

Stoneybrooke



OF FAIRFAX COUNTY CITIZENS ASSOCIATION, INC.

SENTINEL JANUARY 2021

Dear Stoneybrooke,

Welcome to 2021! I don't think that there is anybody who wasn't ready to put 2020 behind them and get off to a fresh start. As January kicks off, 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. One could almost say there is nowhere to go but up.

At mid-January, we are still waiting on our first snow event for the year. Snow days won't hold the same meaning as they have in years past with so many of us, adults and school kids both, spending the vast majority of time working and learning from home. As we do await the first accumulation of snow, use the mild January days to rehearse for things to come and be 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. If we have learned anything over the past year, it is how to stay at home and be content. Should we get a major snowstorm this season we should all be well versed at handling cabin fever.

A few winter safety reminders...if you haven't already considered these for the home and car:

- 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.
- Keep the fuel tank in the car 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.
- Allow time for the windows to fully defrost before setting out; the intersection of Stoneybrooke/The Parkway and Kings Highway is dangerous in optimal conditions.

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...2021 is underway and, truth be told, as residents of Washington D.C. it is off to somewhat of a rocky start but here's to wishing each and every neighbor and family a great 2021. Mask-wearing, social distancing and staying home will continue to be the new normal for the foreseeable future. Continue to be smart but don't forget to look out for one another. Now more than ever, picking up a few groceries for your neighbor, running to the post office for them, or just a simple phone call may be all it takes to make someone's day!

-The SCA Board

Upcoming Events

Mount Vernon to Hold First National Celebration of George Washington's Birthday

Monday, February 22nd, 7pm

Mount Vernon is planning its first national celebration of George Washington's birthday this year. The virtual birthday party will feature performances and stories from a variety of actors, musicians and historians will celebrate Washington's 289th birthday on Monday, Feb. 22 beginning at 7 p.m. ET.

Guests include best-selling author Rick Atkinson (winner of the 2020 George Washington Prize, for his book, *The British Are Coming: The War for America, Lexington to Princeton, 1775-1777*); multi-Grammy Award-winning violinist Joshua Bell, renowned mezzo-soprano opera singer Denyce Graves and Grammy and Latin-Grammy Award-winner Juanes, and more.

Proceeds from ticket sales for this event will support the restoration and preservation of Washington's beloved home, Mount Vernon, which is not a government-funded park or agency. If you're interested in attending the online party, you can register for the celebration here: <https://www.mountvernon.org/donate/fundraising-events/virtual-birthday-celebration/>. (Suggested donations begin at \$5.)

You can also celebrate Washington's birthday by participating in an online auction featuring what organizers call "some truly unforgettable opportunities and experiences." Funds raised help support the restoration of the Mansion. The auction will go live on Feb. 16 and end Feb. 22 at 10 p.m. ET.

Community News

Kingstowne Drive-Thru Chick-fil-A Proposal Up for Approval

A drive-thru Chick-fil-A proposal at Kingstowne Towne Center will be up for Fairfax County Board of Supervisors consideration later in January. The Chick-fil-A would be located in an end unit of the building, which hosts other businesses such as My Gym and Dairy Queen. The rear would host the drive-thru pickup window, and there would be dual drive-thru lanes. Customers would reach the restaurant through the existing access points at Kingstowne Towne Center. The restaurant would require a redesign of parking field adjacent to the end-cap space to allow for the safe flow of traffic. New crosswalks are proposed between the parking and the restaurant. The proposed restaurant could have 110 indoor seats and 54 outdoor seats.

Coworking + Cuisine Coming to The Atrium in Old Town

Coworking company ALX Community, food market Mae's Market & Café and Virginia's Darling Restaurant are coming to The Atrium Building on South Washington St. in Old Town. The building was previously home to Society Fair, a gourmet food emporium that closed in July 2019.

Locally owned ALX Community has experienced growth despite the COVID-19 pandemic. The coworking firm has committed to 15,000 square feet of the 146,540 square foot building with an opening set for fall 2021. They will offer private offices as well as shared amenities, meeting rooms and collaboration areas.

Mae's Market & Café and Virginia's Darling Restaurant are the newest ventures of Del Ray-favorite Stomping Ground. The market, which will open in February, will feature coffee, baked goods, salads and sandwiches. The restaurant will open at the end of 2021.

Dollar Tree to Open at Former Rite Aid

Discount store Dollar Tree has filed permits to renovate and move into the former Rite Aid pharmacy at 6711 Richmond Highway. According to construction bid descriptions and Fairfax County permits, Dollar Tree will start construction on its new store in February. Dollar Tree already has about a dozen stores in Southeastern Fairfax County and in Alexandria. This includes one at 7812 Richmond Highway, just 2.1 miles away from the new planned store. Dollar Tree has not announced an opening date for this location.

Offers Received for River Farm

AHS has received one offer for purchase of the River Farm property: NOVA Parks, the regional parks authority for Northern Virginia, and the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust (NVCT) together put in an offer Jan. 4. NOVA Parks and NVCT have hopes to purchase the property to keep it open to the public, as it has been since 1973. The historic property was once owned by George Washington, who purchased the property in 1760. Ideally, future uses would be similar to the past uses, as a garden, event space and nature education with the potential for more river access. The proposal offered by NOVA Parks and NVCT was written in a way that any number of public park or conservation organizations could potentially operate River Farm from a local, regional, state or federal level.

Residents Create Organization to Oppose the Heritage Project

Some residents who have criticized the development of The Heritage project have now banded together and have formed the Citizens Association of the South West Quadrant (CASWQ) to oppose the project before it goes before the Planning Commission on Feb. 2 and the City Council later in February.

A press release from the organization sent this week stated the group's purpose: "CASQ supports the need [for] affordable housing, but that need must be met by a design and scale compatible with the surrounding neighborhood. Therefore, CASQ has launched an aggressive public information campaign to fight this initiative. Specifically, it will urge the City to require the developer to redesign the project and to significantly scale down its size."

The press release went on to list the organization's main concerns about the development: inappropriate size, density and design for Old Town; increased parking and traffic; the impact of relocation on residents during COVID-19 pandemic; and water and flooding concerns.

More information on CASWQ can be found at www.caswq.org.

Swamp Fox Road Could Change Name to Hoffman Street

A prominent development company in the Eisenhower Valley, the Hoffman Company, would like to change the name of Swamp Fox Road to Hoffman Street. The road connects Eisenhower Metro station with Mandeville Lane. It runs directly in front of the AMC Hoffman Center 22 movie theater.

Hoffman Company presented a case for renaming the street after Mr. Hubert N. Hoffman Jr., the founder of Hoffman Company. He was a life-long advocate of transforming the Eisenhower area of Alexandria after purchasing 80 acres of land there in 1958. Hoffman and his company were instrumental in drawing important tenants to Eisenhower East, including the Metro station and the National Science Foundation.

The name change meets all City requirements and received unanimous approval from the City's Naming Commission. According to the report, at least 75% of affected property owners are in support of the name change.

Twelve-Acre Park Planned for Richmond Highway

A new community park is planned along Richmond Highway in Woodley Hills between Dart Drive and Grandview Drive, just south of St. Louis Catholic Church and Bryant Alternative High School. The park is part of the larger North Hill development project which will provide 216 affordable multifamily apartments, 63 Affordable Senior independent living apartments, 175 market rate townhomes and the park to the Route 1 corridor. The 33-acre site was previously home to a mobile home park before the County purchased the land.

Phase one of the park is expected to begin in early spring of this year and will take approximately eight months to complete. The first phase will see the construction of earthworks, stormwater and other infrastructure as well as trails, a picnic area, pavilion and open lawn area. Phase two, which will be refined based off of community input, budget and site conditions, is expected to begin in late spring. It will include some type of multi-use sport court, fitness stations and a playground. The park opening is expected to occur in fall 2021.

The public is encouraged to provide feedback on the park plan by sending an email to parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov through Feb. 6.

Landmark Mall Redevelopment Undergoes Big Changes

Relocation of Inova Alexandria Hospital to the Landmark mall property will provide stability and support for area and fill a void that was felt in earlier development plans. The new hospital as a development anchor provides stability, with a long-term commitment to the space, and the hospital will drive some demand for nearby retail, strengthening the development concept overall.

Inova is working on designs for the hospital now, but planning and building such a high-tech facility is complicated and could take years. The new hospital will have a larger Emergency Department, a Level-II Trauma Center and a helipad, 230 private patient rooms, a new cancer center and medical offices for specialty physicians. The project will include 4 million square feet of development. About 1 million will be for the hospital and trauma center, with the rest going to housing, retail, entertainment and civic uses. Construction will happen over several years, likely starting with the demolition of the Landmark Mall building as early as 2022.

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/>

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.

Stoneybrooke



OF FAIRFAX COUNTY CITIZENS ASSOCIATION, INC.

MEMBERSHIP FORM 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.

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:

Margaret Canilang
6903 Stonebridge Court
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!