

8 June 2023

Hello Neighbors,

Highlights from the June SRCA Board meeting are included below, along with some fun upcoming events and other community news!

Recap of SRCA Community Yard Sale and Spring Party:

More than 15 homes participated in the SRCA community yard sale this year!

We had a lovely day and great turnout for our Spring Party! We want to extend our thanks to the Wainsteins for hosting at their beautiful home and to all whom attended! A lot of positive feedback was received about the time of year the party was held, given that it could be held outdoors and tends to be a less busy time of year than around the winter holidays when our annual party is typically held. The Board will take this feedback into consideration for next year.

End of Year Ice Cream Truck Event:

On Wednesday, **June 14 from 4-5pm**, Kate Hennigan is hosting her annual End of School Year Ice Cream Truck event! Everyone in the neighborhood is welcome to come by for a sweet treat courtesy of Kate Bertles Hennigan with McEneaney Associates. The ice cream truck will be outside Kate Hennigan's house, 3721 Fort Worth Avenue.

Upcoming SRCA Events:

We plan to host a "**Screen on the Green**" again this summer, on Saturday, **July 29th** (rain date is Saturday, August 19th). For those who may be new to the neighborhood, this is a family-friendly evening of fun under the stars on the SSSAS upper school football field! This summer's featured movie will be The Sandlot! Bring your blankets, pillows, cushions, etc., but no chairs with sharp legs please. Seating is also available on the bleachers.

Our **Annual Picnic & Meeting** will be held on Sunday, **September 17th at 5pm**. Please mark your calendar for these events!

Duke Street In Motion Updates:

The Duke Street Advisory Group met for the last time on May 25 and put forth recommendations to the City for a preferred concept for the corridor. Council will hold a public hearing and consider the recommendation on June 27, 2023. Lack of reliable data from the City has been a concern for the Advisory Group and residents throughout the process.

For more information, visit the [project website](#).

Seminary Hill Civic Association (SHA) Updates:

The May 11 SHA meeting was held via zoom. Of note is that **SRCA's very own Susan Clark-Sestak was voted in as an "at-large" member of the SHA Board**. Congratulations Susan!

SHA Board is comprised of: 9 areas (SRCA is "area 9"), up to 4 "at-large" board members, VTS and Episcopal are board members, and school representatives are board members.

Bill Rossello presented the Zoning for Housing briefing he gave at the April 2023 SRCA meeting.

Small Area Plan – Strawberry Hill will be upcoming but date is TBD.

Regarding consolidation of SHA areas, reduction of area reps:

- Some “areas” have grown in population due to development
- Potentially combine Area 2 and 3
- Potentially combine Area 5 and 8
- Area 9 is not fully encompassing SRCA boundaries – if SHA is redrawing the boundaries, Area 9 (SRCA) should be redrawn to include all of SRCA (to include the SRCA section of Ft. Williams and Templeton)

Going forward SHA will meet 5 monthly meetings in person at Immanuel on the Hill and 5 via Zoom.

Area Reports

- Area 2 – Fence going up, lots of noise
- Area 3 – DMES in “sprint mode” to open schools in August. City just approved Overtime for construction companies.
- Area 8 – Coyote sightings recently, protect your small animals
- VTS – graduation took place
- SSASS – June 3 graduation; June 13 construction starts on grounds

West End Coalition (WEC) Updates:

The next Quarterly WEC meeting takes place virtually on June 3, 2023. Meeting link: meet.google.com/jcg-iwwd-tch or join by phone 1-319-449-2100 PIN 928824802. A special guest at the meeting will be Karl Moritz, Director of Planning and Zoning.

The WEC recently shared information regarding the City's Committee, staff, and process associated with street renaming and that information can be found here:

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/equity/confederate-street-renaming>. The Naming Committee will meet to discuss and prioritize street renaming for 2023 in September 2023, exact date TBD. A series of public engagement sessions will follow. See details on the website provided. Hardee Place, named for William Joseph Hardee, General CSA, is a street in the SRCA community that is on the Inventory of Confederate Street Names in Alexandria. There are 41 streets total on the list. Interestingly, Griffith Place is also listed as a "Possible Confederate Street Name" citing that the street may have been named for Richard Griffith, Brigadier General, CSA.

Alexandria Federation of Civic Associations (AFCA) Updates:

AFCA met virtually on May 31, 2023. Jim Parajon, Alexandria City Manager, opened the program. AFCA drafted a letter requesting a delay on the Zoning for Housing proposal. AFCA is planning a Housing Forum in the September/October timeframe.

INOVA Hospital Project Updates:

No updates. Should you have Seminary Road Rezoning Questions, please email seminaryroad@inova.org.

Strawberry Run Updates:

The final report on the City of Alexandria Stream Improvement Project Processes and Outcomes for Taylor Run and Strawberry Run has been released from the Institute of Engagement & Negotiation (IEN) at the University of Virginia.

Stephens & St. Agnes School (SSSAS) Updates:

SSSAS construction will begin on June 14, 2023. No excavation will be taking place outside of the campus. They will start by preparing the interior for demo first, with exterior demo to follow in July. The science wing, maintenance shop, and dining hall are coming down on the back side of the school and will be rebuilt. SSSAS will be redirecting pick-up from the Upper School to the Middle School during construction, but there will still be an impact to traffic during the day due to the construction. SSSAS is limiting the construction and delivery trucks from entering during certain times. Trucks that will be hauling away construction debris will utilize the following path: St. Stephen's Road to Seminary Road to 395. Access to 495 should take the same route with the trucks picking up access to 495 from 395. Please notify Beth Chase at bchase@sssas.org if you notice any violations so she can report them.

Beth El Updates:

A large tree on Beth El's property line with Karig Estates had its roots undercut by the developer when he cut the road from Seminary along our property line. After a recent storm, the tree (which was healthy) fell onto our fence, playground and wildflower garden. Beth El's president is working with our insurance to get the tree removed.

Beth El is saying a fond farewell to Rabbi Bailey Romano, who was hired about 4 years ago to head our religious school and perform other rabbinical duties. Beth El has hired a new religious school director. Rabbi Romano will be missed.

For those of you who have taken advantage of the Chapel in Woods for walks, the bridge across our "west" ravine is now rebuilt. Despite the fallen tree mentioned above, the Chapel in the Woods is still a lovely sanctuary. All are welcome. Just park in their lot and take any of several paths into the woods from the rear of the parking lot.

Beth El members and many other nonmember volunteers continue to remove invasive plants from the woods and replace them with native flora.

Liz Bayer remains our executive director, and Dorrit Lowsen will assume duty as the incoming Beth El board president.

Home Sales in Seminary Ridge:

- 3801 Griffith Place is still on the market, with a price drop this week to \$1.5M
- 817 St. Stephens sold in just 5 days with a list price of \$1.495, will settle on 6/14.

Market conditions continue to be strong, with sellers still having an edge over buyers. Interest rates have stabilized (and even dropped a bit) and buyers are still ready and willing to move. We expect things to slow slightly as the Summer gears up, but all signs point to another strong Fall market.

May Board Meeting Minutes: At the June Board meeting, the minutes from the May meeting were approved and have been posted on seminaryridge.net.

Next SRCA Board Meeting: June 6, 2023 at 7:00 pm (*please note this date could change due to schedules around the July 4 holiday*)