hits you with something totally unexpected — something not so good. It could be a relatively minor event or something life-altering. You lose your job. Your spouse ends the marriage. Your business fails. Whether it is a minor inconvenience or a major upheaval, these unplanned and unwanted situations can rock your world. And oddly, sometimes the small ones create more havoc than the biggies. Maybe because they occur more often."

“One thing you can surely predict about these unpredictable life events: they will happen — sooner or later. None of us likes to think about the possibility of these surprise events. Lord knows, we have enough to worry about just managing our planned actions and goals.”

"If you come to expect the unexpected, it’s not quite so shocking or debilitating. If you come to embrace the lessons and possibility for growth during these events, then you have turned lemons into lemonade. And if you are prepared with a back-up plan for the most important areas of your life, you will have a safety net to catch you as you regain your footing and decide your next steps.”

“If it’s not possible to be prepared for every potential disaster or upset in life, the universe is very creative in the assortment of calamities that might come our way. Things can happen that you may never have contemplated, much less planned for. Although you can’t prepare for everything, you can prepare for some. And you can create a general back-up plan for your own expectations, behavior, and frame of mind for those totally unexpected events.”
Failure to properly dispose of pet waste is a Class 4 Misdemeanor and subject to a $250 fine (County Code Section 4-11 and 4-26).

“Pet waste is a significant source of fecal bacteria in Prince William County. When pet waste is left on lawns or on neighborhood streets, it can wash into nearby streams or be carried by runoff into storm drains. Storm drains do not connect to treatment facilities! Instead, they drain directly to our streams and eventually the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay.”

New Trash Provider: American Disposal
As you know by now, effective Thursday, January 31, 2019 American Disposal Services began collecting our trash. The new schedule is: Mondays and Thursdays for Regular Trash Pick-up and Recycle Pick-up is Mondays. Each residence interested in recycling will receive a blue 16 gallon recycle bin. Please store your recycle bin when not in use in a discreet manner so that it doesn’t become a violation.

Holiday Service: If the holiday is on a Monday, our trash pick-up will be the next day on Tuesday. If the holiday is on a Thursday, our trash pick-up will be the next day on Friday.

Our special pick-up policy will remain the same. You may contact American Disposal directly to make arrangements and payment for large items: furniture, etc. at: (703) 368-0500 Manassas VA or visit: AmericanDisposal.com

Inclement Weather: During inclement weather conditions trash services may be suspended due to unsafe conditions. If suspended on a Monday, trash pick-up will be the next day on Tuesday. If suspended on a Thursday, our trash pick-up will be the next day on Friday if weather permits.

Pet Waste:
Do not allow your animal to knowingly or willfully urinate or defecate on private property of other persons or on publicly owned property except parts of parks posted as dog run (Sec 4-11 4-26).

The country’s largest Presidents’ Day Parade is held annually in Alexandria, Virginia along the streets where President George Washington once walked. This year’s date is on February 18, 2019. Spend the day exploring historic sites in Old Town Alexandria.
The 500-acre Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens, the home of George Washington, offers three days of special events for Presidents Day weekend including music, demonstrations, wreath-laying ceremonies, and storytelling. It is a great time to visit the historic attraction and learn more about the life of the first president of the United States. Admission is free on Presidents Day!

If open, visit the belated birthday for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. National Memorial Located adjacent to the Franklin D. Roosevelt Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. with no admission fee required

If open, visit the Lincoln Memorial a monument honoring the 16th President of the United States, located on the extended axis of the National Mall, in Washington, D.C. The memorial is a tribute to Lincoln and the nation he fought to preserve. Lincoln Memorial is considered as one of the most profound symbols of American Democracy in the world.
Hello First Snow of 2019! Amongst all the rushing to the store grabbing last minute items before the snow comes, filling up the gas tank, cancelling planned events, quickly adjusting from one disappointment to another’s here for you and ready to work, some special ones on Mill Brook Court found fun time to really enjoy one of the beauties of what snow is all about. The snowman, with his magical hat, button eyes, carrot nose, and a smile that brightens a cloudy day. Thank you for your snow man creation from the first snow of the year!

Thank goodness for our Snow Service Back Up Plan! When our original contracted provider's sub contractor left us out in the cold without a coat, gloves or shovel, our back up contractors stepped in to get the job done quick and efficient! Thanks Ayala! Professional Grounds that handles our landscaping services was also ready and waiting to assist us if needed. How many layers were necessary? At least three.

A special thank you to the camera shy homeowner on Mill Brook Court who offered delicious cup cakes to our snow assistants. The cup cakes were tasty and hit the spot on a cold snowy day!

Walk of Fame Update: The Foundation President and the Walk of Fame organization will meet in February 2019 to consider our requests to discontinue installation of the memorial plaques around the pond and relocate the fifteen plaques installed near our homes to another site.

Community Events

Center for the Arts, Manassas VA
Murder on the Menu, Dinner Theatre, Feb 8-16, 2019 at 7PM $60

Big Apple Circus, National Harbor, MD
February 14—March 24, 2019! $20
Each performance promises an action-packed show, filled with thrills, laughs, and a lifetime of memories!

Sebastian Maniscalco—Stay Hungry Tour, MGM National Harbor MD,
February 9, 2019 at 7PM. $75
Stay Hungry tells the story of the twenty years in between. On the way from clueless rube to standup superstar, Seb was booped off stages; survived on tips and stolen food; got advice from mentors Andrew Dice Clay, Vince Vaughn, Tony Danza, and Jerry Seinfeld; fell in love; and stayed true to his Italian-immigrant roots. The one code that always kept him going: stay hungry, keep focused, never give up, and one day, you’ll make it.
Making A Great Community Greater