



The Stoneleighite

Volume 82, Issue 2
Spring 2021

Pool Season Upon Us
Small Business Spotlight
Cicadas Come to Stoneleigh

Stoneleighbite

Spring 2021

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The Stoneleighbite is published quarterly by the Stoneleigh Community Association, Inc. Letters to the editor, news items, photos, and announcements of interest to Stoneleigh residents are solicited and printed whenever possible.

Send items to the editor:

Margo Bryant
706 Stoneleigh Road
stoneleighbite@gmail.com

Deadline for Special **Graduation** Summer Publication is Friday, July 9, 2021

Cover Photo by John Waire
Stoneleighbite Photographer



Cicada Singing – page 19

Kids Ads!

Experienced Summer Lawn Care
Maddie and Cole Weihs (14 yrs)

Home: 410-321-1441

Cell: 443-554-5984



Welcome Spring – page 5

President's Letter

Dear Neighbors,

You know that spring is here when the magnolia trees start blooming. Stoneleigh has some of the most beautiful magnolias around. They smell fresh and bring the first signs of color back after winter. This spring has brought expanded Covid vaccinations! It has also brought the option for in-person learning at the public schools. With the beautiful weather and inoculations, I'm hopeful that this is a glimpse of "return to normal." Through Covid, I have been so thankful to live in Stoneleigh. With so many more of us unexpectedly working and schooling from home and social distancing from at risk friends and relatives, I've seen new neighborhood friendships form and others strengthen as we supported each other and found creative ways to maintain personal connections.



The social committee, lead by Laura Hartman and Bonnie Knight, has continued to be creative at implementing safe ways for the community to connect. Valentine's Day weekend was rainy and chilly, and we likely would not have seen many people outside that day. But the social distance house to house Valentine's Day exchange gave people an opportunity to connect and spread cheer (and some sweets). Our family enjoyed participating and watching others run from house to house eagerly depositing the cards they made. I hope you had the opportunity to enjoy it too.

Warm weather also brings thoughts of fun days and nights at the pool! Steve McIntire and the pool committee are already hard at work determining how to safely open the pool this summer and provide maximum time to members. Stoneleigh resident membership sign-ups will begin in mid-May this year. Follow the Stoneleigh Pool Facebook page for the latest information.

Speaking of communications, the Stoneleigh website (stoneleigh21212.org) has been updated due to the hard work of Rachel McFadden, Meghan Virro, and Greg Dildine. Please check it out for volunteer opportunities and the membership directory, among other things.

I'm excited that we have five new board members this year. I'm also so thankful for the long-term volunteers! We are looking forward to the blending of old and new ideas to keep the community a fun, safe place to live. If you are new to the neighborhood or have lived here for many years, we would love to for you to have your participation in whatever capacity you are able. The diversity of experiences and ideas is what makes this neighborhood so special, and we would like to leverage that diversity to the fullest capacity.

Laura Duklewski

President, Stoneleigh Community Association (SCA)

StoneleighPresident@gmail.com

Community Announcements

Birth Announcements

Anna DuVal and Joe Cutrone of Kingston Road are excited to announce the birth of Nico Patrick Cutrone. He was born on March 22, 2021 and joyfully welcomed by five-year-old brother Orlando and two-year-old sister Sophia.



Nico Patrick Cutrone

Katherine and Nick Hoover of Petworth Road welcomed Alexander Nolan Hoover on February 4, 2021. He joins eight-year-old brother Xavier and three-year-old sister Catalina.



Alexander Nolan Hoover

Parvathy and Rob Paymer of Wardman Road welcome Devin Louis Paymer who was born on February 15, 2021. He joins three-year-old big sister Sonia.

Jeff and Kelly Peyton of Wardman Road welcomed their second boy James “Jay” Joseph on March 16, 2021, weighing 8lbs 9 oz. Their son William, who is two years old, is enjoying his new role as big brother.

Congratulations!

Welcome Eby Family

Allison and Andrew Eby moved into their Stoneleigh Road home in March, coming from Philadelphia with their three-year-old daughter, Amelia and seven-month-old son, Oliver. The Eby family shared, “We look forward to meeting our neighbors!”



Welcome Mahjoub Family

Elysia and Ramsy Mahjoub moved onto Petworth Road in April, along with three-year old Paxton, six-month-old Preston, and their 11-year-old dog, Jethro. The Mahjoub family previously lived in Patterson Park for 16 years and are originally from Ohio and Central New York.



Devin Louis Paymer



James Joseph

Due July 9: Reminder to submit high school and college graduation announcements for the upcoming summer graduation issue to stoneleighite@gmail.com!

Spring Social Committee Events

by Laura Hartman and Bonnie Knight, Social Co-Chairs



Valentine's Day Event

The Stoneleigh Neighborhood was spreading the love this past Valentine's Day. With most schools still virtual, the Social Committee wanted to provide a safe way for kids to exchange valentines and have fun with the holiday. Families decorated shoebox Valentine's "mailboxes" and embarked on a neighborhood trek to deliver valentines to the more than 60 participants. It was a great way to be creative, get outside for a nice walk to see neighbors, while delivering those goodies to friends and classmates.

First Day of Spring Event

The neighborhood celebrated the first day of spring on a beautiful day in March with sidewalk decorations and creative treats. Sidewalk sign-ins, decorated railings, fairy gardens, hopscotch courses, and flowers dotted the paths through Stoneleigh. There was even a Spring selfie station! It was great to see such creativity and many neighbors outside after a long winter!



©John Waire

Special thanks to Laura Hartman, Bonnie Knight, and the entire social committee for their creative, safe, and inclusive social events this year! If interested in volunteering for the social committee, contact: stoneleigh21212.org "Volunteer Opportunities"

★ *SCA Board Member Spotlight* ★
Walt McGuire

\$35,000 for a House in Stoneleigh?

We paid \$35,000 for our first three-bedroom home at 6905 Avondale Road in Stoneleigh...in 1973. Wow times have changed! I had just finished five years in the Navy as a pilot and wanted a wonderful community in which to raise our growing family. My wife, Janine, and I had a son, Walt, who was three years old, and a daughter, Erinn who was one year old. The house on Avondale had been converted to a two-apartment home the year before, so we converted it back. The story goes, that much to the dismay of the immediate neighbors, the home had been rented to college students for 20 years. The house was in rough shape, but my wife and I brought it back to its original luster. We lived there for five years before moving in 1978.



"Four home" residents, Janine and Walt McGuire

We sold Avondale for \$85,000 and bought 914 Kingston Road, a five-bedroom home with two-car detached garage for just one more thousand...at \$86,000. It too was in rough shape, but my wife has vision, and before long, it was perfect. We eventually built a 30 x 30 addition off the back connecting the house to the two-car garage. It was, and still is, a stunning addition. We lived there for 14 years and had two more children, Patrick and Reagan. All four children say that house was their favorite. During that time, they all walked to Stoneleigh, Dumbarton and Towson High School making many dear friends that they have kept and cherish to this day. Days and nights at the Stoneleigh pool, they tell us, were such fond memories too.

In 1992, we moved to the corner of York and Hatherleigh into the beautiful stucco home with the large hedge around it. I recall my wife and I planting that hedge that is now so healthy and tall. When we moved, the Royal Farms store was not there. There was a donut shop called Amy Joy and a Baskin Robins where Rita's now resides. I can recall carefully crossing York Road to Baskin Robins in the summer at night with my four children and two dogs to get an ice cream treat. It was a little thing, but a very good memory of family times together.

We lived there for six years before leaving Stoneleigh to purchase the old historic, stone house on four acres at 1609 Pot Spring Road (circa 1848). That was an amazing house that was on both the Maryland's *Historic* Registry and Maryland's *Horticultural* Registry. We lived there for seven years before moving to a home on Lake Manor Drive, just a stone's throw from Lake Roland. Our young grandchildren's repeated visits to the water's edge began to worry my wife and me, so one day we turned to each other and said, "We need to move! But where should we go?" It was an easy choice. "Stoneleigh!"

As a realtor I had been showing two young clients homes here, and one evening, I showed 812 Chumleigh Road. Later that night I said to Janine, "If these clients don't buy that house, we should!" As it turned out, they bought a handsome cape cod on Stoneleigh Road, and the rest is history! We have been back here in Stoneleigh, in our fourth home, for nine years now...*and we're not moving again!* Every single neighbor here on Chumleigh is just terrific, and we couldn't be happier. Stoneleigh, you are the greatest!

Health & Wellness

Why do I walk/run?



One of the reasons why I love running in the Stoneleigh neighborhood is because it is a great mix of hills and flat spaces. I can do challenging hill work on Rich Hill or sprint down Stoneleigh Road. After limping through two foot surgeries over the past year, it is so wonderful to be able to wave to walkers or runners, as well as friends working in their front yard, while on my run! Plus, it helps me stick to my rule of not taking any walk breaks when someone I know can see me!

-Emily Parks of Hatherleigh Road

For Cleo and me, walking was our way to get out of the house and take a break from our work/mom duties. Over the many years, it has become our time to talk and be supportive to one another. We have so much fun. It's more about our mental health and we hardly call it exercise!

-Lisa Reynolds of Oxford Rd & Cleo Stamatos, formerly Greenleigh Rd



I started running in college for healthy exercise and weight management. I still graduated with “the freshman 15” on board but also with a healthy cardio habit that burns more calories than most exercises. Living in NYC right after college, I started walking regularly as well. Moving about in the fresh air and Stoneleigh scenery gives me energy and clears my head. Our dog, Ian, gives me extra motivation and keeps me company. Walking is easier on the joints and is also great for spontaneous socializing with neighbors, which has been especially enjoyable this past year.

-Charlie Skinner of Stoneleigh Road

From the Pool Chair

“We’re Back!”

The 2021 pool season will start Saturday, May 29! While we still face significant uncertainty regarding Covid rules, this year we can at least say we WILL be opening on time. There’s a lot of work to do getting ready, but by the time you read this, the pool should be glistening. Non-residents have been signing up since April 15. Stoneleigh resident sign-up begins May 15. Rates for this year are unchanged, our fifth year without any increase.

Looking forward to 2021, I can’t help but think of this time last year. Stoneleigh had just organized with community pools throughout Baltimore County. The mood on that initial call was downbeat, with many expecting to open in July, if at all. Every year, volunteers balance the inherent risks of operating a pool with the benefits it provides our communities, but none of us expected the extraordinary risk of Covid. In the absence of clear guidance from the state, we drew on the immense expertise within our communities to develop operating protocols to mitigate risk.



Pool Chair, Steve McIntyre leads the pool bench restoration project

Ultimately, we chose to trust in our community members, that they would take precautions to keep their neighbors safe and comply with extraordinary rules. Over 500 Stoneleigh Pool families visited nearly 37 thousand times, sometimes 230 at a time. No Covid was spread at the pool from those countless interactions. This success was possible because of your diligence.

Our challenge this year (other than cleaning up thousands of cicadas) will be striking a balance between a widespread desire for more normalcy and continuing requirements for Covid precautions. Undoubtedly, that balance will appear too liberal for some members and excessively cautious to others. Please be patient, and most especially, please be tolerant of other members’ risk thresholds. While we are clearly in a better position this year, there are still risks we need to manage.

We are still finalizing rules, awaiting more detailed guidance from State and County authorities. However, the season will likely start with masks required on entry, exit and in the bathrooms, limitations on guests, and some capacity limits during peak times. These may change and will be reevaluated throughout the season. Look for updates on e-mail and on the Stoneleigh website. In the meantime, a few things to look forward to:

- Sharks Swim Team will be back. See updates on the proceeding page.
- The sand box and gaga pit will be open.
- More food truck events!
- Additional seating, refurbished benches and new umbrellas.
- Six days a week of early morning lap swimming (adding Saturday 8-10AM). Separate registration required and information will be distributed as available.
- Adult swim weekdays from 5pm-6pm starting June 21.
- 10PM weekday closing from June 21 through at least July 4.

The Capital Improvement Committee is moving forward with elements of the Master Plan for construction this fall after the pool closes (the Master Plan is available to Stoneleigh residents on the website). We're drafting RFPs for a pavilion on the old basketball court and replacing the old stage with a bocce ball pit and more seating areas. Over the summer, we'll be soliciting your ideas for a nature play area for kids from behind the baby pool to the northwest corner.

Pool Committee volunteers are also working on a special project—refurbishing the benches that have been in use for at least 45 years. The cedar lumber alone in each of these benches, costs over a thousand dollars. Some of the elements like the feet are showing their age, but if we take care of them, they can serve the pool for decades more. Each bench will have to be taken apart, sanded, refinished, and reassembled. Contact me at StoneleighPoolChair@gmail.com or 410-370-7935 if you can help out on this or any other project.

Please reach out to me or any other member of the Pool Committee with feedback, constructive criticism, and any ideas to share. Looking forward to a safe and enjoyable 2021!

Sincerely,
Steve McIntire, Stoneleigh Pool Chair

Sharks Swim Team Update

We are excited to return to the pool for what will be a fun summer. We are pleased to share our Freestate swim team schedule below. Afternoon practices will begin on Tuesday, June 1 through Tuesday, June 22. On Wednesday, June 23, we will move to morning practices. Registration information can be found on our [Stoneleigh Sharks website](#).

Wednesday 6/16 Home vs. Pine Ridge
Monday 6/23 BYE

Wednesday 6/23 Home vs. Valley
Monday 6/28 Away @ Wiltondale
Wednesday 6/30 Away @ Eagles Nest
Monday 7/5 BYE
Wednesday 7/7 Home vs. York Manor
Monday 7/12 Away @ Woodcroft
Wednesday 7/14 Away @ Hampton
Monday 7/19 Away @ Campus

The schedule above is subject to change.
[Freestate Swim League Website](#)



Citizens on Patrol (COP) Update

by Pat Fogarty, COP Chair

I am pleased to report that the BCPD has eased restrictions preventing neighborhood watch groups from patrolling. For most of last year, the County and local Towson Police Precinct asked us to refrain from patrolling as a COVID precaution. Most of the reasoning had to do with the idea that some patrols would be done in pairs, which is what they recommend. While we have been patrolling in an unofficial capacity, we are now able to be out there a bit more often. I have a modest group of volunteers who help patrol, but if you would like to join us or learn more about the program, please email Pat Fogarty at copstoneleigh@gmail.com

As we approach long summer days, please be vigilant in locking your cars and putting away bikes. If your child is planning to ride a bike to the pool, invest in a bike lock and take advantage of the bike rack. Continue to lock your cars during overnight hours and make sure to get your bikes, scooters, and other valuables into your backyard or garage at the end of the day. Minor thefts have continued to happen occasionally around the neighborhood, so make sure your stuff is secure. Questions, concerns, or suggestions, please email copstoneleigh@gmail.com.

Master Plan Update: Stoneleigh Pool

by Anna DuVal and Matt Hampton

Stoneleigh is a community for all ages and stages in life with no singular type of member in our community or our pool. The Stoneleigh Community Pool serves as a gathering space for all. This concept was the foundation of the Master Plan for the pool, which resulted in capital improvements with something for everyone. The Capital Improvements Committee has been charged with bringing the Master Plan to fruition, including determining project order, soliciting bids, determining project budgets, and working with other committees to ensure alignment with community priorities.



Following approval of the budget at the annual community meeting, top priority projects implemented include the pavilion, bocce court, and children's nature play space. The committee is aiming to review bids later this spring and break ground in September 2021. The vision:

- Pavilion will provide a covered gathering space and will be located on an existing concrete pad, alleviating the need for a new foundation. Should the community decide, the placement on this side of the pool area would allow year-round use with distinct separation from the pool space.
- The bocce court is an amenity for all ages, flexible for use as bocce, corn hole, and horseshoes. The bocce court would replace an under-utilized stage and make use of previous dead space.
- Children's Nature Place Space is a low cost, child friendly space. It provides kids opportunity to use creativity and with natural features – by climbing on boulders and logs and exploring a multisensory garden. Kids are entertained while caregivers supervise from an adjacent gathering space. Full details can be found on the website and if have any questions or would like to get involved, please contact us at stoneleighmasterplan@gmail.com.

Neighbors in the Community: *Hons on a Mission*

by Karen Fireman

Please join us! Hons on A Mission (HOAM) was started by Donna Rae Smith over ten years ago. It all started with the idea that we have things that someone else may need as part of an effort to support our neighbors and wider community. Collections over the years have included pool towels, prom dresses, pet supplies, books, school supplies, Halloween costumes and adaptive equipment like walkers and shower seats. There is an ongoing monthly food collection for the Assistance Center of Towson Churches. Currently, we're focused on supporting community programs such as our recent collections for the Student Support Network (SSN) and the Assistance Center of Towson Churches (ACTC). We start by asking, "how can we support your efforts? What do you need?"

Each year we plan around three seasonal drives. We meet early in the school year, date TBD. Look for an announcement this summer. Or contact us now! Karen Fireman and Angela Wu: KRN.Fireman@gmail.com
We need your ideas, passion, and your commitment to see a drive through! Here is a recap on our last two drives:

HOAM SPRING DRIVE to support The Assistance Center of Towson Churches' Efforts:

ACTC is a consortium of approximately 50 churches that provide emergency help for neighbors in need in northern central Baltimore County and northern Baltimore City. This includes groceries, lunch, financial assistance and connection to other services. See website: [What We Do \(actonline.info\)](http://www.actonline.info) We collected a variety of requested sundries such as laundry pods, shampoo/conditioner and deodorant. Your donations are appreciated!

HOAM FALL DRIVE to support The Student Support Network's Efforts:

Each week, the Student Support Network (SSN) distributes food to families waiting in long lines by car or on foot. As we transitioned back to school, we were reminded there are many struggling with financial hardship. "The Student Support Network focuses on a variety of projects, not only in support of the ten schools that are currently part of the Network, but also in support of the broader base of Baltimore County schools whose students are facing food insecurity, poverty and homelessness. See website: <https://www.studentsupportnetwork.org/>"

Along with groceries, volunteers love when there are activity or treat bags available to give to children. Our Fall request was for small activity bags designed to add smiles to the children who may be waiting for the Friday food distribution. In fact, it added some smile and cheer as a socially distanced activity we could do with our family and neighbors. And it was a reminder of our connection to all children beyond our block and across Baltimore.



L to R: Angela Wu, Lisa Mathias (SSN Liaison), Karen Fireman



L to R: Cole Weihs, Henry Fireman

210 snack bags and **460** activity bags collected and distributed at the Parkville and Loch Raven SSN sites! Thank you for your thoughtful generosity!!

Neighbors in the Community: Reid Thompson - Stoneleigh Rd

Reprinted with permission of Johns Hopkins Children's Center 2021

The back story to this story, [Reid Thompson](#) explains, is a longtime interest in sound, dating back to his undergrad days as a music major. It was only natural, he says, that his early training in medicine would lead him to pediatric cardiology and a focus on auscultation — listening with a stethoscope to detect heart-valve malfunctions.

“I was a musician, and what I learned I learned by listening as much as by looking,” says Thompson. “I liked using my ears.”

So much so that Thompson constructed what may be the world's largest database of heart murmurs, what he calls “the ground truth for every sound the heart makes.”

That's potentially critically important, Thompson explains, because for children, a heart murmur is one of the signs of heart disease.

Children may be asymptomatic but have a murmur — a swishing sound in addition to the lub-DUB of a normal heartbeat as heart valves close. Literature reports that up to 70% of all children may have an innocent heart murmur at some point and do not need to be seen by a pediatric cardiologist and possibly undergo echocardiography, unlike the smaller number of children with pathologic murmurs who do need medical care.

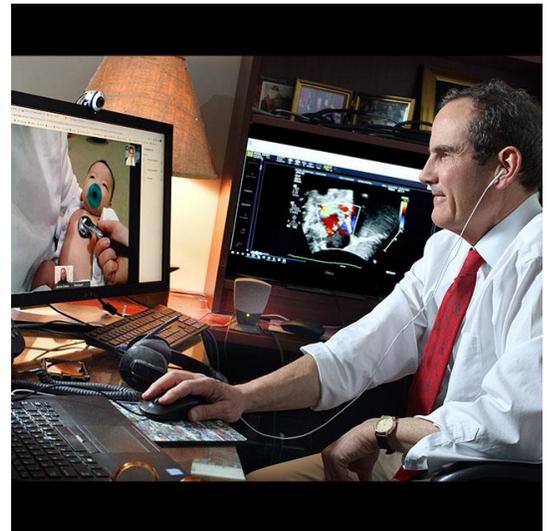
However, Thompson notes, pediatricians may have a hard time distinguishing between the two due to a decline in auscultation skills. This prompted him to develop his database as a reference tool. In 2019, he went a step further and, in a pilot study in the Johns Hopkins ambulatory clinics, he used an electronic stethoscope to identify murmurs by telemedicine and artificial intelligence (AI). Patients' murmurs could be sorted remotely into innocent and pathologic types. Inappropriate referral, he adds, often results in unnecessary echocardiography, emotional distress for parents and patients, time off from work and school, and labeling a child as having a potential heart problem despite cardiologists' reassurances otherwise.

“Heart sounds were recorded at the primary point of care, transferred to a cloud-based server, listened to by a cardiologist and evaluated by AI following a paradigm that I thought would be a good way for pediatricians to refer patients who have a heart murmur,” says Thompson.

The study was placed on hold in early 2020 due to the arrival of COVID-19 and the restrictions on enrolling new patients in clinical areas. Then, Thompson had another idea, triggered by Johns Hopkins' dramatic acceleration of its telemedicine program in response to the pandemic.

“We thought, what if we just send the electronic stethoscope to the home, where we could have the parents hold the stethoscope on the child's chest during a video visit?” he says. “Up to now, all cardiologists could do during telemed visits was look and talk.”

How did the stethoscope-enhanced telemedicine visits go? Thompson's first patient was referred by a pediatrician for a suspected murmur. “I was impressed that we could hear a soft click sound, indicating an abnormal heart valve, very clearly remotely. Listening for a click is one of the hardest things to teach.” The patient was then scheduled for an echocardiogram (ultrasound of the heart), which showed the valve abnormality.



Neighbors in the Community - Continued

A visit with another patient Thompson had followed for mild pulmonary stenosis reassured him that the child's murmur had not become louder and could wait to be seen. In another case, Thompson heard no murmur in an 11-month-old patient born with a hole in his heart, which meant the hole had closed and he did not need further testing. Another recent telemedicine patient, a 20-year-old with severe heart disease whom Thompson has followed for years, lives quite a distance from Johns Hopkins and was worried about leaving his home because of the coronavirus. Thompson noted that the shunt murmur was unchanged and assured him he was fine and did not need to go to the hospital.

After the first dozen or so stethoscope-enhanced video visits, Thompson and his patients' parents are sold.

"I can guide them in using the stethoscope, listen in real time, control the volume and filters, and the sounds are actually as good or better than if they were in clinic," says Thompson. "The big news to me is this is going to work — the electronic stethoscope adds a huge dimension to just video. When I call parents and ask if they would be interested, they say, 'Of course. Why wouldn't we?'"

With electronic stethoscopes, a published study of AI algorithm accuracy on 600 patient heart recordings and institutional review board approval, Thompson is moving forward with more telemedicine visits. Pediatric cardiologists are asking him if the algorithm works, if the heart sounds are of diagnostic quality, if clinical decisions can be made this way. If so, will it change future practice regardless of pandemics?

Thompson answers, "This is not the whole solution. Maybe someday, we will be able to send them an echo probe — I don't think that's actually far-fetched. But in the meantime, and for patients who didn't need that echo in the first place, this is a good step in using what we have now. Patients and parents attest to the fact that it was easy to do."

Kids in the Community: The Atkinson Family

Nine-year-old Sarah and six-year-old Eve Atkinson have raised over \$200 since "launching" Easter weekend. They have been giving eggs with rainbow loom bracelets to neighbors. Donations are going to the WWF organization.

Way to make a difference, Atkinson girls!



Looming for Animals- An Egg-cellent Idea

Hi! We all have animals we want to save. Let's get cracking!
A group of kids put bracelets we made inside eggs. Please keep the bracelet.

Then if you **want** to save animals put a donation in the egg or an envelope **and** drop it in the mailbox at 601 Kingston Rd.

We will **donate** the money to charity and save animals!



#Locally Owned

Introduction to a New Stoneleighite Feature Section

by Shelley Herek

Here we are, May 2021.

It was a little over a year ago that we all thought...we'll be back to it in 2 weeks!

In that time, we became dependent on mega-shopping sites and delivery experiences. Unemployment skyrocketed. Amazon reigned supreme.

In this year we lost something vital to our economy - a strong foundation of small businesses.

I wanted to take a closer look at those businesses that managed to survive during this historic time. Workers and owners of these establishments put themselves on the front lines of this Pandemic. They have ensured that we as a community remain fed, warm, and sane.

As we begin to walk toward the light of mass vaccination, let's remember these business owners and their staff as the true heroes that they are. Instead of heading straight to your apps, take the time to go to the small mom and pop, the corner wine shoppe or the local bagel stand, they need our support more than ever.



#Locally Owned Highlights Greg's Bagels

DON'T CURSE THE MISFORTUNES THAT HAPPEN TO YOU,
THEY MAY BE THE THINGS THAT SAVE YOU.

BY SHELLEY HEREK

When my neighbor Nina Guise-Gheretty suggested Greg's Bagels in Belvedere Square as my inaugural great business to highlight for our new segment #Locally Owned, I have to be honest...I was perplexed.

“My son Egan has been (working) there for three years! Tommy is amazing!” Tommy Hearn is the passionate first-generation restaurant owner of Greg's Bagels. If you ask Tommy, why bagels? He'll tell you, “No other bagel tastes the same. I just remember always looking forward to stopping at Greg's Bagels.” As a kid, it was his favorite stop after school.

But as we continued our dialogue, there was more heartbreak than a desire for bagels that led to his proprietorship.

It all started the year he went off to college. It was in the middle of his first semester when he received a life changing phone call. Not one, but both of his parents were diagnosed with cancer. He decided to pack up and come back to Baltimore to be with his family. His collegiate plans and chemical engineering dreams upended.



Tommy Hearn busy with his craft

Upon return home, Hearn tried to figure out what he was going to do while he supported his ailing parents. The only thing he knew for sure - he needed to keep moving to feel less drained from hardship his family was facing.

There were a few restaurants he worked at while he was finding his new life direction, but one that was exactly what he needed when he needed it - Greg's Bagels. "Nothing will keep your mind in the right space like someone yelling at you in the kitchen," Hearn stated.

Greg's has had a loyal group of customers since its opening in 1989. Even through hard times. When Greg succumbed to cancer in 2017, Tommy took over the lease. While Hearn admits he's still learning the restaurant industry, he was not naive when he assumed the lease. He did it with his eyes wide open. Ancient equipment, high labor costs and razor thin margins required Tommy to make quick decisions. He only had Greg's Bagels, and there were no other concepts to draw funds. He knew to survive, to replace ailing equipment, and keep the beloved and experienced staff whole, he would have to find a side hustle.



It was during a side hustle in California that Tommy learned a lesson about the importance of proximity. "It's 2018, and I came back to a complete mess." Hearn states, "I had a manager that had basically fallen off the wagon." Tommy was reassured by his former manager that everything was fine...until there was no way to hide how *not* fine it was. The Health Department came in and shut down Greg's Bagels for health code violations.



Greg's Bagels Belvedere storefront

In 2019 all equipment had to be purchased to the tune of \$35,000, funded by his side hustle. The previous manager was let go and a new manager was hired. Greg's passed inspections and reopened. With Hearn's new manager in 2019 and early 2020, they created new ways to ensure more sales would be available to the business. Hearn maintained a side hustle for emergency funds. Everything was getting where it needed to be.

Then, the Pandemic hit. On March 13, 2020 national shutdowns began and were dragged on by state and local ordinances. Panic ensued and small businesses revenues plummeted. Hearn, like many other small business owners, began filling out the mountains of paperwork required for PPP and other grant programs. For Greg's Bagels, revenues dropped 23%. He *just eeked* into the PPP program. The side hustle became a vital revenue source. It allowed him to keep the lights on, keep his lease up, maintain employees and for one of his experienced rollers; a car, to shorten her commute from East Baltimore.

The pandemic forced him to innovate and modernize Greg's Bagels, as quickly as he could. If he had waited any longer on delivery services or eliminating the cash only policy, he may have held the same fate as other sole proprietors: permanently shuttered doors.

During a historically difficult period of history, Tommy managed to get back more than just experience from surviving hard times. He got back to what drove him to the restaurant business in the first place; That tight knit circle of people he needed to help him through the hard times. “The thing I’m most thankful for throughout this pandemic is the people I work with. How much better we got at working with each other. Because we finally had down times, sadly we had to shed staff so there were less of us and instead of always being busy, we finally got to figure out how to work together better and build better relationships with each other.”

Talking with Tommy, you hear him yearning for the same type of interaction with his customers. “What I’m most excited about is getting to see my customers again, seeing their families again...especially the kids, you don’t see little ones for too long, they’re giant when you see them again!”

If you are the students at his tables, in the audience at live jazz he brings in on Saturdays (11am - 2pm), or the commuters that need comfort in warm breakfast sandwiches and a little small talk before they trek into work - he thanks you. You helped him survive the hardest of times. Because of Tommy Hearn’s efforts, hard work and tenacious spirit, we all can continue to enjoy his craft as we begin to walk toward good times ahead.



Greening & Recycling



Silent Stoneleigh by Nancy Colvin

Bird song comes with spring in Stoneleigh, a prelude to nest-building and baby birds. Feeding babies is the next step. What do baby birds eat? Insects! One brood of tiny chickadees requires 5,000 to 9,000 insects, scientists at University of Delaware have found.

Where do birds find insects? On our native plants. Birds are natural insecticides, consuming enormous numbers of insects. Native plants provide food for insects (95 percent of which are benign or beneficial to plants and us) and the insects nurture the baby birds.



©Tom Warren

Unable to digest seeds, baby birds thrive on caterpillars. According to Ellen Nibali in *The Baltimore Sun*, caterpillars are perfect for baby birds because they are large and soft, thus easy to eat, and packed with protein, fat, and carotenoids. Carotenoids are antioxidants necessary for birds’ immune systems, sperm vitality, and vision.

Nibali explains that to support native insects, including caterpillars, we need to plant native plants, including trees. She calls oaks “caterpillar machines” because they are the habitat for so many native insects. Many adult birds are natural Mosquito Killers: house wrens, hummingbirds, sparrows, woodpeckers and orioles all consume many MOSQUITOES! Birds also eat stink bugs, aphids, ants and other insects.

Almost one third of the bird population has been lost in the US in the last 50 years. No wonder when poisons are being applied at every step of the birds’ food chain. Insects eat plants treated with herbicides and baby birds ingest those poisoned insects. Chemical insecticides eradicate insects altogether, making it difficult for birds to gather those thousands of bugs needed to raise a family of hatchlings. We don’t want a “Silent Spring” in Stoneleigh. We want birds to thrive and birds’ song to swell. Please do your part. Avoid poisoning the insects!



Greening & Recycling



Student Leader Urges Us to Feed and Protect Monarchs by Emma Bisson

Milkweed is vital to the survival of Monarchs. Asclepias species are the sole wild food source for monarch butterfly caterpillars, especially the Common Milkweed. Bees and other creatures also depend on milkweed for food and shelter. Tragically, milkweed populations have been decimated by development and pesticides, causing monarch butterfly populations to plummet by 80 to 90% in the past 20 years. (<https://blog.nwf.org/2015/02/twelve-naCve-milkweeds-for-monarchs/>).



I have learned that individual acts can have profound impacts on the environment. In my backyard, milkweed plants have supported several monarch butterfly caterpillars. This inspired my project to educate my community about monarch butterflies and provide an easy way to support this important species by planting milkweed. Although my project is nearly finished, my work is not: I will continue advocating for monarch butterflies in the hope that you also will care about their plight as much as I do and be inspired to act.



Planting milkweed is not the only thing you can do for monarch butterflies and the environment. Many commonly used pesticides kill monarch butterflies. Mosquito Joe and other mosquito spraying companies use insecticides with pyrethroids, which are fatal to monarchs when they are exposed to the insecticide mist or to residue on plant leaves. The herbicide Round Up, which is used to kill weeds, also kills milkweed. Avoiding the use of pesticides in your own yard can avoid runoff of these toxic chemicals into streams, where they kill aquatic organisms and avoid their spread through the air and contamination of plants. The moment we stop to consider the environmental implications of our actions is the moment that we become better stewards of our home: nature.



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G&R Editor's Note: A Junior at Towson High, Emma is a Student Leader for the Chesapeake Bay Foundation. In her project, she facilitated people ordering perennial milkweed plants from Herring Run Nursery to plant in their yards to help the Monarch caterpillars.

Trees Need Oxygen Too by Carol Newill

Every year in Stoneleigh, we try to take good care of our yards, including our trees. Some people like to use mulch and know they must keep the mulch at least three inches away from the tree so the bark does not break down. But did you know that tree roots require oxygen? Too often the mulch gets piled up more than three inches deep (old mulch plus new mulch) and deprives the soil of oxygen. Some trees then send out many tiny roots toward the surface, seeking oxygen, but these thin roots dry out easily during dry weather and leave the tree without their help. We all need oxygen and resilience to times of drought and stress. Please do not pile mulch deeper than three inches anywhere in the drip line of the tree, as far out as the branches spread. Thank you. More information: <https://extension.psu.edu/mulching-landscape-trees>.



©Good Nature Organic Lawn



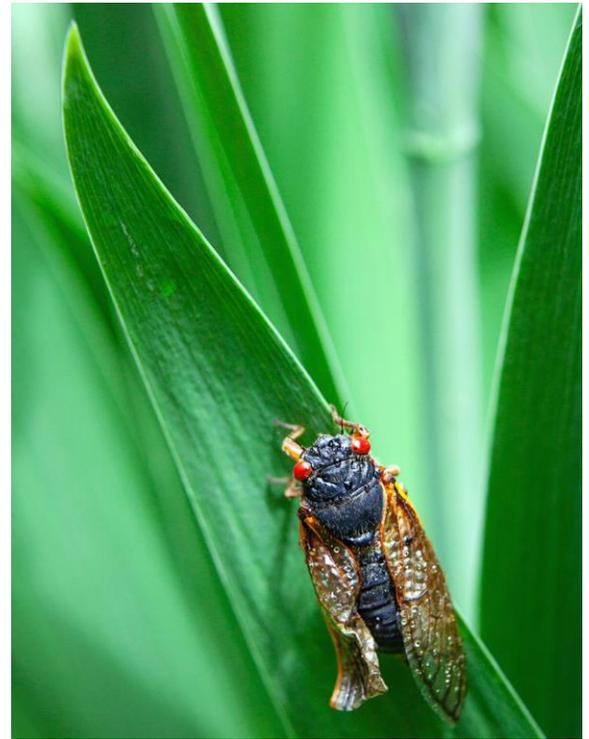
Greening & Recycling



Enter Singing! And Respect the Other Guests

by Linda Davis

What are those new holes in the ground? They are the 'chimneys' of Brood X cicada nymphs preparing to emerge after 17 years underground. The nymphs emerge from holes when soil temperature warms enough. They climb nearby trees and transform into their beautiful, winged adult form by unzipping their exoskeletons and stepping out. They leave their dried brown exoskeletons behind to intrigue children (and curious adults) and nourish the soil when they drop to the ground. Then the males sing their hearts out until they find a mate. After mating, the females lay eggs on twigs. In two months, the eggs will hatch, the little ones will drop to the ground, dig burrows, and the whole amazing life cycle starts again. Adult cicadas live about two weeks above ground. Cicadas do not bite or sting. Their mouths have no mandibles, or jaws, and they have no physical characteristics like a stinger with which to defend themselves. Their life strategy is predator satiation; that is, the birds, fish, turtles, skunks, raccoons, groundhogs, etc. will eat their fill, and surviving cicadas will reproduce. My take: we humans and these



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cicadas are both just passing through as we experience our respective life cycles on this planet, side by side. We are both part of the complex and balanced natural systems that feed, clothe, house, and calm us during upsets like the pandemic. Enjoy the amazing party of life. Respect other guests. Here are some resources to help you learn more: Return of the Cicadas in 2021: A Teenage Love Story by UMD entomologist, Steve Raupp for the Natural History Society of Maryland, is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F7aPEUt-7H8&t=8s>.

Stream Cleanup by Stoneleigh Team

by Carol Newill

“It was uplifting to be able to help in these unusual times” said 15-year-old Daniel Field after the stream cleanup with six other teenagers and eight adults. On April 24, Stoneleigh fielded a team to clean the stream that runs along Goucher Boulevard before it enters the woods of Glendale Park, then joins the Herring Run on its way to Back River and the Bay. The masked team collected 26 bags of trash, a box fan, and returned a shopping cart. Lisa Field was the Site Leader. Thank you, Lisa! The crew included Lydia, Daniel and Bruce Field, Madoc and Paddy Watson, Megan and Charlie Skinner, Christine Accardo, Brent Mackesey, Patricia Ferreira, Adam, Carter and Reagan Bonnichsen, and SCA President Laura Duklewski, their mother. Bonnichsen said, “It was really sad to see all the trash that was on the ground. People should throw it in the trashcan instead.



Adam, Reagan, Carter Bonnichsen, Patricia Ferreira, Laura Duklewski

There were lots of (discarded) plastic bags. People should use reusable bags so there is less trash.” Organized by Carol Newill, SCA Greening & Recycling Committee, this is one of 16 stream cleanup events that Carol coordinated this spring for the Green Towson Alliance, in liaison with Project Clean Stream of the Alliance for the Chesapeake Bay. In the six years Carol has been doing this, hundreds of volunteers have removed literally tons of trash from along streams and banks in the Towson area. More info:

<https://www.allianceforthebay.org/project/project-clean-stream/>
<https://www.allianceforthebay.org/category/our-work/building-stewardship/project-clean-stream/>



*Lydia, Bruce and Daniel Field, Madoc and Paddy Watson, Brent Mackesey. Bottom row: Charlie and Megan Skinner
©Lisa Field*

The Gifts of Spring

by Marguerite Stucki

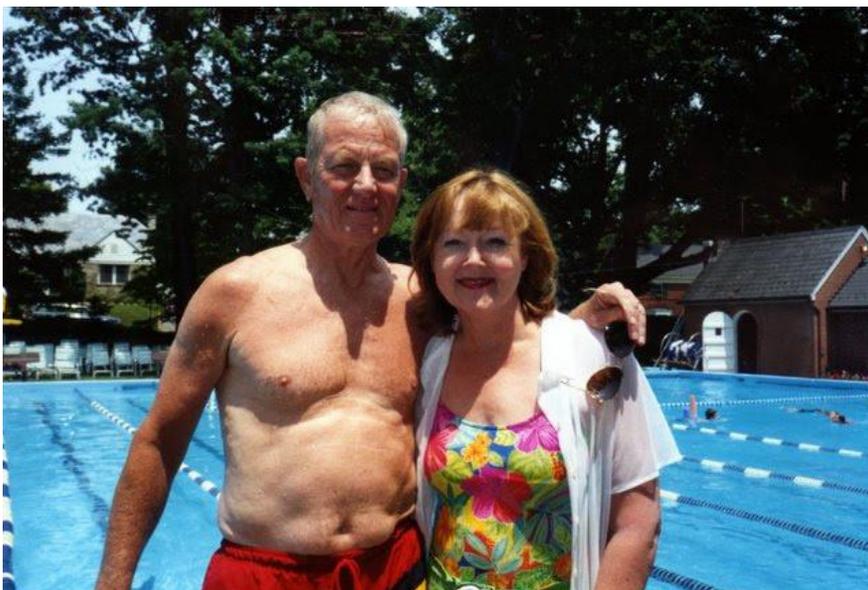
Branches of forsythia exuberantly thrust their golden Glory into bright blue skies!

It is such a sweet surprise when the brightly colored crocus and daffodils push up through Winters hard ground and fragrant petals gently litter our lawns with pastel color.

The green buds of our dogwood tree swell and begin to open, revealing their long-awaited treasured beauty!

Even the thorns of prickly hedges become surrounded by wreaths of tiny green leaves.

And almost hidden by blades of grass, tiny, beautiful flowers are eagerly picked by a sweet little child, "these are for you Mommy..."



In 1972, Marguerite and Walter Stucki bought their sweet yellow house on Tred Avon Road across from the pool...
and the memories began.

49 years later, we say farewell to our loyal neighbors, and we thank them for Marguerite's Stoneleighite poetry (every issue!) and Walter's friendly hellos during his daily walks.

We will miss you, Stucki Family!

Page 1 Ad

Visit the NEW Stoneleigh Community Association (SCA) Website



Welcome to stoneleigh21212.org, a newly designed hub for SCA neighborhood news and information!

Please take a few moments to check out the new features:

- **Get connected** – Create a member profile for access to shared SCA documents and our private online community directory, **pay SCA membership dues**, sign up for community news, submit to The Stoneleighite and more...
- **Get involved** – Learn about SCA committees and ways to volunteer and meet your neighbors in our beautiful neighborhood.
- **Dive in** – Get news about the Pool season, memberships and more!
- **Get together** – Sign up for events for all ages. There's something for everyone!

Many thanks to resident photographers Brough Schamp, John Waire, and Paul Newill-Schamp for almost all the beautiful imagery you see on our site.

Save the Date!

Annual Stoneleigh Golf Tournament

We are fortunate to be hosting again at the
Woodholme Country Club
Monday, July 12, 2021



9 am Shotgun

Questions & Registration: Call/text Walt McGuire

443-807-3167

