

7 November 2021

**SAVE THE DATE!!!! THE SRCA HOLIDAY PARTY IS RETURNING ON SUNDAY, 5 DECEMBER 2021!**

SRCA will plan to host the annual holiday party at the home of Don and Sharon Frahler, 4115 North Garland Street on Sunday, 5 December, 7:00-9:00 pm. As in previous years, because alcohol will be served, this event is for adults only. Unlike previous years, we continue to face challenges with the persistence of COVID. Please take into consideration your vaccination status as well as the fact that food and beverages will be served, so the ability to wear masks will be limited.

The holiday party is the most expensive event that SRCA sponsors each year. Therefore, if anyone who plans to attend has not yet paid their dues, we ask that you bring a check with you to the event, made out to SRCA, for the annual dues payment of $50.00.

It is also important that we have a good idea of how many adult residents plan to attend so that an appropriate amount of food and wine can be ordered in advance. Please click here: <https://forms.gle/VM7vt6qjkYEw3Kt18> to RSVP by Tuesday, 30 November. (If you are receiving a hard copy of this newsletter, the link is also on the Events page of seminaryridge.net.)

In other news from the Board:

* October events: We had several very successful events the second half of October: SRCA hosted a mayoral forum on 19 October, a number of families participated in SSSAS’ Spooky Spectacular on 30 October, and on 31 October at least 90 children and their parents attended a terrific gathering for a parade and fire truck visit prior to the start of trick-or-treating. We also had a number of homes participate in the house decorating contest the previous week, which we hope many enjoyed while walking or driving through the neighborhood.
* Duke Street: The City plans to change the timing of lights, January – March 2022, to enhance traffic flow along Duke Street during the evening rush, 4-7:00pm. This will involve increase signal timing from Quaker Lane onto Duke Street and closer to the Duke-Telegraph intersection while also shortening the light cycle for cars turning from side streets onto Duke. The aim is to decrease cut-through traffic on neighborhood streets. If successful, a second phase of the Duke Street effort would begin later in 2022; it would reinstate these signal changes and would close off access to the Telegraph Road ramp from West Taylor Run. If implemented, vehicles will have to turn left onto Duke Street from West Taylor Run, then proceed to Dove Street to cross back over Duke and access the Telegraph ramp via Dove Street. These plans are explained in a recent ALXnow article, posted on seminaryridge.net in the “issues of interest” page under Duke Street.
* Strawberry Run: The City has hired a facilitator/consultant to work with the City and the Environmental Policy Commission (EPC) to come to a resolution on Strawberry Run and Taylor Run. SRCA has nominated four residents to be engaged in this effort; the City will decide who, if anyone, will be selected. In addition, the City has taken soil samples to test for phosphorous, but has yet to release the results of these tests. It will also be sending a team to examine the lower portion of Strawberry Run, where stream restoration work was done previously but failed, to determine why it failed.
* SSSAS: There will be several events upcoming at SSSAS, including the fall play and basketball tournaments, but this year (due to COVID considerations), attendance will be limited to SSSAS students and their families.
* Helping those in need during the holidays: Our last newsletter mentioned Operation Elf out of the Sheriff’s Office. Another City-run program is the [Fund for Alexandria’s Child](https://www.alexandriava.gov/TheFundForAlexChild) annual Holiday Sharing Program, in which sponsors purchase gift cards for eligible families and individuals, which includes low-income families, foster children, older adults and residents with disabilities. The Department of Community and Human Services staff and volunteers then distribute the cards. Monetary donations can be made [online](https://fundforalexandriaschild.app.neoncrm.com/np/clients/fundforalexandriaschild/donation.jsp?campaign=21&) via credit card (American Express, VISA, MasterCard, Discover or e-check). Donation checks can be made payable to The Fund for Alexandria's Child or to the DCHS Senior Fund and mailed to Holiday Sharing Program, 2525 Mount Vernon Ave., Alexandria, VA  22301. **For more information about Holiday Sharing, email**[holidaysharing@alexandriava.gov](mailto:holidaysharing@alexandriava.gov)**or visit**[alexandriava.gov/HolidaySharing](https://www.alexandriava.gov/TheFundForAlexChild)**.**
* At the November SRCA Board meeting, the October meeting minutes were approved. They can be found on our website, seminaryridge.net in the “Board Minutes” section on the Documents page