

Stoneleigh News

June/July 2006

Message from the President

By Mitchell Sacks

As many of you are aware, the majority of the sidewalks in our community are in very poor condition. We are at a crossroads and need to make a decision as a community as to how we want to proceed. There are essentially two choices on the table.

One option is to replace all of the sidewalks in the community with the exception of the few areas in the community whose sidewalks were replaced as part of the repaving project several years ago; this is the more expensive of the options and the engineering estimates put the cost at \$400,000.00. The advantage of this approach is it will allow us to address drainage issues on Alicent, Bruton, & Dunterry Courts where we need to underground gutter and downspouts outlets. In heavy rains the excess water from gutters and downspouts has a destructive affect on landscaping, and a detrimental affect on the sidewalks as the rushing water eats away at the sidewalks foundation. In other areas of the community, this will allow us to re-grade sidewalks which have sunk below grade and become flooded even in light rains.

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Annual July 4th Celebration



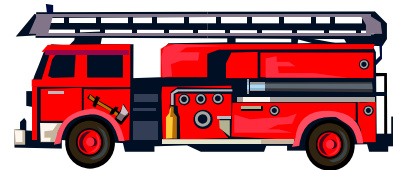
All Stoneleigh residents, family and friends are invited to participate in our annual July 4th celebration. We'll meet at the bench under the trees, "Duntery Triangle," at 10AM and decorate bikes, carriages, pets and children. Decorations will be provided. Our parade will begin at 11:30. Please bring cameras to photograph our beautiful children celebrating Independence Day.

After the parade, we'll have games (children usually get soaked). We'll finish with ice cream sundaes and root beer floats. The fire department has been invited to bring a fire engine and hopefully the press will be there too. So please deck yourselves out in red, white and blue and join the celebration!

For more information or offer of help, please contact Marlene Banks, 703-821-1725.

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The other option is to only replace those sections which absolutely must be replaced, either because they have failed, or present a safety hazard. This option will allow us to do some re-grading, but will not afford us the opportunity to underground gutter and sump pump outlets. This approach is not as desirable as whole scale replacement, but does have the advantage of being substantially less expensive; the cost for this would be \$150,000.00.

If we were to go with the first option (replacing all of the sidewalks in the community), we could do all of the work at once which would necessitate a special assessment of \$2600.00 per homeowner, or we could choose to do the work over two or three years, which would mean an annual special assessment of \$1300.00 and \$870.00 respectively (in either case you would be offered the option of paying this special assessment monthly or quarterly).

If we choose the second option (partial replacement), it would require a special assessment of \$750.00 per homeowner, however, this will only buy us three to five years before we would be looking at another special assessment for additional sidewalk replacement work.

In the coming weeks ahead, we will hold an informal community meeting where we will provide all the information we have and make a decision as a community on how we want to proceed. I encourage all of you to attend as we greatly need your feedback.



WATERING

By Winnie Pizzano

It looks like a hot and dry summer is coming and that means we have to water to keep our lush Stoneleigh plantings healthy and green. Plants that have been planted in the past two years and are still developing roots need water.

New plants – the new plants that have been planted this year are being watered by the Association, with a thank you to the residents that permit us to hook up to their water.

Last year's plants - these plants should get a long, slow, deep watering at least once a week. If there is no rain, we would appreciate homeowners who live nearby watering these plants.

Ground covers --such as pachysandra need water. If you have ground cover in your yard or close by, the plants will do much better with watering at least once a week.

If we get a draught condition this year, we will send out a flyer on how to handle the big trees.

The Association does have available some soaker hoses and the bags used for small, young trees. If you need one, please contact Winnie Pizzano at pizzano@erols.com or through the Stoneleigh Association website. Stoneleighhomeowners.com, click contacts and then click landscaping.

LIGHTS ON FOR SAFETY

By Mitchell Sacks

Please remember to turn both your front and rear porch lights on at night. The additional lighting these fixtures produce provides for additional security of your property, as well as personal safety for all of us. Home centers and hardware stores sell a variety of inexpensive timers that can easily be mounted in place of the existing toggle wall switch.

As an alternative option you could purchase a photocell sensor which screws into the light socket and turns the light on and off at dusk.

If you live near one of our lamp posts, please take a moment to clean the glass panes; to remove the glass panes, simply lift up from the bottom and tilt the pane slightly while pulling it towards you; it's very simple. It shouldn't take more than a few minutes, the fixture will look great, and we'll all enjoy the extra light passing through the clean glass!

As always, if you notice a community lamp post not working (or missing the glass panes), please let me know. We have an ample supply of replacement bulbs, and if that doesn't fix it, we'll get an electrician out to repair it.

RECIPE CORNER

Best Burger Ever

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 pounds extra-lean ground beef
- 1 (1 ounce) package dry onion soup mix
- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- 2 teaspoons hot pepper sauce
- 2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 3/4 cup rolled oats

DIRECTIONS:

- Preheat an outdoor grill for medium high heat and lightly oil grate.
- In a large bowl, combine the beef, onion soup mix, egg, hot sauce and oats. Shape into 6 patties.
- Grill patties over medium high heat for 10 to 20 minutes, or to desired doneness.



CURB YOUR DOG'S!

By Mitchell Sacks

All dog owners are reminded that they are responsible for picking up after their dogs. This is both a covenant violation which can result in a \$50 fine for each incidence, as well as a violation of Fairfax County Law "The owner or custodian of any dog shall be responsible for the removal of excreta deposited by such dog on the property of another, including public areas ("pooper scooper" regulation)." Please help keep out community looking it's best by doing your part!

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS:

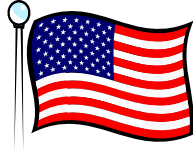
TIP FROM DHS

Take a minute to check your family's first aid kit, and note any depleted items — then, add them to your shopping list. Don't have a first aid kit? Add that to the list or build a kit yourself. Just add the following items to your shopping list and assemble a first aid kit. Consider creating a kit for each vehicle as well:

First Aid Kits - Assemble a first aid kit for your home and one for each car.

- (20) adhesive bandages, various sizes
- (1) 5" x 9" sterile dressing
- Conforming roller gauze bandage2) triangular bandages
- (2) 3 x 3 sterile gauze pads
- (2) 4 x 4 sterile gauze pads
- Roll 3" cohesive bandage
- Germicidal hand wipes or waterless alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- (6) antiseptic wipes
- Pair large medical grade non-latex gloves
- Adhesive tape, 2" width
- Anti-bacterial ointment
- Cold pack
- Scissors (small, personal)
- Tweezers
- CPR breathing barrier, such as a face shield
- First Aid Manual
- Non-Prescription and Prescription Drugs
- Aspirin or non-aspirin pain reliever
- Anti-diarrhea medication
- Antacid (for stomach upset)
- Syrup of Ipecac (use to induce vomiting if advised by the Poison Control Center)
- Prescription drugs, as recommended by your physician, and copies of the prescriptions in case they need to be replaced
- For more information about first aid kits, visit www.redcross.org.

Flying the American Flag



Flag Day and July 4th

Great Opportunities to fly our Flag.

FROM <http://www.ushistory.org/betsy>

1. When the flag is displayed over the middle of the street, it should be suspended vertically with the union to the north in an east and west street or to the east in a north and south street.
2. The flag of the United States of America, when it is displayed with another flag against a wall from crossed staffs, should be on the right, the flag's own right [*that means the viewer's left --Webmaster*], and its staff should be in front of the staff of the other flag.
3. The flag, when flown at half-staff, should be first hoisted to the peak for an instant and then lowered to the half-staff position. The flag should be again raised to the peak before it is lowered for the day. By "half-staff" is meant lowering the flag to one-half the distance between the top and bottom of the staff. Crepe streamers may be affixed to spear heads or flagstaves in a parade only by order of the President of the United States.
4. When flags of States, cities, or localities, or pennants of societies are flown on the same halyard with the flag of the United States, the latter should always be at the peak. When the flags are flown from adjacent staffs, the flag of the United States should be hoisted first and lowered last. No such flag or pennant may be placed above the flag of the United States or to the right of the flag of the United States (the viewer's left). When the flag is half-masted, both flags are half-masted, with the US flag at the mid-point and the other flag below.
5. When the flag is suspended over a sidewalk from a rope extending from a house to a pole at the edge of the sidewalk, the flag should be hoisted out, union first, from the building.
6. When the flag of the United States is displayed from a staff projecting horizontally or at an angle from the window sill, balcony, or front of a building, the union of the flag should be placed at the peak of the staff
7. When the flag is used to cover a casket, it should be so placed that the union is at the head and over the left shoulder. The flag should not be lowered into the grave or allowed to touch the ground.
8. When the flag is displayed in a manner other than by being flown from a staff, it should be displayed flat, whether indoors or out. When displayed either horizontally or vertically against a wall, the union should be uppermost and to the flag's own right, that is, to the observer's left. When displayed in a window it should be displayed in the same way that is with the union or blue field to the left of the observer in the street. When festoons, rosettes or drapings are desired, bunting of blue, white and red should be used, but never the flag.
9. That the flag, when carried in a procession with another flag, or flags, should be either on the marching right; that is, the flag's own right, or, if there is a line of other flags, in front of the center of that line.
10. The flag of the United States of America should be at the center and at the highest point of the group when a number of flags of States or localities or pennants of societies are grouped and displayed from staffs.
11. When flags of two or more nations are displayed, they are to be flown from separate staffs of the same height. The flags should be of approximately equal size. International usage forbids the display of the flag of one nation above that of another nation in time of peace.
12. When displayed from a staff in a church or public auditorium on or off a podium, the flag of the United States of America should hold the position of superior prominence, in advance of the audience, and in the position of honor at the clergyman's or speaker's right as he faces the audience. Any other flag so displayed should be placed on the left of the clergyman or speaker (to the right of the audience).
13. When the flag is displayed on a car, the staff shall be fixed firmly to the chassis or clamped to the right fender.
14. When hung in a window where it is viewed from the street, place the union at the head and over the left shoulder.