

Stoneybrooke



OF FAIRFAX COUNTY CITIZENS ASSOCIATION, INC.

SENTINEL

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024

Dear Stoneybrooke neighbors,

This first *Letter from the Board* of the SCA (Stoneybrooke Citizens Association) in 2024 is directed not only to SCA members but also to the entire Stoneybrooke community. Its purpose is to: (1) inform you about the SCA and the activities we sponsor; and (2) solicit your support to join the SCA and invite your neighbors to do so. In fact, at our first meeting in 2024, the Board passed the following motion:

“The board will promote to the community a goal of growing the household membership in the SCA and put into place actions to achieve this growth. Our goal is 70 households in 2024, 80 households in 2025, and 90 households in 2026.”

To put this in perspective, Stoneybrooke has approximately 227 residences. Since 2019, the number of households that have paid dues and thus joined the SCA has ranged from 54 to 62 (except for the first COVID year of 2020 when only 38 households joined). See the bar chart at the end of this letter. The SCA Board believes that a steady growth in the number of households by 10 per year each of the next 3 years is feasible and will be desirable to get more residents involved in Stoneybrooke’s activities.

Our neighborhood does not have a Homeowner’s Association (HOA) for which annual fees are mandatory. Instead, we have a voluntary “Citizen’s Association” (the SCA) for which the \$20 annual dues are voluntary and optional. One difference between the two types of Associations is that neighborhoods with commonly owned property generally have an HOA and the HOA fees are used in part to operate and maintain the common property. In Stoneybrooke we have no commonly owned property.

Our annual dues of \$20 are nominal and have not changed for as long as any of us on the Board can remember. Dues are applied primarily to three types of expenses: Events; Barrier upkeep; and recurring bills and informational materials. A breakout of the 2023 expenditures is shown in a pie chart at the end of this letter.

Those who have not been SCA members may ask “what does the SCA do?” and “why should I join the SCA?” There are only a few differences between a Stoneybrooke resident and a resident who has joined the SCA. One difference is that this electronic newsletter (Sentinel) is emailed to all SCA members who provide their email address when they pay their membership dues. Another difference is that some events require membership in the SCA (such as the annual “Easter egging” in which eggs are placed in the yards of families who request them). But most SCA-sponsored events are open to all Stoneybrooke residents, members and non-members alike, and we attempt to sign up new SCA members at each of our events. Our 2023 SCA-sponsored events included the following:

- Feb – Oct: Food trucks (SCA provided nominal funds for printouts and advertising)
- Mar: Easter egging (sign up to have ~10 candy filled eggs per child hidden in your yard)

- May & Oct: Stoneybrooke Community Yard Sale (SCA provides advertising)
- May: Memorial Day celebration and Corn Hole tournament
- Sep: Annual Community picnic
- Oct: Halloween (SCA provided nominal funds for house decorating and pet costume prizes)
- Dec: Candy Cane 5K

Your SCA Board members are volunteers who enjoy being involved in our neighborhood events and getting to know our neighbors. But there is always room for more residents to get involved and lead new activities. In particular, for several years we've been seeking someone with web-design experience (or a high school or college student who would like to gain some experience) to take over managing the SCA website, located at: <https://www.stoneybrooke.org/>

Our neighborhood also benefits from a Facebook page (**Stoneybrooke Neighborhood Alexandria, VA**) administered by some of our residents. While the SCA uses it to advertise SCA-sponsored events, it's important to note that the Facebook page is not managed by or affiliated with the SCA.

We could also benefit from volunteers who would like to welcome new residents to the neighborhood by distributing a simple welcome packet with a welcome letter, flyer, and the latest *Sentinel*.

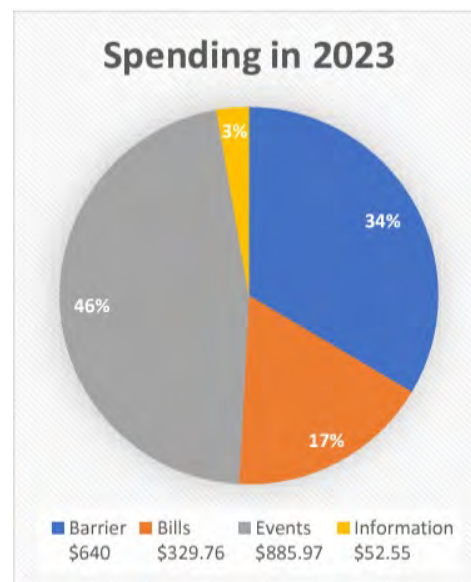
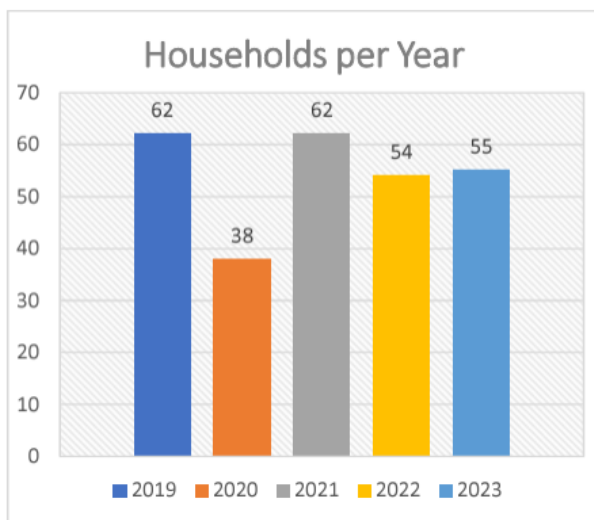
Finally, we welcome any ideas from residents who would be willing to lead a new event or be involved in the SCA Board, now or in the future.

In our efforts to steadily increase our number of SCA members, the Board agreed on two immediate actions: (1) this cover letter in this edition of the *Sentinel* distributed to current SCA members; and (2) funding and preparing a direct mailing to all Stoneybrooke residents with this info included. There are many other possible actions we could undertake to increase membership, only limited by our residents' imagination and desire to help. We welcome your ideas.

In the meantime, we encourage you to: pay your 2024 annual dues via the membership form on the next page; include your email address if you would like to receive the *Sentinel*; and let your immediate neighbors know about this membership drive and share this letter and membership form with them.

Warm regards,

SCA Board



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MEMBERSHIP INFO

Why join?

1. It's easy and inexpensive!
2. It funds our monthly newsletter and 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.

Electronic Payment Options:

1. Send \$20 thru [PayPal](mailto:scaboard@stoneybrooke.org) (scaboard@stoneybrooke.org) or [Venmo](https://venmo.com/@stoneybrooke_sca) (@stoneybrooke_sca) by scanning one of the QR codes below.
2. Include your name, address, and email address* in the details.



*Please choose the **Friends and Family** option.*

* To receive your copy of the Stoneybrooke Sentinel by email; transaction settings are set to "private."

Neighborhood News

SCA Begins New Fiscal Year

The Stoneybrooke Citizens Association began its fiscal new year on January 1st. This means that 2024 dues can now be sent by PayPal (scaboard@stoneybrooke.org), Venmo (@stoneybrooke_sca) or check. Not yet a member? See our sign-up sheet for more information!



Resident Ms. Jo Butler Celebrates Her 90th Birthday

Celebration is in order for Stoneybrooke's newest nonagenarian, Ms. Jo Jewel Butler! Ms. Butler has been a pillar of our community for decades. She can often be found outside tending to her yard dressed to the nines in one of her hundreds of stylish hats. If you are lucky, you've had a chance to talk with her at one of the food truck nights as you are waiting for your order or taking advantage of the shade her tree provides. We invite the community to come out to celebrate Ms. Butler 90th birthday on **February 24 at 4:30 PM at 6909 Lamp Post Lane**. Empanadas de Mendoza and Duck Donuts will be in attendance. To show our love, please bring along a card with your well wishes. If you would like to contribute to the festivities, please contact Rachel Moran at 302-521-9793 or racheldyas@gmail.com.



The 2024 food truck schedule has been announced!










The first food truck of the season kicks off on February 24th with Empanadas de Mendoza and Duck Donuts. Thank you to our own Rachel Moran for organizing. All dates are notional.

Stoneybrooke Food Trucks & Events Schedule 2024

Dates are set, but food trucks are subject to change.
Check Facebook or the Stoneybrooke website for more details.

Time: 4:30-7:30pm

Location: Deadend at the bottom of Stoneybrooke Lane

	Dinner	Dessert
 February 24*	Empanadas de Mendoza	Duck Donuts
 March 14	Hangry Panda	Sugarcoated Bakery
March 28	Jambalaya Bros.	Scuttlebutt Bakery
 March 30*	SCA Annual Easter Egging	
April 11	Killer Tomato	Captain Cookie
April 25	Kush	Duck Donuts
May 9	Little Lady Grill	Sweet Frog
May 23	Very Tasty Smokehouse BBQ	Scuttlebutt Bakery
 May 27*	Memorial Day Potluck - Bike Parade - Games @ Stoneybrooke Park	
 June 13	Killer Tomato	Conecopia Gelato
June 27	Empanadas de Mendoza	Rita's Italian Ice
 July 4*	Community Fireworks Show at Night	
July 11	Hangry Panda	Conecopia Gelato
Jul 25	La Mati	Sweet Frog
August 8	PhoWheels	Duck Donuts
August 22	Little Lady Grill	Rita's Italian Ice
Sept 12	Empanadas de Mendoza	Sweet Frog
Sept 26	Kush	Captain Cookie
Sept 28*	Annual SCA Picnic (Tentative Date)	
Oct 10	Arepa Vibes	Captain Cookie
Oct 24	Cocolita	Scuttlebutt Bakery
 Oct 31*	DC Slices	
Dec 14*	 Candy Cane 5K 	Duck Donuts

*** Denotes a date that is not the 2nd or 4th Thursday of the month**

Community News

Wolf Trap Announces Summer Concert Line Up

Wolf Trap has released their June, July, and August lineups of the summer concert series. June highlights include the Beach Boys, John Legend, Patti Labelle and Gladys Knight, Gipsy Kings, and more! Tickets for Wolf Trap's Summer Concert Series Go on Sale February 16

More: <https://www.wolftrap.org/>

Community Conversations Continue Around Potomac Yard Arena Project

Alexandria City held a listening session to address community concerns around the proposed arena development in Potomac Yard. The next session will be held on February 8th. Among the concerns voiced by residents is the lack of transit access to the site. The Potomac Yard station has a single escalator and staircase at each platform, leading to crowding concerns on game days.

More: <https://www.alxnow.com/2024/01/31/potomac-yard-arena-listening-session-on-thursday-tackles-controversial-projects-biggest-challenge/>

Proposed Tysons Corner Casino Project Stalls

A proposed bill authorizing a casino project in Tysons Corner has been delayed. The Virginia Senate Finance & Appropriations committee opted to shelve the bill until next year after pushback from local groups. A study commissioned in 2019 suggested that the project could increase state tax revenue by 155 million dollars and add 3,200 jobs. Currently, Northern Virginia residents seeking a casino experience will spend their money in Maryland.

More: <https://www.ffxnow.com/2024/02/01/breaking-fairfax-county-casino-bill-put-on-hold-until-next-year/>

Local Resources

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>

Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation (SFDC) | <http://www.sfdc.org/>

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 an online 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.