

Stoneybrooke



OF FAIRFAX COUNTY CITIZENS ASSOCIATION, INC.

SENTINEL

APRIL/MAY 2024

Letter from the Board

Greetings from your Stoneybrooke Citizens Association (SCA) Board. What an eventful March and April we've enjoyed in our Stoneybrooke neighborhood! Food trucks have magically appeared on Thursday evenings every other week and many of you have not only partaken of the delicious offerings but have also delighted in spending time together in the warming weather enjoying each other's company outside our newly nonagenarian neighbor Jo Butler's home at the corner of Stoneybrooke Lane and Lamp Post Lane. Thanks so much to Rachel Moran for organizing the food trucks which have brought our community together since COVID began in 2020.

We hosted two Easter events in April. The first, on March 17th, marked our inaugural photo shoot with the Easter Bunny. This event doubled as a fundraiser for the SCA, generating just over \$100 in donations. It was a delightful occasion for 11 families who participated, enjoying the festive atmosphere and capturing memorable moments. Gratitude goes to Tanya and Amy Rodman for their photography skills, and to Jesse Moran for embodying the Easter Bunny. Our second event, the annual Egging, remained popular, as SCA Board members and volunteers distributed a dozen eggs filled with treats to 15 families, bringing joy to 26 children.

Our community yard sale was scheduled for Saturday, May 4th. Due to light rain in the morning, engagement was light. This is a good time to let everyone know of the procedures for the two annual community yard sales, especially for new residents who may not be aware of the annual approach approved by the SCA Board:

Based on many years of tradition, Stoneybrooke residents hold a community yard sale twice a year, on the 1st Saturday in May and the 1st Saturday in Oct. The first rain date is the following Sunday, and the second rain date is the following Saturday. Yard sale participants determine whether to delay to the rain date by coordinating among themselves; the SCA Board does not make that call. The SCA advertises the yard sale via yard signs in the neighborhood, a sign on the fence on S. Kings Hwy, and a post on the Stoneybrooke neighborhood Facebook site. Any further advertising associated with the event is the responsibility of the yard sale participants.

We'll close May with another opportunity to gather as a community at the Memorial Day potluck outside on the Mansion Grounds on Monday May 27th. The event is scheduled from 2 – 6 pm with a bike parade and a moment of silence scheduled at 3 pm. If you're not away on travel, this is a great chance to bring a chair or blanket and some food to share with your Stoneybrooke neighbors. Bring your cornhole set or any other lawn games you'd like to share. Thanks again to Rachel Moran for organizing this event, which has turned into another annual get-together over the last few years.

Finally, we have great news to report about our membership drive to encourage more residents to join the SCA, which costs only \$20 annually. We're delighted that the efforts we undertook to increase membership (a mailing to all residences, presence at the aforementioned events with sign-up easily available, and the call for residents to spread the word to their neighbors) has resulted in 101 residences joining the SCA thus far in 2024. To put that in perspective, from 2019 to 2023, membership ranged from 54 to 62 residences (out of approximately 245 houses in Stoneybrooke). For those who have joined: THANK YOU! You help to enable all the events that the SCA Board and active residents plan and host. For those who have not yet joined: it's not too late, we'll be glad to accept your 2024 dues through Dec 31st (although we're making an effort to encourage all members to pay their dues in Jan and at least by end of March, so we don't have to hound you for dues in order to be part of the Easter Egging). Our original motion passed in Jan set a goal to increase from ~60 to >90 residences over 3 years; we've already exceeded that goal through this year's membership drive, but we'd love to continue that momentum.

We hope that all who have joined the SCA will continue to remain members every year and request that you let your neighbors know about the benefits of SCA membership and the many events that we sponsor for Stoneybrooke. Ask your neighbors if they receive the Sentinel and if not, encourage them to provide their email address for electronic delivery to: <https://www.stoneybrooke.org/sentinel/>

Several years ago, we ceased distributing hardcopies of the Sentinel, so some previous SCA members may have stopped joining annually if they were not also receiving copies by email. Help us spread the word to bring them back. And, as always, we welcome any ideas from residents who would be willing to lead a new event or be involved on the SCA Board.

Warm regards,

~SCA Board

Neighborhood News

Stoneybrooke Memorial Day Celebration

Join us on May 27th for a Memorial Day celebration. Bring lawn games and don't forget to sign up for the potluck: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0E4CA8A628A0FB6-49548077-memorial>



★ ★ ★ **STONEYBROOKE** ★ ★ ★

MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION

 **MAY 27, 2-6PM** 
STONEYBROOKE PARK
6900 Stoneybrooke Lane

BIKE PARADE **CORNHOLE**

Start Decorating!  **NERF GAMES** 

Potluck Celebration!
Bring your favorite dish to share

Potluck Sign-up:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70A0E4CA8A628A0FB6-49548077-memorial>



Schedule
2:00 PM Bike parade at Stone Mansion
3:00 PM Moment of Silence
3:00 PM Lawn Games

More details to come on Facebook and www.stoneybrooke.org/blog

Houses “Egged” For Easter

The SCA board continued its tradition of providing a visit from the Easter Bunny to all active SCA members. Board members and community volunteers hid eggs for dozens of children across the neighborhood. The feedback and gratitude we received from the community meant a lot to us. It is consistently one of the most rewarding annual events. And judging from the feedback, the children enjoyed it even more! We look forward to continuing this tradition next year.



*Image: The Rodman children celebrate a successful Easter Egg hunt
(Photo Credit: Amy Rodman)*

Easter Bunny Poses for Festive Photos

For the first time, the SCA held an additional pre-Easter event on March 17th. About a dozen tots gathered at stone mansion for the chance to meet the easter bunny and get their photos taken. All funds raised from this event support the Stoneybrooke Citizen’s Association, which in turn will be re-invested in the community.

The SCA extends their appreciation to neighbors Tanya and Amy Rodman for generously donating their time, expertise, and props toward making this event a success.





*Image: Neighbors get their picture with the Easter Bunny
(Photo Credit: Samuel Posnock)*

Community News

Property Tax Rates Set to Increase

Fairfax board of supervisors voted to raise property taxes to \$1.125 per \$100 of assessed value (1.125%), an increase of three cents. This new rate will apply in the 2025 tax year. Fairfax depends on real estate taxes for two-thirds of its budget, and this increase will offset in part declining commercial real estate activity in the county. Supervisor Pat Herrity voted against the increase, while supervisors McKay, Smith, Walkinshaw, Bierman, Lusk, Alcorn, Jimenez, Storck, and Palchick voted for it.

More: <https://wtop.com/fairfax-county/2024/05/residential-tax-rate-increasing-as-part-of-approved-fairfax-co-budget/>

Bike to Work Day Coming to Alexandria May 17

Alexandria continues its annual tradition of supporting locals taking their bikes to work. Several pit stops are planned across the city. The Department of Transportation and Environmental Services will host a pit stop at Market Square (city hall) for food, coffee, and more. Other community pit stops include John Carlyle Square park, Del Ray park, Fairlington Center, and Eisenhower Square. Registration can be found at: <https://www.biketoworkmetrodc.org/register>

More: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/public-transportation/bike-to-work-day-2024>

Capital Area Foodbank Plans New Warehouse in Lorton

In response to growing need for food in the Washington region, the Capital Area Food bank is planning a new warehouse location in Lorton. The new location will have five times the freezer space as in the existing warehouse and ten times the freezer space. Government grants have covered approximately one third of the price tag for the 12,000 square foot location. There is still a one-million-dollar deficit for the organization, which is hoping to make up this difference through private donations.

Donation link here: <https://www.capitalareafoodbank.org/nova/>

More: <https://wtop.com/local/2024/05/capital-area-foodbank-is-getting-a-bigger-and-badly-needed-new-warehouse-in-northern-va/>

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.