

# Communiqué

August 2023

Official Newsletter of the Stonewall Manor Community Association .....

## SMCA Membership Enrollment 2023-2025

We are excited to continue building a strong community with your support. SMCA is an all-volunteer civic association that helps support our neighborhood by:

- Managing the Trash Trust Fund and the contract with Champion Services
- Entrance way beautification via the Stonewall Manor Garden Society
- Communications of events and announcements of interest
- Local Food Drives
- Annual Luminaries
- Welcome bags for new residents
- Social activities
- Annual Yard Sale
- Neighborhood directory
- Representing the community on local civic councils and liaison with Fairfax County Police

Dues for the two-year period will remain at \$30, only \$15 per year. By becoming an SMCA member, your dues will give you access to all these benefits, along with the opportunity to meet more neighbors!

### Ways To Pay

We are continuing to make it easy and convenient to remit your dues. To pay online via credit card visit <https://smca-2023-2025-dues.cheddarup.com>. Please note there will be a \$1.64 transaction fee. You can also reach the website by scanning the following QR code.



To pay by check, please make payable to SMCA, and mail the \$30 check to SMCA c/o Robin Depaoli, Treasurer, at 8317 Stonewall Drive, Vienna VA 22180.

For questions about dues, please email the SMCA Treasurer, Robin Depaoli, at [RNormanDepaoli@outlook.com](mailto:RNormanDepaoli@outlook.com). Thank you!

## Neighborhood Announcements

- Dominion Power will arrange to have a company trim tree branches which interfere with power lines. Call **1-866-366-4357**.
- Fairfax County does not allow political signs on the common ground grass by the street.
- Area Representatives are still needed! Please offer to support your community! [dsharksharks@gmail.com](mailto:dsharksharks@gmail.com)
- Please contact Nancy Pugh at [nancy.pugh2@verizon.net](mailto:nancy.pugh2@verizon.net) if you would be interested in showcasing your home renovations! It would be an evening of neighborhood Open Houses!



Website - <https://stonewallmanor.org>

To receive SMCA Board updates and community announcements please sign up at [bit.ly/stonewall-updates](https://bit.ly/stonewall-updates)

## Crime Prevention

On June 22nd the McLean Police Department held a crime prevention meeting to inform the community of recent burglaries. Fortunately, no burglaries have occurred in Stonewall Manor in the past two years. Nevertheless, the police encourage all residents to report suspicious activity to the McLean Police non-emergency number 703-691-2131, or, if urgent call 911. Watch for cars with out of state license plates. Take a picture of the car and license plate to forward to the police.

## Reducing Light Pollution to Enjoy Wildlife by Nicole Byrd

Did you know we have owls in our neighborhood?! We can be good neighbors to them by rethinking our outdoor lighting.

- Instead of bright white lights, use warm tones like yellow or orange.
- Point lights downward instead of straight up or out, and think about fixtures or shields that are designed to help curb excessive light pollution.
- Use a motion sensor setting instead of leaving lights blaring all night.

None of these adjustments are expensive or time consuming. Less light pollution is better for humans' sleep quality and overall health, too.

For more information, visit

- <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/topics/dark-skies>
- <https://www.audubonva.org/news/recovering-our-night-sky-for-people-and-wildlife>
- <https://education.nationalgeographic.org/resource/light-pollution/>

## SMCA Directory 2023-25

If you would like to be included in the next version of the neighborhood directory please visit the website listed below.



Verify/update your current information to be included in the directory.

<http://bit.ly/SMCA-Directory>

## Champion Trash Fund Announcements

**Q4 PAYMENT DUE (final quarter of 2023) IS DUE SEPTEMBER 1ST.** If you do not see an invoice in your email, please check your junk files. Payments that are not received by September 15th are subject to a \$15 late fee. Accounts not paid within 30 days are subject to suspension and a \$25 reconnection fee. Check payments may be mailed to: 2401 Rockbridge St., Vienna, VA 22180. If you have any questions, please email: [SMCATrashFund@gmail.com](mailto:SMCATrashFund@gmail.com)

**TRASH COLLECTION REMINDERS:** Please remember to have your trash, recycling, and yard debris out no later than 6 am, you may also place it the night before collection. What gets collected has also been a source of discussion. Regular household trash is all that should go into the trash. Please do NOT put ANY dead animals into the trash, as Champion does not collect them. Dead Animals Removal: Here is a link for information on removal of dead animals: Animal Carcass Disposal | Public Works and Environmental Services ([fairfaxcounty.gov](http://fairfaxcounty.gov))

**YARD DEBRIS** may be placed in paper bags or a reusable container (though Champion prefers paper bags) for curbside collection. You may also dispose of small branches in lengths of no more than 4' and in bundles reasonable for one person to pick up. Shrubbery, tree stumps, clumps of dirt, etc. are NOT collected. For more information, refer to the County's website: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/yard-waste>

**RECYCLING:** Fairfax County recycles quite a bit, but much of it is not collected curbside. For curbside, you may place: metal cans, and #1 and #2 plastic, paper (though not food containers like pizza boxes). Fairfax County's website has information about glass collection and recycling of a large number of other items at: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-trash/residential-materials>