

Stoneleigh News

March 2010

THE STONELEIGH NEWSLETTER IS BACK!

Spring is a season of rebirth, and, in that spirit, we announce the rebirth of the Stoneleigh newsletter! (Okay, okay, it might not seem very Spring-like with the mountains of snow outside, but it has to melt someday, right?) It has been a while since we have distributed a newsletter, so let's start with some basics. Inside this issue (and we hope to bring these to you quarterly), you will find a message from your HOA President, and an introduction to the members of the Stoneleigh Homeowners Association Board of Directors. We also have included information about a survey we are conducting of all Stoneleigh residents that will help shape the future of our beautiful neighborhood. Are you a parent of a young child or two or three? Be sure to read the section devoted to forming a strong network of parents. Please take a moment to read the less exciting, but completely necessary, sections on parking, trash cans, and pets. Also, ways to unclutter, save money (sushi, anyone?), save the environment, and stay connected with one another and the Board.

Is there anything you would like to see included in the next newsletter? Please let Heather Kennedy or any other Board member know. We always need ideas!

STONELEIGH RESIDENTS SURVEY

Stoneleigh is conducting the first of many surveys of its residents. It is very important that we get feedback from every household to help us plan for the future. (One survey per household, please.) A paper copy of the survey is enclosed. Just drop completed surveys off to 1551 Dunterry Place or mail it back with your dues payment. You can also take the survey online at: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/L86LB2C>

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark your calendar: Saturday, **May 15 is McLean Day** in Lewinsville Park. Rides, food, local vendors, and more! The best part is, we don't have to deal with parking - we're close enough to walk. See you there!

Stay tuned for information on the following Stoneleigh events (join the Google Group to make sure you are up-to-date):

- Easter Egg Hunt
- Annual Picnic
- Fourth of July Parade
- Garden Tour

GO GREEN

Help save the environment and the HOA budget! Opt to receive newsletters and other announcements via email. Send an email to heather.kennedy@gmail.com with the word "GREEN" in the subject line and your name and address in the body.

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By the time you receive this, the snow from the blizzards of the winter season will be gone (hopefully) and Spring will be upon us. Spring is one of the most beautiful times of the year here in Stoneleigh. Everywhere you look something is in bloom. The grass begins to turn green; the trees and bushes start putting out leaves, and we will begin to forget about the copious amounts of snow we have all dealt with.

As we head into Spring, I wanted to take a moment to look back and see how we weathered the storm. From a snow removal perspective, I think our vendor, Blade Runners, did a fantastic job. I can always tell when a vendor gets it right, because when they don't, I hear about it immediately. But this year, folks went out of their way to stop me whenever I was walking through the community and tell me what a good job Blade Runners was doing. We did lose a few trees, and the pine trees on Davidson road lost quite a few limbs, but on the whole we came through in pretty good shape. Special thanks to Marian Hopkins for putting up with a tree that fell into her backyard and couldn't be removed for about a week or two due to the back-to-back storms.

Please help me welcome Laura Coblentz and Heather Kennedy to the Board. It's always great to have different homeowners serve on the Board. Each time we get new folks on the Board, they bring fresh ideas and new perspectives. They question why and how we do things and genuinely want to make our community an even better place to live. Heather has been instrumental in putting this newsletter together and we are planning on publishing one quarterly. Laura has chosen to take on the role of Treasurer. My thanks go to both of them for volunteering. If you see either of them, let them know how much you appreciate their taking the time to make Stoneleigh a great place to live.

Guest Parking Spaces (and snow, lots of snow, too much snow)

I think there have been some misconceptions on the part of some folks about how guest parking works here at Stoneleigh. A quick review of our homeowners covenants states in part that, "*Each lot owner has been assigned one designated parking space marked with the number of the dwelling. The remaining unnumbered designated parking spaces are for the open use of all residents and guests.*" So just to clarify this, your numbered space is your one and only space. The guest spaces – even if they are right in front of your home – are not yours, they are for all of us to use. One thing that I was disappointed to see after the blizzards is folks arguing over guest parking spaces. Typically, what would happen is that one family would dig out their numbered space, and if they had two cars, a guest space. In many cases this amounted to hours and hours of labor. The homeowner would then vacate the guest space, returning later to find the guest space they labored to dig out, taken by someone else. The space was often taken by an individual who had not taken the time to dig out a space for their car, but instead capitalized on someone else's efforts.

Now from a covenants standpoint there is nothing wrong with this since guest spaces are "for the open use of all residents and guests," but from a common sense and moral standpoint, this is just plain wrong. Here's a simple guideline for next year: In times of heavy snowfall, when parking gets tight, we all need to respect the efforts of our fellow homeowners and do the right thing. And if we have any energy left, let's work together to dig out the other guest spots.

Garbage Cans

It has long been a policy at Stoneleigh that trash is placed outside your rear gate in a sealed trash container the morning of trash collection (Tuesday and Friday). Further, after the trash is collected, homeowners are to bring their trash can back inside their rear yard to provide a clean and orderly appearance for the community. Per the covenants: "*All trash, garbage, refuse and waste shall be enclosed in suitable plastic bags and placed within covered containers outside the rear fence exit of the dwelling's own lot the morning of each scheduled trash pick-up day. All containers must be removed to the enclosed rear yard area the day on which the trash collection occurs.*"

I can't tell you how frustrating it is to see trash cans left outside homeowners' units for days on end. I simply can't understand why something as simple as bringing a trash can back inside is so difficult to comply with. In the past, we've dealt with this by issuing warnings and in some cases fines. While I dislike having to do it, we are once again going to start monitoring for compliance and levying fines. First offenders will be sent a warning letter. The first reoccurrence after the warning, will result in a \$50 fine, the second is \$100, third is \$150 and fines will continue to go up \$50 until the homeowner comes into compliance. Please help make our community beautiful, bring in your trash can!

Dogs and Your Responsibilities

Stoneleigh is a great place to live and own a dog. We have a fantastic park behind Alicent Place and I often see homeowners with their dogs in the park. Please, curb your dog - don't leave the mess for someone else to cleanup (and no, that's not what the landscapers are here for). Also, I'm starting to see a lot of homeowners with their dogs off-leash. Please remember that Fairfax County laws require homeowners to keep their dogs on a leash at all times. Carrying the leash with you, but letting your dog run free is disrespectful to your neighbors and potentially dangerous for others and your dog.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
- Mitchell Sacks, Stoneleigh HOA President

SNOWVERKILL 2010

A big pat on the back to everyone for making it through the recent record-breaking snowfalls (take that Winter of 1898-1899!) with camaraderie and a degree of civility not always seen in such circumstances. Many thanks to the neighbors who loaned shovels and sleds, who helped dig out our older residents, who knocked off dangerous icicles, and who helped clear other paths. And more thanks to Blade Runners for all of their hard work plowing, snow-blowing, and shoveling. Their equipment gave out before their backs did! Most of us were ready for some Tylenol and a stiff drink after only a few hours of shoveling. Great job, guys!

That said, our budget for snow removal took a huge hit this Winter, as you might imagine. The final bill will be about four times what we had budgeted for the season. Hopefully, next Winter will be back to normal, but just in case, the Board will be reviewing the budget to determine whether any special assessment is necessary to replenish the funds. We will be sure to communicate to you any decision we make in a timely manner.



PARENTS!!!

Are you tired of seeing other parents and kids around the neighborhood and having no idea who they are or how to approach them without seeming weird? Let's fix that. We need ideas on how parents of young kids can get to know each other. If you are interested in finding friends in the neighborhood for your kids, and also getting to know other parents, please start by joining the Stoneleigh Google Group mentioned above. We can use the group to make introductions and to set up playdates and babysitting swaps, as well as brainstorm amongst ourselves about how to stay connected for the sake of our kids.

KEEPING IN TOUCH...

To make sure that your contact information is up to date in the **Stoneleigh directory**, visit <http://stoneleigh.org>. Please send an email to msacks@verizon.net to request a login and password if you don't already have one. The directory is online to keep costs down and to ease in updating. However, please let us know if you require a paper copy of the directory.

The **Stoneleigh Google Group** is in need of more members. Other neighborhoods use this type of listserv as a powerful tool to sell or give away items, discuss schools, ask for or provide recommendations for quality service providers, start a dialogue in the community, or just get the word out about something they think might interest their neighbors. Heather Kennedy belongs to a listserv for another McLean neighborhood and has used it for the following: purchased a nearly unused Pottery Barn sofa for one-third of its original price, given away a mattress, received free diapers, gotten recommendations for painters and doctors, given recommendations for kitchen remodelers, learned about local pre-schools, and met up with other moms for playdates. It is a very useful tool if we just use it. Be sure when you sign up to have new messages emailed to you (you don't want to miss out if someone is giving away something you could use!). To sign up, visit:

<http://groups.google.com/group/stoneleigh-hoa>

REPRESENT STONELEIGH TO GREATER MCLEAN

An opportunity has arisen to place a Stoneleigh resident on the **McLean Planning Committee**. This group of 16 volunteers advises and makes recommendations to the Dranesville District Supervisor on land use planning in the McLean Community Business Center (CBC). MPC has been instrumental in promoting long term improvements in downtown McLean such as the under-grounding of utilities in the CBC. For more information visit:

<http://www.mcleancitizens.org/planning.asp>

Also, the **McLean Community Center** is seeking candidates to run for open seats on its **2010-2011 Governing Board**. MCC's board provides oversight and guidance for MCC programs and facilities, including the Robert Ames Alden Theatre and the Old Firehouse Teen Center. Nominations are open until Friday, March 26. For more information, please visit MCC's website:

<http://www.mcleancenter.org/contact/2010noticeofnom>

INTRODUCING YOUR 2010 STONELEIGH HOA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Stoneleigh HOA Board invites you to get to know us a little better. We are here to serve your interests and address your concerns. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with us for any reason.

****Please remember when contacting Board members that we all **volunteer** our time, but we will always do our best to respond to you in a timely manner.****

<p>Mitchell Sacks, President 7011 Alicent Place (703) 748-5997 msacks@verizon.net</p>	<p>Mitch and his wife, Margaret, have lived in Stoneleigh since 1997 in the ivy-covered home on Alicent Place. He has served on the Board as President since 2002. Over the years, he has seen many changes in Stoneleigh, but it has always remained a great community in which to live.</p>
<p>Robin Crawford, Vice President 1600 Dunterry Court (703) 734-1150 crawfordr@ruderfinn.com</p>	<p>A McLean native, Robin lives with her husband Ezra and their two children, Cameron (2) and Elizabeth (2 months). She is a Senior VP at Ruder Finn, a public relations firm where she works with clients including clean energy companies, national consumer education campaigns, and Veteran and Military affairs organizations. In addition to her service on our Board, she is a member of the McLean Planning Committee and serves on the Board of Advisors for the George Washington University Solar Institute. Before her children came along, she was an avid equestrian and runner, completing 4 marathons.</p>
<p>Laura Coblentz, Treasurer 1612 Dunterry Court (703) 848-1885 lacoblentz@gmail.com</p>	<p>Laura and her husband Blake moved to Stoneleigh in 2006. They moved here from Chicago and could not be happier about having found such a great community to live in and begin their family. Their first son, Will, was born in 2007 and their family expanded again last year with the addition of another son, Jake. The whole family likes to spend time outdoors, so you can very frequently find them playing on Dunterry Court or walking around the neighborhood! Laura currently works as a pharmaceutical sales representative.</p>
<p>Heather Kennedy, Secretary 1551 Dunterry Place (703) 879-1842 heather.kennedy@gmail.com</p>	<p>Heather, along with her husband Matt and son Max, moved to Stoneleigh in 2008. The family welcomed little Douglas last summer. She is a homemaker and joined the Board because her "home" extends beyond the four walls of her house, and she wants her boys to have fun growing up in a close community with wonderful neighbors. In a previous life, she worked in marketing and public relations. Before the kids, she and Matt spent almost two years traveling around the US and about 27 other countries.</p>
<p>Winnie Pizzano, Landscape Chair 1540 Bruton Court (202) 260-2357 wpizzano@verizon.net</p>	<p>Winnie lives at the top of Bruton Court with her dog, Dulce. She works at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid. She is serving her third term on the Board and is responsible for overseeing the landscaping in the community. An avid knitter, Winnie is a member of the Northern Virginia Knitting Guild. Many an evening finds her working on genealogy, which she thinks is a wonderful excuse for more travel.</p>
<p>Brenda Gordon 1558 Bruton Court (703) 761-7977 bgordon5@cox.net</p>	<p>Brenda and her daughter, Elaina, moved to Stoneleigh in July of 2000. Brenda, who makes her living as an artist, learned of Stoneleigh when painting a mural for someone in the neighborhood. The community and the schools made Stoneleigh a great place to raise her daughter, who has since moved on to Virginia Tech. Sadly, Brenda is moving to Sarasota, Florida, to find a house with above-ground studio space near the water. Her house is currently on the market and has seen a lot of activity, and she asks that everyone bring their trashcans into their yards. Before she moves for good, Brenda plans on selling much of her original art for 75% off (send her an email if you want to be notified when she is ready for the sale!). She bids everyone a fond farewell if her house sells. If not, she'll see you at the Fourth of July party!</p>
<p>Don Sumihiro, Neighborhood Watch 1614 Dunterry Court (703) 244-7339 saxet3715@hotmail.com</p>	<p>Don has lived in Stoneleigh since the mid-1990s.</p>
<p>Jonathan Sucher Cardinal Management Group (703) 565-5015 j.sucher@cmgmt.com</p>	<p>Jonathan works on our behalf at Cardinal Management Group, Inc. He works very hard to keep everything running smoothly and welcomes your comments and concerns.</p>

IT'S SPRING CLEANING TIME!

As residents of Stoneleigh, we all know that storage space is at a premium, so why not take some time to clean out those closets and that basement? Here are just a few ways to get rid of all that trash that might well be someone else's treasure...

Stoneleigh Yard Sale

We will be having a community Yard Sale on Saturday, April 10 (to coincide with the increased Yard Sale traffic in town due to the McLean Community Center garage sale). Bring your wares out to the grassy area at the intersection of Chain Bridge and Westmoreland. Please be set up and ready to go by 9 a.m. We will advertise the sale on Craigslist. If anyone has extra tables to set up, they would be very appreciated.

Stoneleigh's Annual Clean-Up Day

On Saturday, April 17, residents will have the opportunity to get rid of ALL the junk in their homes (and were not able to sell the prior weekend). We will be hiring the Junk Army to bring their trucks through the neighborhood to collect **anything** you want to send to the dump. That day at 10 a.m. we are also asking residents to volunteer to clean light posts in the neighborhood. Just meet up with a rag and bucket by the bench on the corner of Alicent Place and Duntery Place, and we'll spread out from there. Additional information will be posted to the Google Group as necessary.

Redeemer Lutheran Preschool

Baby/Kids/Maternity Consignment Sale

Our neighbors across Westmoreland will be holding their semi-annual sale on Friday, March 19 from 7 to 9 p.m., and Saturday, March 20 from 8 - 11 a.m. It is a great place to find amazing deals on gently used kids' gear. It's also a good place to get rid of any extra baby stuff you have around. Please call (703) 356-3567 or send an email for a unique consignor code and detailed consignor guidelines. The sale email address is RLPSale@gmail.com. Please enter Information Request or Code Request in the subject line and include your complete contact information (name, address, phone) as well as your three initials. Specific sale information will be sent.

Online

[Stoneleigh HOA Google Group listserve](#) (sign up now!)
[Craigslist](#)
[Freecycle](#)
[eBay](#)
[Half.com](#) (for books, DVDs, video games, textbooks, and music)

Drop-off Donation Centers

Goodwill 10 S Glebe Road Arlington, VA 22204 (703) 769-3711	Salvation Army (drive-thru) 6528 Little River Turnpike Alexandria, VA 22312 (703) 642-9270
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Donation Pick-ups (go online or call to schedule)

Purple Heart - <http://www.purpleheartpickup.org/>

Lupus Foundation of America -
<http://www.lupuspickup.org/> or 1-888-44-LUPUS (58787)

Vietnam Veterans of America -
<http://www.vvapickup.org/> or 1-800-459-VETS (8387)

STONELEIGH NIGHTS AT ENDO SUSHI

Endo Sushi (6828 Old Dominion Drive, (703) 883-2001) is offering Stoneleigh residents 35% off their bill on the last Wednesday of March, April, and May. Present the attached coupons and enjoy some tasty sushi values with your neighbors. A big **thanks to Emily Summers** for negotiating this amazing deal! Here's a note from Endo Sushi:

The owner of Endo Sushi (Masa Endo) in Arlington and McLean has been in the restaurant business for nearly 30 years. He was the original founder of Miyagi Sushi restaurant in McLean. Mr. Endo was born in Miyagi Prefecture (Province) in northern Japan, and now resides in McLean with his wife and family. Endo Sushi restaurants pride themselves with a family atmosphere, excellent Japanese cuisine, and a friendly, attentive staff. We look forward to seeing you in the future, and wish you a healthy and prosperous New Year.

Is there a restaurant you would like to see featured as the next Stoneleigh Restaurant Night? Let us know!

Coupon #1 Good 3/31/10 only Stoneleigh Night at Endo Sushi (McLean location) 35% off bill	Coupon #2 Good 4/ 28/10 only Stoneleigh Night at Endo Sushi (McLean location) 35% off bill	Coupon #3 Good 5/26/10 only Stoneleigh Night at Endo Sushi (McLean location) 35% off bill
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