

Stoneybrooke

OF FAIRFAX COUNTY CITIZENS ASSOCIATION, INC.

SENTINEL
APRIL 2021

Letter from the Board

Another winter has come and gone for Northern Virginia and the Stoneybrooke community and I assume most neighbors are ready to welcome in spring with open arms. As the lawns turn green and the trees starting to bud it won't be long before we are making plans for Memorial Day cookouts and summer getaways...plans that for many have been on hiatus for the past year.

The warmer weather accompanied by longer days have more residents out exercising, walking the dogs, shooting hoops, or doing any other number of outdoor activities. Speed is always a top concern for vehicles with the geography of the neighborhood being more to blame than anyone's bad intentions. While navigating the big hill, it is easy to naturally gain speed going down and then to inadvertently give your vehicle a little extra gas on the way up...without really thinking about it. Please continue to keep safety and vehicle speed in mind when you are behind the wheel and always be on the lookout for children.

With yards comes the inevitable yard work. While many opt to mulch or leave the clippings from the mower where they lay, others prefer to use bagging system and dispose of the waste. Below is the latest from the Fairfax County website regarding the elimination of plastic bags for yard waste in favor of paper bags or reusable containers. Even though Stoneybrooke refuse services are provided by private companies (you have several to choose from), at the end of the day, it all goes to the same place so expect them to adhere to the new policy as well.



Eliminating the Use of Plastic Bags for the Collection of Yard Waste



Beginning on March 1, 2021, Fairfax County **eliminated** the use of plastic bags for the collection of yard waste. Plastic bags are bad for the environment - they get torn and mixed in with yard waste. That becomes part of the compost that we use in our gardens, and those microplastics end up in local streams, affecting water quality.

Bring yard waste to the I-66 Transfer Station or the I-95 Landfill Complex.

NOT Accepted:

- » Tree stumps
- » Food waste
- » Flower pots, planters, or trays
- » Lumber, treated wood, or pallets
- » Sawdust, dirt, mulch, or sod
- » Yard waste in plastic bags
- » Noxious, diseased, and invasive plants

Accepted Yard Waste:

- » Grass clippings, leaves
- » Straw
- » Brush, small prunings
- » Branches
- » Weeds
- » Flowers



What can you do instead?

- » Let the grass clippings fertilize the lawn.
- » Try backyard composting.
- » Use reusable containers.
- » Use paper yard waste bags.



Visit our site to learn more about sustainable yard waste management options such as grasscycling and composting.

With spring cleaning in full swing, there is a host of information regarding trash and recycling on the Fairfax County website. <https://Fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-and-trash>

Humans aren't the only ones shaking off the winter doldrums and getting out and about. Four legged ones, and even worse, the "no-legged" ones will become more active as spring matures. Deer, fox, groundhogs and the occasional opossum probably don't bother too many folks but we do have several residents who share their snake encounters on social media. No one dislikes snakes more than I but at the end of the day, they are more afraid of you than you are them and are an important part of our local ecology. (Do like me and just keep telling yourself that!). The vast majority of snakes found in our area are harmless (the exception being copperheads which are easily identifiable) and in leaving them alone they will continue to be a valuable tool in combating your rodent population. The best thing you can do is make your yard and property unattractive to unwanted visitors. Leaves, tree limbs, brush that has accumulated or is overgrown, and left over stacks of firewood are a VIP invitation for critters of all types to take up residence.

Additional information on all of Virginia's wildlife and how to prevent or deal with run-ins can be found at the below listed link from the Virginia Department of Wildlife and Resources: <https://dwr.virginia.gov/wildlife/nuisance>

Keeping your property unattractive to unwanted guests applies to the two-legged ones just like the four-legged and slithering ones. Vantage, Groveton, Hybla Valley, Beacon Hill, and Virginia Hills, have all had middle of the night car door "checkers" captured on security cameras and video doorbells looking to make a quick score. I don't know that we have had any reports of actual "breaking"...just the entering when vehicles are left unsecured or something of potential value is in sight. Just stay vigilant and hit your key FOB one more time before bed each night.

The community yard sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 1st. This is a great opportunity to get outside, meet some folks, get rid of some of your trash and maybe stumble upon a treasure that one of your neighbors is selling. It typically runs from 8am until 11-"ish" so let's hope for a nice spring day. The rain date is Sunday, May 2nd and if the entire weekend is a washout, we will move it to the following weekend.

That is it for this month...let's hope the "April showers" are just that...just enough to bring spring into full bloom!

-SCA Board



Upcoming Neighborhood Events

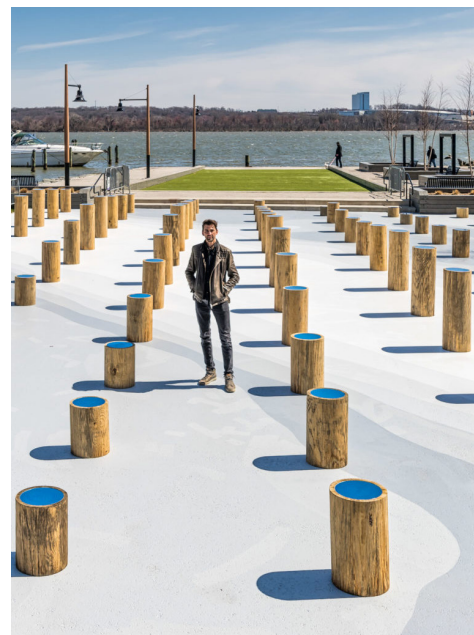
- Easter Egging: Sunday, April 4th
- Yard Sale: Saturday, May 1st (Raindate Sunday, May 2nd)

Community News

Waterfront Art Exhibit 'Groundswell' on Display

The City of Alexandria has unveiled its newest public art installation, Groundswell, in Alexandria's Waterfront Park (1 Prince St.). This new temporary installation by artist Mark Reigelman is the third in the Site See: New Views in Old Town annual public art series, and will be on display through November.

Commissioned to create an original installation for Waterfront Park, Reigelman focused on Alexandria's working waterfront as the shoreline crept further into the Potomac River. In his research, he learned that drastic measures manipulated the city's shoreline. Starting in the 18th century, thousands of wood pilings were driven deeper and deeper into the Potomac River over time, thereby shifting the city's waterfront over decades. This allowed Alexandria to develop and grow its sprawling dock into a major commercial port.



Safe Exchange Zone Opens at Mount Vernon Police Station

In some cases of meetups for internet purchases, you may want to find a safe spot where you don't become the victim of a robbery or another crime. Fairfax County Police have introduced a new exchange zone at the Mount Vernon District Station.

According to Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck, the station has two dedicated parking spaces for safe meetups at 2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria. The spots can be used for online purchase meetings, child custody transfers, meeting a person for the first time, and more. The parking lot is under 24-hour video surveillance.

Venue to be New Home of MetroStage

Located along the banks of the Potomac River, Venue, a new collection of condominiums and townhomes, sits at the heart of Old Town North. Located just blocks from historic Old Town and the shops and dining of King Street and adjacent to the Mt. Vernon Trail allowing for easy access to one the region's most famed trails.

Upon completion, Venue will also be the new home of MetroStage, a revered local theater company with three decades of history in Old Town North. Best known for their innovative productions, this critically-acclaimed group will be bringing its talents to Venue. Here MetroStage will deliver original productions and adapt celebrated favorites. With both floor and gallery seating available, the intimate space can offer seating for an audience of 120 people each night.

Virginia Restaurants to Stop Using Styrofoam for Take-Out Food

Virginia restaurants with 20 or more locations must stop using polystyrene foam by the middle of 2023. All other restaurants must stop by 2025, along with schools and nonprofit organizations, according to a new law signed by Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam. This includes take-out containers, to-go cups and other single-use styrofoam packaging for food.

Styrofoam is cheap and easy to get, and it does well at keeping food hot (or cold). But the environmental consequences of the popular single-use food containers are serious. Styrofoam is not sustainable to produce and it does not biodegrade.

The Virginia General Assembly passed the measure in 2020, but put a clause in the law requiring lawmakers to pass the bill again in 2021 before Northam could sign it. The delay in implementation to 2023 or 2025 gives restaurants a chance to use what they've already purchased and time to find more environmentally-friendly (but costlier) alternatives.

Fairfax Area Think Tank Challenge to Address Social Isolation

This year's Fairfax area Think Tank COVID-19 Challenge is focused on addressing individuals who do not have access to, or a desire to use, technology to alleviate their isolation. The challenge is open to all members of the community, including community groups and students in Fairfax County and the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church.

The Think Tank challenge is an initiative of the COVID-19 Response Plan for Older Adults, which identified three primary areas of concern - social isolation, technology and wellness - and recognizes among other challenges, that many do not have access or the ability to use technology.

Think Tank participants can address one of two challenge options:

- Design a strategy or program that will help address social isolation for older adults and people with disabilities who have little or no technology; or,
- Create a technical assistance toolkit addressing older adult social isolation during COVID-19.

The challenge is open to all members of the community, including community groups and students. All submissions must be in by April 18 at 11:59 p.m. to be considered.

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/familyservices/older-adults/fairfax-area-student-shark-tank-technology-challenge/2021-fairfax-area-think-tank-covid-19-challenge>

Fairfax County's Proposed Countywide Strategic Plan Needs your Input

The first-ever proposed countywide strategic plan is now updated after its development was paused due to COVID-19. A community survey is available in multiple languages seeking your input.

The plan was originally proposed in February 2020 after nearly a year's worth of development in 2019. Driven by extensive community engagement, the goals of the plan are to:

- Set a clear, unified, community-driven vision for the next 10-20 years.
- Align and integrate existing departmental and issue-specific plans.
- Provide a tool for focusing and prioritizing initiatives over the next 3-5 years.
- Aim to communicate progress on achieving measurable outcomes to all stakeholders.

In addition to the survey, virtual community conversations will take place throughout the spring. Feedback will be used to make adjustments to the final proposed plan, before it is officially adopted by the Board of Supervisors along with next year's budget in May. General comments about any part of the plan can be sent to strategicplan@fairfaxcounty.gov. The survey can be taken at this website: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2021ffxstratplan>

The Cicadas are Coming

This May, cicadas will emerge in tremendous numbers across much of Northern Virginia, Maryland and Washington. The cicadas are from Brood X, and they've been living underground for the past 17 years.

Every 17 years, Brood X cicada nymphs tunnel upwards en masse to emerge from the surface of the ground. The insects then shed their skins on trees and other surfaces, thus becoming adults. The mature cicadas fly, mate, lay eggs in twigs, and then die within several weeks. The combination of the insects' long underground life, their nearly simultaneous emergence from the ground in vast numbers and their short period of adulthood allows the brood to survive even massive predation.

Key Sources

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

Fairfax County | <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/>

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

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

The Washington Post | <https://www.washingtonpost.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/).

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OF FAIRFAX COUNTY CITIZENS ASSOCIATION, INC.

MEMBERSHIP INFO JANUARY 2021 - DECEMBER 2021

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.

Payment Options:

1. Make out a \$20 check payable to 'SCA'.
2. Note your name and address on the check.
3. Deliver your check to our Stoneybrooke Treasurer
Margaret Canilang:
6903 Stonebridge Court, Alexandria, VA 22306

Or:

1. Send \$20 thru PayPal or Venmo by scanning one of the QR codes below.
2. Include your name and address in the details.



venmo



Please choose the *Friends and Family* option.



Join Virginia Hills Swim Club Today!

No Wait List!

Virginia Hills Swim Club

Serving our community since 1955.

Located in the Virginia Hills residential community, the Virginia Hills Swim Club is currently welcoming members from communities in the local area. There are no official boundaries for the pool. There is currently ***NO WAIT LIST***, so please check us out and join today!

The Virginia Hills Club, Inc. is owned by its members, who are the shareholders in the Club. When you become a pool member, besides being a part of a great organization and part of the Virginia Hills family, you also own a piece of the pool that is appreciating in value!

The pool was completed redone in 2009 and the bathhouse was remodeled in 2019 and a brand new guard house was installed in 2020. We offer a 6 lane 25 Meter main pool with a separate diving well, slide, and shallow area, a fenced baby/toddler pool with sprinkler, extensive deck and lawn area for sunbathing or relaxing in the shade, a snack bar with attached eating area, swing set and tot lot, basketball court, sheltered areas reservable for private parties and is professional management by Titan Pools.

Other member benefits include adult socials and family events, private swim lessons upon request, free Fios wifi, raft nights, movie nights, private parties, military discounts, and low cost guest passes for your visitors.

The Virginia Hills Swim Club is also home to the Tidal Wave swim team. The swim team is part of the Northern Virginia Swim League (NVSL). The team was in Division 6 in 2020. Swim team season begins right after Memorial Day and meets begin in June and run through July and is open to ages 4-18.

Virginia Hills Swim Club

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