

# Stoneybrooke

OF FAIRFAX COUNTY CITIZENS ASSOCIATION, INC.

SENTINEL  
MARCH 2021

## Letter from the Board

Well it has been a full month since Punxsutawney Phil predicted six more weeks of winter. I guess we are well over the hump and spring is just around the corner. I don't know if anyone is tracking what Phil's success rate is but if you ever have the opportunity to place a wager, bet on the shadow every time. In the 135-year history of the tradition (1943 is the exception, due to WWII), the groundhog has seen his shadow nearly 85% of the time. Predictability seemed out of our grasp this season; I believe we were on the low end of every accumulation range. With schools being out, lots of us teleworking, and the great work by the road crews and our first responders, hopefully many of us were unimpacted by weather this season.

With March (and March Madness this year!) upon us, keep the following in mind: Now is a good time to get ahead of the spring cleaning projects around your property. Warmer weather will bring about the critters you least want in and around piles of wood, dead leaves, and any debris. Use up any firewood you might have and get everything that has collected in the yard since the fall policed up. I know that the storm drains are a reoccurring topic of the last few newsletters but as we do prepare for the spring rains, proper water flow is essential to the community. It doesn't take more than a few leaves, a couple of sticks and just a bit of silt to form a rather effective dam. Take a few minutes to ensure that the curbs along your property are clear and free of debris and it takes just a couple more to ensure that the frontage of your adjacent properties are cleared as well.

The neighborhood has been relatively quiet the past couple of months which means we are due for another round of late-night visitors looking for unlocked cars in hopes of making a quick score. The Vantage neighborhood was hit just a few weeks ago with many capturing the action on security cameras and video doorbells but nothing with enough clarity to assist the police. Maintain your vigilance and be proactive...ensure your vehicle is locked at night and remove anything that could pique the interest of a would-be thief.

If you have made a trip through the neighborhood lately you have noticed a new addition; the "little library" that was installed along Stonybrooke Lane at the bottom of the hill. This has been a long time in the making and we have some folks to thank for making this happen. Many may remember Andrea Bethea (and her little white dog Chance) that used to walk the neighborhood down around Lamp Post. When she departed for Florida a few years ago, she made a generous donation to the SCA and requested that, if possible, some of the funds would go towards this. Courtney Cansler is the neighbor and artist who conceived, designed and built it using lots of materials that she was able to repurpose. And finally, the Sauer family who graciously allowed it to go near their corner. A big "thank you" to everyone!



I feel I would be remiss if I didn't mention a few simple common-sense rules:

1. The general idea is to "take one and leave one" but I suspect there will be plenty of donations. If you see something you will enjoy then please take it.
2. Please don't use this as an opportunity to get rid of unwanted books. They should not be left along the side of the library or along the road in bulk.
3. No inappropriate reading materials (I will just leave it at that), and finally
4. Please utilize the library during "acceptable hours". No need to get dogs fired up in the middle of the night or security cameras capturing what many will think is suspicious activities when it is nothing more than a late-night patron.

In closing, the SCA has lost its Chair on the board. If you recall back at the fall meeting, Kevin Arwood was elected to the seat, but for those of us who have experience with the military, you will understand the phrase "duty calls". The Arwood family is on the move again after a bit more than a year and we are looking for his positions. If there is anyone interested in donating some of their time (no more than a few hours a month) to this great neighborhood you can reach out to one of us on the board (Brad, Mark, Megan, or Margaret).

Finally, set your calendar for a few upcoming events:

1. Remember to set your clocks an hour forward for daylight saving time on Sunday, March 14th (Ugh... already? So much easier to "fall back" than it is to "spring forward"!). Our firefighter neighbors will also tell you this is a good time to change out those batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
2. The community yard sale is scheduled for Saturday, 01 May.
3. Rumor has it that the Easter Bunny will be in the neighborhood on the night of 03 April hiding eggs and then may make a trip through the neighborhood the next morning. More information to follow on that.

**-SCA Board**

## Upcoming Neighborhood Events

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

## Community News

### Alexandria Drive-In Returns for a Another Season

The Alexandria Drive-In, which benefits Athena Rapid Response and the Scholarship Fund of Alexandria, is returning on March 5 for a third series of classic movies with a nostalgic twist.

The March movie lineup includes classics such as Jurassic Park, Back to the Future, The Princess Bride, the Greatest Showman and Remember the Titans. April movies will be announced in coming weeks. Tickets are \$40 per car and are available online now through [www.alexandriadrivein.com](http://www.alexandriadrivein.com). Gates open one hour before show time and close 10 minutes before show time.

Food trucks including DC Slices, Chix N Stix, Lattimore's Funnel Cakes, Popped Republic, and one weekly rotating food truck will be present. Alexandria Drive-In has partnered with food truck platform Goodynd to help provide an onsite ordering platform for guests to get their favorite movie snacks safely.

The Drive-In is located in the parking lots of the Victory Center, 5001 Eisenhower Ave. For more information about how to purchase tickets, future movies, parking, and other information, visit [alexandriadrivein.com](http://alexandriadrivein.com).

### &pizza to Open in Kingstowne

The pizza chain &pizza is opening three new locations in the Alexandria area, on the heels of an opening earlier this year at Bradlee Shopping Center. The Kingstowne restaurant will be at 5925 Kingstowne Towne Center, Suite 120, just feet away from UNO Pizzeria & Grille. There is no opening date yet, but &pizza is advertising heavily on Facebook and is hiring staff now.

&pizza opened in 2012 in Washington, D.C. and has since spread to several states along the East Coast and dozens of locations. It refers to itself as an "anti-establishment establishment" and is known for fresh-baked, made-to-order oval pies.

### Uncle C's Chicken & Waffles Preparing to Open on Richmond Highway

Richmond Highway will soon be getting a new spot for fried chicken and other Southern comfort foods. Uncle C's Chicken & Waffles is opening at 6308 Richmond Hwy. The spot was previously home to Jerry's Subs and Pizza, which closed in early 2018. It is between Applebee's and Wells Fargo bank.

Sayed Qayum is Uncle C's founder. The restaurant's website says Qayum has been "recreating classic combinations with new twists since the early 2000's...with roots in Southern cooking and a vision to bring together new culinary concepts; Uncle C's is where sweet meets savory!" In addition to chicken and waffles, the casual dining spot will serve all-day breakfast, chicken sandwiches, fried fish, homemade southern fixings and desserts.

View Uncle C's full menu at [www.uncleccw.com](http://www.uncleccw.com) and keep a look out on the website for opening information and online ordering.

**Paradiso Italian Restaurant Reopens as La Fiamma**

The owners of Paradiso in Franconia handed the reins to the next generation, who renovated and reopened as La Fiamma. The business will remain in the family under the direction of Gonzalo and Melina Pardo. The head chef is Victor Bercian, originally from New York, with over 20 years of cooking experience. His expertise is in Italian food, but he can make almost anything you can imagine.

La Fiamma's hours are Sunday through Thursday from 3 - 9:30 p.m.; Friday and Saturday 3 - 10 p.m. and located at 6124 Franconia Road.

**Proposed Fairfax County Budget Reduces Real Estate Tax Rate by a Cent**

Fairfax County may give homeowners a slight break on their property tax rate, even as total tax bills increase due to rising property assessments. The proposed one-cent decrease from \$1.15 to \$1.14 (per \$100 in assessed valuation) is part of the proposed budget Fairfax County Board of Supervisors members are considering this month for the 2022 fiscal year. Like in other parts of Northern Virginia, home values are on the rise — and so are tax bills for homeowners. For the average homeowner in Fairfax County, the property tax bill would rise by \$224 per year.

**South Alex Construction Moving Along One Year After Devastating Fire**

One year ago, a large fire caused \$48 million in damages to the South Alex development, which was under construction at the time. Now, developer Combined Properties and architect, Hord Coplan Macht, are getting closer to opening, despite the setback.

South Alex is located at the intersection of South Kings Highway and Richmond Highway, 1 mile from the Huntington metro station. Luxury townhomes by Craftmark Homes have already been constructed on the site and all 41 sold out quickly. A 400 unit apartment building and 44,000 square feet of retail space are under construction. An Aldi grocery store will anchor the retail space and is projected to open in 2021, according to the company's website.

The development is marketed for its proximity to public transportation and central location to the Pentagon, Old Town Alexandria, Amazon HQ2 and Fort Belvoir. It is an example of the future transformation of Route 1 and the type of vibrant, mixed-use developments that can be expected in the coming years as the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system is constructed and the Metro's yellow line is extended down Richmond Highway.

**As Pickleball Popularity Increases, Fairfax County Looks at Boosting Facilities**

A mix of tennis, badminton and ping pong, pickleball is a recreational sport that all skill levels and ages can play indoors or outdoors.

If you haven't heard of the recreational sport with the funny-sounding name, you will soon. It's sweeping the country (not to mention being an activity you can enjoy while socially distancing yourself from other players) and getting attention in Fairfax County.

The Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) study is looking at providing additional pickleball facilities within its parks, RECenters and community centers. In response to requests and the growing interest in the sport, the FCPA initiated the study to determine how to equitably address the desire for pickleball, identify sites for potential improvements to existing courts or new facilities and develop siting criteria and design guidance to be considered when selecting and constructing pickleball amenities.

If you would like to learn more about the Fairfax County study underway, keep an eye on the county's Pickleball Study page at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/planning-development/pickleball-study](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/planning-development/pickleball-study).

# Stoneybrooke

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!*

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## 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

6500 VA Hills Pool Dr  
(formerly 6500 Robinson Dr)  
Alexandria, VA 22310  
[www.vahillspool.com](http://www.vahillspool.com)  
[vahillspoolmembership@gmail.com](mailto:vahillspoolmembership@gmail.com)