

# STONELEIGH NEWS

## Upcoming Events

<b>January 1<sup>st</sup></b>	HOA Quarterly Dues Due (\$360)
<b>April 1<sup>st</sup></b>	HOA Quarterly Dues Due (\$360)
<b>Spring</b>	Yard Sale Junk Army Easter Egg Hunt

## Annual Meeting Recap

If you were unable to attend this year's Annual Meeting of the Stoneleigh Homeowners' Association, here is what you missed:

- Mitchell Sacks reviewed the community events of 2012.
- Emily Summers discussed the results of the community survey. The good news is most homeowners are satisfied with most of the jobs that the Board and other service providers are doing. The only exception is McLean Trash, whose approval rating was only around 40%. The Board is currently reviewing proposals from other trash companies and a replacement will begin in 2013.
- Mitchell Sacks showed that our financial situation is very good right now, mostly due to not having to spend our budget on snow removal last year. We are in a great position should we experience the harsh winter that some forecasters are predicting for this year.
- We applauded Winnie Pizzano for all of the hard work she puts in working with BladeRunners to make sure Stoneleigh's grounds look nice.
- One homeowner raised the issue of what to do if you fear your neighbor's trees are endangering your property. If this is a

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concern for you, please contact Cardinal Management, and they will send a letter to the neighbor. This was a common concern, as it is your own insurance that will pay if a neighboring tree damages your home. It is unclear whether showing proof that you tried to get your neighbors to deal with their tree will make a difference, but everyone present agreed that it could not hurt to have such proof.

- Heather Kennedy expressed a need for more newsletter fodder. All ideas are welcomed.
- Heather also discussed some security information that is covered later in this newsletter.
- Doug Hoyt informed the community that architectural inspections will resume in the spring.
- Winnie also updated homeowners about greater McLean issues, as she is now President of the McLean Planning Commission. Those updates are also in this issue.
- Homeowner Vicki Doff presented the concept of "Aging in Place" to the community. Keep

reading to see what she has to say about this important issue.

- New projects for 2013 will include replacing the lightbulbs in all of the lampposts with LED kits. We will also find a new company to re-stripe and paint the parking spots as the company that we had used has disappointed us and will no longer receive work from our community.
- We are still seeking volunteers to be block coordinators. The job entails welcoming new neighbors and making sure all of your neighbors are informed of what is happening in the community. Thanks to Sherry Joslin for being our first volunteer!
- We concluded our meeting by unanimously re-electing those members of the Board whose terms had expired. Congratulations!
- It is important to note that homeowners are welcome to attend Board meetings, which are held at 7:00pm the last Tuesday of the month at Redeemer Lutheran Church. Meetings will resume in January. Please let one of us know if you would like to attend.



## Stoneleigh and Aging in Place

By Vicki Doff

Most people say that they want to remain in their homes as they age. But, as we can imagine, this can be a challenge as folks become older and it's not as easy as it once was to drive, do yard work, socialize and more. As the number of people in Fairfax County over the age of 65 has increased to well over 100,000, a grassroots movement has begun with neighbors of all ages coming together to support one another in small and large ways. Some efforts such as Mt. Vernon at Home have created highly organized programs with dues and a salaried director to provide coordinated services and information through a website and other more personal contacts. There are more than a dozen active, organized communities in Washington, Maryland, and Virginia working to create "villages" where older adults, as well as younger, come together to support one another.

In McLean, a small group of concerned citizens in collaboration with Supervisor Foust held a community forum titled "Creating a Supportive Community for All Ages" in October of 2011. The more than 100 people who attended learned about the innovative programs in other communities and ways to become involved. During the past year, this program has morphed into "Moving Forward," which is focusing on two primary areas: Establishing a Senior Resource Desk staffed by trained volunteers which will provide information and assistance that is



primarily available within our McLean community. The second initiative is the development of a website with a wider scope of information and material for the community. A small coordinating committee continues to work with the County supervisor and local community to address additional concerns such as transportation and integration of such efforts with the McLean Community Center and other groups who draw from across McLean.



**At the November Stoneleigh HOA Annual Meeting, several people expressed an interest in talking further about what we might do in Stoneleigh to help one another as we age and/or deal with disabilities which can make daily living more difficult. An open meeting for all residents is being planned for January to talk further. If you find this concept appealing and would like to attend, please call Vicki Doff at [703-506-0545](tel:703-506-0545) or email her at: [vicki@doff.com](mailto:vicki@doff.com).**

Take a look at the articles cited below for additional information on the aging in place and village movement.

**“A Grass-Roots Effort to Grow Old at Home”**  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2007/08/14/health/14aging.html>

**“Senior Villages Take Root as Movement Matures”**  
<http://money.usnews.com/money/blogs/the-best-life/2011/01/28/senior-villages-take-root-as-movement-matures>

**“‘Village’ Movement Lets Seniors Age Independently”**  
<http://mountvernon.patch.com/articles/village-movement-lets-seniors-age-independently>

### **Stay Safe, Stoneleigh**

One of the most important things you can do to discourage break-ins is to keep your front and back porch lights on after dark. The police have told us this time and again. There are special outdoor CFL bulbs that will last much longer than a conventional bulb. There are also kits that will detect when it has gotten dark, taking all of the remembering off of your plate. The Board is currently investigating our options for providing such kits to homeowner that request them. Until then, please just remember to keep turning your lights on every evening.

You probably didn't know this, but as a resident of Fairfax County, you are entitled to a home security evaluation by the police department. All you need to do is schedule a time for an officer to come to your home. He or she will go through the house and outside to help show you ways to improve your home security. To schedule an appointment, call the McLean District Station at 703-556-7750.



The Fairfax County Law Enforcement Foundation does a lot of great work in our community, from assisting victims of domestic abuse to caring for retired K9s. This year, the Foundation began offering a FREE Women's Self-Defense Class to any interested woman in Fairfax County. It is an intensive, two-night class for women of all ages and abilities taught by current and retired police officers. More information can be found at [www.fairfaxfoundation.org](http://www.fairfaxfoundation.org).

Fred Sanborn nearly single-handedly runs this organization and coordinates all of its activities. The Foundation appreciates all donations. A \$100 donation puts a woman through the self-defense class. \$25 can buy an underprivileged child a bicycle helmet. \$10 can supply the basic necessities to someone who has had to leave their home with nothing after being victimized. To make a donation, call 571-274-7377 or email [info@fairfaxfoundation.org](mailto:info@fairfaxfoundation.org).

You may also contact Heather Kennedy for more information or to get a form to make a donation.

## Contact the Board of Directors

All Board members whose terms were ending were re-elected by unanimous voice vote at the Annual Meeting.

- Mitchell Sacks, President  
[msacks@verizon.net](mailto:msacks@verizon.net)
- Doug Hoyt, Vice President  
[dmhoyt\\_1999@yahoo.com](mailto:dmhoyt_1999@yahoo.com)
- Heather Kennedy, Secretary  
[heather.kennedy@gmail.com](mailto:heather.kennedy@gmail.com)
- Winnie Pizzano, Treasurer & Landscaping  
[wpizzano@verizon.net](mailto:wpizzano@verizon.net)
- Don Sumihiro, Security & Member-at-large  
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