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**Yard Waste:** will now be collected on our regular trash day, Tuesday

**Leaf Collection:** Seminary Ridge had the first of 3 leaf collections the week of 2 November. (The other 2 have not yet been announced – look at the leaf collection notices posted on street signs for updates, or check the City website)

Also, the City is making up to 15 leaf bags available for each residential household. The bags can be picked up at City Hall, the City's self-service shed at the corner of Roth and Business Center Drive or at Charles Houston, Patrick Henry or Mount Vernon Recreation Centers. These leaf bags can be placed out for collection on your regulation collection day (Tuesday)

If you want more information about various activities and initiatives being pursued by the City of Alexandria, we encourage you to sign up for the “Council Connection” newsletter. Here is a link to the latest newsletter: <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/November-2020-Council-Connection.html?soid=1109043704255&aid=XpEgh-Buo5M>

## **Seminary Ridge Civic Association (SRCA) Meeting Minutes November 5, 2020**

- **In Attendance:** Jeanne Jacob, President; Nick Giannotti, First Vice President; Kate Hennigan, Second Vice President; Mike Souza, Parliamentarian; Don Frahler, Past President; Beth Chase, St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School (SSSAS), CFO; Susan Clark-Sestak, Chairman Communications Committee; Joe Sestak, City of Alexandria Liaison; and Mike Brookbank, Chairman SRCA History Committee, Laura Plati, Welcome Committee Chair, and Paul Judge, SHA Representative.
- **Call to Order** - Jacob called the meeting to order at 7:32 PM.

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- Fence request for Templeton Place was approved by vote.
- Jet Ski has been removed. No action taken.
- Sidewalk replacement has begun at various locations in SR. SRCA was unaware of this project until signs were posted. Jacob learned that some streets in SR, including Griffith Place and North Garland Street, are to be repaved in 2021 and 2022.
- Jacob reported that Ollie and Alison Russell are replacing Buck Coates as block captain for a portion of Fort Williams Parkway, and Amy Hadley will replace Mary Doane as a block captain for Moss Place.
- Jacob asked Judge to report on zoning issues.
  - The City is doing community outreach on zoning proposal to eliminate single-family housing over time.
  - The City is considering the approval of additional dwelling units or ADUs. Judge sent out a link to Board members to a survey on ADUs that closes on November 6, 2020. The ADU discussion includes use of ADUs as an 'AirBnB,' or similar, that may be allowed if the homeowner continues to reside on the property. The issue is open for discussion with the City. Board agreed to have Clark-Sestak send out information on the ADU plans immediately so that residents would have a chance to answer the city survey. The email also will ask for any inputs from residents directly back to the Board (via news4srca@gmail.com).
  - Per Sestak the City will vote on the ADU recommendations provided by the Planning Commission on December 12, 2020. The Planning Commission will vote on the recommendations on December 1, 2020. The proposal is expected to allow only one ADU to be built on any property, and the ADU is not to exceed 750 sq. feet nor 20 feet in height. If detached, the ADU can be one foot from the property line if there are no windows on that side and three feet if there are windows.

### **Secretary's Report – McIntyre**

- Minutes:
  - Draft minutes of October 1, 2020 Board Meeting were circulated before the meeting and were approved by the Board.
- Directory status:
  - Revised spreadsheets and a clearer image of SRCA logo were sent to printer on October 28. The printer will send us a proof for our

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approximately December 1. All SRCA residents will receive a copy, as will all non-covenant members who have paid SRCA dues for the 2012- 2020 and 2020-2021 fiscal years.

### **Treasurer's Report – Jacob for Browne**

- SRCA sent a check to Travelers Insurance to pay for the SRCA insurance premium.
- To date, 167 residents have paid their dues in full.

### **SHA - Judge**

- Motion was made and approved to have Paul Judge remain SRCA's representative to the Seminary Hill Association (SHA).

### **SSSAS Update - Chase**

- Very positive feedback from the Halloween event.
- Students will have remote learning on December 1, 2 and 3.
- Movie nights are finished for the season and they were very successful.

### **SRCA Events – Hennigan**

- Received very favorable comments on SRCA Halloween contests, and neighbors have asked that this become a new tradition. The cost for the event was significantly less than the budgeted \$400. Hennigan suggested that the winner of each contest be given a \$25 gift certificate. The request was approved.
- So far, the Halloween events raised \$271.76, plus an additional \$250 to be donated by one of the SRCA Board members, to be donated to the Carpenter Shelter. Representatives from SRCA, including Nicki Gray who helped organize the event, were invited to present the check to the Carpenter Shelter. Date to be announced.
- Similar events will be planned for the upcoming holidays.

### **Communications Committee – Clark-Sestak**

- Our [news4srca@gmail.com](mailto:news4srca@gmail.com) remains active, but it cannot be used to send our newsletters. Residents can still use this email as a way of communicating ideas and questions to the Board.
- A MailChimp account has now been created and (hopefully) will be used to distribute the next newsletter, which will include the minutes of this

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communications will be sent to all email addresses that have been provided.

- We have two additional volunteers for the communications committee, Pat McClellan and Erica Jones. McClellan is helping to create a template/banner for the newsletters. Board concurred that the preference is for newsletters to be sent in email text rather than as an attachment (even though the former may limit banner design options).
- A repository for SRCA documents is now available via Google Drive. (Once logged into [news4srca@gmail.com](mailto:news4srca@gmail.com), select “drive” among the Google options. McIntyre and Clark-Sestak have begun creating folders for various documents (e.g., Board minutes, Directories, SRCA event flyers, by-laws).

### **Historical Committee – Brookbank**

- Requested that neighbors, especially former SRCA Board members, deliver historical SRCA documents to Brookbank, either in electronic or hard copy form.

### **Welcome Committee – Plati**

- Reported intent to meet new homeowners of two homes in SR.

### **City of Alexandria Liaison – Sestak**

- Taylor Run/Strawberry Run
  - Sestak participated in Taylor Run Zoom meeting with city, September 29. Strawberry Run is running down a parallel path as Taylor Run.
  - Current plan is to remove 269 of 387 trees, replacing them with 2,400 trees and 7,800 shrubs for Taylor Run, and to remove 89 trees in Strawberry Run and replacing with ~ 1,000 samplings and ~6,000 shrubs, live stakes and rushes. Dearborn Road will become a parking lot for workers and some construction equipment for the Strawberry Run project.
  - There continues to be considerable opposition to these plans by residents on Featherstone Place in SR and in Strawberry Hill. The model design to be used to support the projects continues to be criticized for local utility and accuracy (including in the Alexandria Times by other City personnel not working on the project); it is not

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phosphorous, and nitrate going into the Chesapeake from Alexandria, the city representative said they have not done a study to measure Strawberry Run's water quality. Nor does the City have any plans to test for sediment flow or nitrogen or phosphorus levels. The model also does not provide a measured way to know how much actual sediment would no longer be going into the Bay and is a prediction that would produce false results if the model is not adapted for local conditions. In asking about alternative ways to address the issue of erosion and water flow such as an enhanced piping system, the City's response is that this would require different permits from other departments.

- Bradford Pear Trees
- A memo sent September 14, 2020 by the City's Department of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities (RPCA) to the City's Parks and Recreation Committee, stated it is "preparing for fall implementation of phased, proactive removal and replacement of Callery Pear (Bradford....)" Of note, in 2009, the City actually approved in its Urban Forestry Master Plan a rotational, five year cycle for the pruning of all public street trees. It was because without it, the City was being forced to take a "reactive approach (to storms, citizen requests, public repair and development ... at higher cost)." However, it was not funded until 2019, and then only partially. It *appears* that the City may be using these funds to remove the Bradford trees, rather than either for its intended purpose or to prune those Bradford trees that remain safe and do not need to be cut down. When the tree was first introduced by the Department of Agriculture, it had tested them under such a five-year pruning cycle that was to prevent unwanted breakage as other cities do.
- The Board agreed this was important to share with all SR residents and gain their input on such a proposed project, with consideration for having the City follow its approved pruning program. This is important as the 376 trees add tremendously to the ambiance and attractiveness of Seminary Ridge, and a sudden removal of so many will change that ambiance for years to come.
- SHA sent a letter to the City regarding this issue, including asking for representative(s) to attend the Board's next Zoom meeting, November 5. SRCA sent a separate letter to the mayor and City Council. As requested, this letter separately included reference to the Beautification Committee's recommendation of the types of trees SRCA would like to

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- The City Arborist discussed the SRCA letter with the Mayor, and then met with Sestak in the neighborhood for a few hours. Arborist stated that the 58 trees that exceed 24” in diameter should be removed for safety reasons. Arborist has vacillated on whether some of these trees could be pruned and topped instead of being removed.
- Arborist then called and spoke with Sestak on November 4 and stated that he had decided to remove the 58 trees, as well as an additional 142 Bradford pear trees with a diameter of 18” or greater over the next five years. Accordingly, over half of SR’s trees, equaling 50% of SR’s tree canopy, would be removed over the next five years.
- Sestak spoke with the Arborist on November 5 who emphasized that his plan to remove a total of 200 trees was just a proposal, and he requested feedback from the SRCA Board on the proposal so he could consider it.
- SRCA Board discussed the Arborist’s proposal and strenuously opposed it. The Board asked Sestak to have the arborist conduct an in-person inspection/evaluation of each tree before it is marked for removal and to meet with the SR neighborhood to explain his reasons as to why the trees needed to be removed and allow for direct communication with residents before any action is taken.
- Duke Street corridor
- City is continuing with its plan to create a bus lane each way and evaluating how to also have bike lanes between Landmark and the King Street metro station. Date is TBD. First steps may be taken by 2022, and final steps to be taken by 2027.
- This issue may be addressed through the City Mobility Plan.
  - There was a City Mobility Plan virtual town hall presentation and Q&A, on October 15, 6:00pm
- A feedback form on the draft strategies will be available at [www.alexandriava.gov/mobilityplan](http://www.alexandriava.gov/mobilityplan) from Thursday, October 15 through Sunday, November 8
- For more information: [www.alexandriava.gov/MobilityPlan](http://www.alexandriava.gov/MobilityPlan) or contact: [mobilityplan@alexandriava.gov](mailto:mobilityplan@alexandriava.gov)

### **Old Business – Jacob**

- No old business.

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- Next SRCA Board Meeting: Thursday, December December 3 at 7:30pm.
- This and future Board meetings will be open to all residents to participate as observers and there will be a time for resident input/comments built into the agenda. Clark-Sestak will send an email to all residents with agenda and Zoom meeting invite on December 2.

**Adjourn Meeting – Jacob adjourned meeting at 10:08 PM**



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