

Stoneybrooke



OF FAIRFAX COUNTY CITIZENS ASSOCIATION, INC.

SENTINEL JULY 2020

Letter from the Board

Is the “unofficial” halfway point of summer really over? The 4th of July weekend has come and gone without the large gatherings and fireworks shows that typically define the celebration of our independence. Instead, friends and neighbors celebrated locally and in smaller groups with barbeques and get-togethers where comradery could be balanced with social responsibility. What we have to look forward to are the dog days of summer with 90 degree days and the D.C. humidity without the local pools and waterparks that in years past have provided relief. Hard to believe that fall is just around the corner. (Seems like Memorial Day was just last week!)

Spring and summer blended in together this year due to the virus and even in mid-July, we are still trying to piece together what the academic school year is going to look like. Institutes at all levels, from preschool through the traditional four-year universities are still finalizing hybrid plans that will combine on-site instruction with distance learning in an effort to balance some sense of normalcy with published health and prevention guidelines. Regardless of what the final decisions are, this school year will look much different from years past.

While organized activities, parks and recreations areas are just now beginning to open up, continue to keep safety at the forefront of all of your summer activities. Hydration coupled with heat injury prevention is the key to an incident free summer. Don't ignore the warning signs of heat cramps and heat exhaustion while outside for both work and play. Activities don't have to be strenuous to be dangerous depending upon multiple factors such as age, fitness level or previous heat injuries. Talk with your kids and ensure they know when enough is enough, especially now that they might be out playing on their own, without the benefit of a coach or other adult to keep an eye out for them.

Our spring and early summer rainy days seem to have been few and far between this year...but mosquitos and other unwanted guests are always a part of summer. Several neighbors have kept us all updated, through Facebook, on their deer, fox, owl, and (sadly) snake sightings within the neighborhood. For the latter, while most of us (I assume) prefer they keep to themselves in the wood line and away from our yards, what has been seen in the neighborhood have all been nonvenomous and harmless. I am not ashamed to say that I don't like them...never have and never will, but truth be told, they do serve a purpose and do far more good than harm in keeping disease carrying vermin in check. A good reason to keep your property cleaned up and free of cozy hiding places.

Security and petty theft has been an issue over the last month or so with reports of cars and even a few sheds being gone through. Unsecured vehicles are always targets in the middle of the night. These unwelcome visitors are looking for the quick score; they are not looking to break windows and pick locks...their MO is to check for unlocked vehicles and unsecured property, grab whatever they can, and make a quick get away. Your only defense is to secure your vehicles and remove valuables each night. Despite all our security cameras and the great work of the FCPD, I think we can all agree that petty thieves are very hard to catch and that prevention is our only real option.

In closing...what a great idea the food trucks have been for the neighborhood. By the time this is published, I believe we would have had four weekends where neighbors have had a chance to gather (smartly), visit with old friends and perhaps meet some new ones, all while tasting some of the best of what the local area has to offer. Just one more reason to love this neighborhood.

That is it for this July. Sounds like by the time we publish next month we may have Nationals baseball to follow and a renamed football team to root for in the fall (fingers crossed). This time last year we were on the countdown to the start of college football...who knows what this year will bring?

-SCA Board

Upcoming Events

Alexandria Makers Market ‘Work/Shop Week’

Seedling Collective, August 3rd - 7th

Alexandria Makers Market (AMM) celebrates its one-year anniversary with a “Work/Shop Week” pop-up at The Seedling Collective, Aug. 3 - 7. This will provide an excellent opportunity for the public to learn some new skills and shop from an eclectic mix of some of the finest creatives based in Alexandria.

AMM was founded by local Alexandrian Alyssa Kovach, owner of A|VA Apparel, and strives to build a creative community with any crafter, creator, designer, dreamer, inventor, innovator, maker or shaker in Alexandria, Virginia. AMM also aims to share creative expertise with a larger audience. During the “Work/Shop Week” different DIY classes for kids and adults will be offered from a variety of local makers.



Pop-Up Schedule of Events

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9 a.m. - noon	Kids Camps	Kids Camps	Kids Camps	Kids Camps	Kids Camps
Noon – 2 p.m.	Retail	Retail	Retail	Retail	Retail
2 – 4 p.m.	Danish Paper Folding	Leatherworking	Danish Paper Folding	Headshot Mini Sessions	Adult Workshop
4 – 6 p.m.	Retail	Retail	Retail	Retail	Retail
6 – 8 p.m.	Kick Off Make & Take	Leatherworking	Podcast on a Budget	Adult Workshop	Wrap-up celebration: Lacklustre performance (location TBD)

All of the workshop leaders will have their products available for purchase throughout the week. See selections from Hatch, Sophisticate Supply, Coutts Creations, A|VA Apparel, and more! For social distancing purposes, retail hours are limited to non-workshop hours, and masks must be worn by everyone that enters the shop.



Stop by Monday, Aug. 3 from 5 - 8 p.m. for our Make & Take Kickoff event. The first 50 customers will receive a free make-and-take kit, no purchase necessary!

Check out all of the workshop offerings and purchase tickets at www.alexandriamakersmarket.com.

Community News

Fairfax County Delays Start of New School Year

Fairfax County Public School (FCPS) students will have an extended summer break after the School Board voted to delay the start of the new 2020-21 school year until after September's Labor Day holiday.

Instead of starting school on Tuesday, Aug. 25, 2020 as planned, students won't begin their academic studies until Tuesday, Sept. 8. The two-week delay was announced on Thursday, July 9 along with the revised calendar.

"At their July 9 business meeting, the Fairfax County School Board approved delaying the start of the 2020-21 school year to provide staff members additional time to plan instruction and schedules, provide professional staff development, and finalize transportation and other operational details," FCPS said.

The move comes after U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos this week criticized the public school system for not offering full-time in-person tuition for students this fall, due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Fairfax County to Rename Robert E. Lee High School

Built in 1958, Robert E. Lee High School, is one of about a dozen schools nationwide named for the Confederate general. About 1,800 students attend the school, which is in the Franconia neighborhood.

FCPS is now asking for community input and is scheduled to vote on the new name July 23. The new name will go into effect by the start of school in August.

A one-month public comment period is happening now and will continue through the voting on July 23. A community meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 15, for community members to provide feedback on the recommended names for the school.

Residents may also provide feedback via email to region3admin@fcps.edu. The School Board will hold a public hearing on the name change on Wednesday, July 22, at 4 p.m.

Lee High School is not the only one in this area facing calls for a change: A group of residents are also calling to change the name of Alexandria's T.C. Williams High School, named for a local superintendent who opposed desegregation in schools.

Floating Litter Trap Helps Clean Little Hunting Creek

This year, Fairfax County took a step forward in ensuring the overall quality and cleanliness of the Potomac Watershed by installing a Bandalong Litter Trap to collect litter at Little Hunting Creek, a tidal tributary located just north of Mount Vernon.

Following rain storms, floating trash like plastic water bottles wash down into storm drains and into Little Hunting Creek. The outdated drainage systems of the properties in that area drains directly into the creek, bringing pollution with it. Often, larger items find their way to the area, as well.

The Bandalong Litter Trap is safe and does not have any nets or fencing underneath that could cause harm to local wildlife. The system has proved effective in collecting trash in waterways in Australia for more than 18 years. There are four Bandalong Litter Traps along the Anacostia River in the District and two more along that watershed in Maryland.

Although the success of the Bandalong Litter Trap at Little Hunting Creek has yet to be evaluated and quantified, the Bandalong could prove to be an effective solution to the trash pollution of Cameron Run and similarly affected waterways in the area.

Hundreds of New Apartments Proposed for Southeast Old Town

The Heritage garden apartments could be demolished to make room for more than 800 apartments. A developer has proposed a massive new residential development in Southeast Old Town, replacing The Heritage apartments.

The first phase of the new development, which is under review now, would include 474 apartments, with a mix of affordable and market-rate units. More apartments could be built in the coming years and the development could include more than 800 residential units by the time it is finished, Washington Business Journals reported. More than 200 of those would be affordable.

Heritage at Old Town PropCo, the LLC formed to own the development, has submitted designs to Alexandria city officials for the new development. Those designs go before the Board of Architectural Review this Wednesday, July 15, with a request to demolish three of the current apartment building and a request for concept review.

The City's staff report includes multiple requests for design changes and notes that there may be archaeological findings of significance during construction, as the new development would be built in "The Dip" (also called "The Bottoms") neighborhood, which is significant for its Black history in the 1800s.

The developer is also proposing working with the City and residents to reimagine Wilkes Street Park in the future as part of the project.

Washington Redskins Name and Logo Going Away After 87 Years

Washington Redskins owner Dan Snyder announced the team is getting rid of the Redskins name after 87 years with it. The sports franchise said it plans to reveal a new name at a later date.

The decision to change the name comes after Snyder famously said in 2013 that he would never change the team name, when asked about protests and lawsuits against the nickname.

For decades, Native Americans and others criticized the team for using what they deemed a racial slur for its nickname. But the NFL and the team's corporate sponsors stood behind Snyder and the team's previous owner, Jack Kent Cooke, who refused to acknowledge the troubling nature of the name in the face of years of protests and lawsuits.

The Washington franchise was formed in 1932 as the Boston Braves in Boston under the ownership of George Preston Marshall. The following year, the team changed to the Boston Redskins. The team relocated south from Boston to Washington in 1937.

D.C. Mayor Muriel E. Bowser recently said the Redskins should change their name if they want to move back to the District. "I think it's past time for the team to deal with what offends so many people," Bowser said in a radio interview. "And this is a great franchise with a great history that's beloved in Washington. And it deserves a name that reflects the affection that we've built for the team."

Last week, Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan said during a TV appearance to promote his memoir, amid speculation he's testing the waters for presidential run in 2024, that it's time for the Redskins to change the NFL team's name. Hogan's state has hosted the team's games for more than two decades.

Mount Vernon Continues to Reopen

George Washington's Mount Vernon recently reopened part of the mansion as part of a phased approach to open features to visitors. Because of the ongoing pandemic, timed tickets are required and capacity is limited in the mansion.

Other open features include outbuildings, the Slave Memorial and Cemetery, Museum exhibits, historic area and grounds, Pioneer Farm, Photo Cruises on the Potomac, the Shops at Mount Vernon, gardens, Forest Trail, and the Washingtons' Tomb. The Mount Vernon Inn Restaurant is only open for takeout and delivery.

Features remaining closed are the Distillery and Gristmill, Hands on History Room, Washington Library, Revolutionary War 4D Theater, Food Court Pavilion, and Be Washington Theater.

The tour covers the first floor of the mansion. Face coverings are required in the mansion in accordance with the governor's order. Same-day tickets are available at the gate on a first-come, first-served basis. Tickets are particularly likely to sell out on weekends. To buy tickets and see more visitor information, visit www.mount-vernion.org.

New Fit Body Boot Camp Gym Opens

An indoor boot camp gym that combines bodyweight exercises and minimal equipment is now open on Telegraph Road. The gym had planned to open in March, but coronavirus put those plans on hold. Now that Virginia is in phase two of the Virginia Forward reopening plan, gyms can reopen with capacity limits. The gym will be offering a 6-week virtual challenge to its members, as well as a special 21-Day program at half the price. In-person classes are available.

Fit Body Boot Camp is at 6937-B Telegraph Road, near Grounded Coffee. Learn more at fitbodybootcamp.com/10483-alexandria-va/.

Capitol Snow Shaved Ice Expands

Capitol Snow Shaved Ice, a frozen snack truck owned by a local teacher, is parked on Richmond Highway and in Franconia to help all of us stay cool this summer.

The brains behind the business belong to Mark Spicer, who also works as a physical education teacher at Forestdale Elementary School in Springfield. His mother and business partners makes all of the fruit flavored syrups. All of the fruit used is locally sourced from Nalls Produce in Kingstowne.

Before starting his teaching job at Forestdale five years ago, Spicer was a part of a non-profit organization that taught kids how to ride bikes. As the bike technician, Spicer was driving trucks and trailers all over the country but was looking for an opportunity to stay in the Springfield area.

Spicer had a second trailer custom made and set it up outside the BP gas station at 6201 Franconia Road. Given all closures and restrictions due to the pandemic, he feels fortunate to be able to continue to serve shaved ice treats safely outside.

He was also invited by the pastor of Pillar Church of Woodlawn, at 9001 Richmond Hwy., to set up his trailer outside of the church.

Besides their delectably sweet homemade fruit flavors, Capitol Snow likes to shake things up with special toppings and add-ons such as ice-cream on the bottom of the shaved ice and a Baltimore favorite — shaved ice topped with sticky marshmallow fluff.

Stay updated on Capitol Snow's whereabouts and offers by visiting their website at www.capitolsnow.com/.

Wegmans to Close In-Store Pubs

Wegmans will be focusing more on fast, casual, grab-and-go food and eliminating its restaurants in its stores including the one on Telegraph Road. The sit-down restaurant included a variety of American and other fare, all cooked with Wegmans food.

Wegmans plans to focus on fast, casual meal solutions available in stores, for pickup, and through delivery.

Key Sources

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

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

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

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

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!

