoming prevalent in the workforce. With some jobs switching to a work from home approach, the National Association of REALTORS decided to conduct a study of places poised to continue supporting this working approach. The National Association of REALTORS examined 3,142 counties that are able to support a strong remote working environment.

Fairfax County and three other Northern Virginia jurisdictions were scored in the top 30, representing 1 percent of counties with at least 5,000 households in 2019. Fairfax County came in 30th, while Loudoun County was fifth, Falls Church City was 19th, and Arlington County was 23rd.

For Fairfax County, the study results page noted an estimated 6.4 percent of the population works from home, and at least 39 percent work in office jobs. However, the county was classified as an expensive area, as 26 percent of households with a mortgage spend at least 30 percent of income on housing.

**Key Sources**

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/](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/](http://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/](http://www.facebook.com/groups/1034208403392227/)).



*Food trucks*



*Crosstown Sounds*



*Winning Sidewalk Art by Clarissa*

# 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](mailto:scaboard@stoneybrooke.org).
2. Include the information in the form below.

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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](http://www.stoneybrooke.org)!