

Pete Binnitzer's File Copy

360-4220

Please return with your article.

Little Hunting Creek Citizens Association



NEWSLETTER

Vol VI

JULY 1973

No 7

Stratford Landing • Mt. Vernon District • Fairfax County

23 NEW HOUSES COMING

Not too long ago there was a railroad right-of-way and then an unpaved dirt road where now we have Wittington Blvd from Bluedale to Elkin. It took lots of effort to get that street paved and to give us the access to our community which until then consisted solely of Cavendish. We successfully fought violation of the Master Plan through possible construction of old age homes, medical arts bldgs, etc. Now, in accordance with the master plan and the residential zoning character of our neighborhood, we are about to see the construction of 23 homes. The smallest lot is 10,500 sq. ft. and the largest is 20,000 sq. ft. The remainder average about 14-15,000 sq. ft. - 11 homes will be built on the left side of the street towards Elkin with the sharp curve and poor visibility and traffic hazard being eliminated. These eleven homes will have a cul de sac from Wittington. Elkin will thus be widened for the length that the new houses go along it. We have petitioned the State Highway Department to continue this widening all the way to Riverside and Londonderry. Twenty-three homes will go in on the other side of Wittington from the right side of the little school to where Mr. Chilton now lives on that side of Wittington. Again there will be a cul de sac for these homes off Wittington. Again it will mean a widening of Wittington from Elkin all the way down to where these homes end. We have petitioned the County, which still owns this abandoned railroad right-of-way we call Wittington to ascertain that the street will have a uniform width all the way from Elkin to Yardley and on to Bluedale. It is a site plan which we have seen, it meets the zoning and master plan specifications, it terminates four years of watching closely that we retain our one-family home character. It means elimination of traffic hazards, narrow streets. We will be and have already commenced contact with the builder, the State and County to assure that plans are adhered to. At the general membership meeting we will bring to the members our recommendations as to whether the owners of these homes should be included in our association.

POOP ON FENCES

We promised you details about regulations relevant to fences. So here's the word. If you have any type of fence in back of or to the sides of your house higher than seven feet you are in violation of county ordinances and summons can and will be issued when complaints are received. The same holds true if you have a fence in front of your house higher than four feet. That is the scoop as far as county ordinances are concerned. However, all of us have a covenant with our homes. They are individually written. For this area though they appear to all specify no fence in front of a house. What if there is a fence up less than four feet. Its removal would be possible through a civil suit for violation of a covenant. It would be a private, civil matter. As your civic association we have been on record discouraging the need for civil suits. It's an individual matter though. If you have any problems with the above or wish clarification, don't hesitate to call us.

READ THIS !

At the last executive board meeting the discussion led to drugs. The problems which we do or do not have in our community with drugs and "grass". What finally evolved is a frequently forgotten fact. Regardless of what individuals' viewpoints and opinions are, one thing we agreed we all had in common. Respect for the law as a matter of heritage and self-preservation and protection. Hence the following from our Public Safety representative: Do you know that pertinent federal statutes on possession and distribution of controlled substances stipulate five years of imprisonment and/or a \$15,000 fine for first offense of distribution of marijuana and that simple possession of marijuana carries a term of imprisonment of up to one year and/or a \$5,000 fine for the first conviction? What a terrible tragedy for some youngster to have his future life marred or even ruined because of a conviction of this sort or even having a criminal record established with lesser punishment. Parents, is it worth it to condone violation of laws which govern us? We have copies of the entire statutes on this subject. Feel free to borrow them anytime, call 780-9388.

ENTRY SIGNS

The Board has completed its research relevant to proposals it wishes to make on getting entry signs for our community. These will be made to the membership during its October general membership meeting. We'll say this much now! It's an expensive proposition to say the least UNLESS we get some of that great wealth of talent which we have in this community identified and coming out to do something of permanent value for the entire community; in that vein we intend to start a talent bank next month. Just identify whom we have living next to us and what his favorite and best skills are. More about that next month.

LAST CHANCE

There is, we are told an energy crisis. We hear of all types of plans about making parking in the district quite expensive. Wear and tear on cars costs plenty. Last month we offered to be the honest broker in a community car pool service. We included a form to be filled in and brought to 2321 Wittington's mailbox and the fact that we would match people going to similar places at similar times. We had only 16 responses. We are making the offer again. Please tell us when you leave, when you depart downtown to come back, what area you drive to, your name and phone number and we'll take it from there. It's a community service and by pooling with your neighbors you'll be saved time driving your riders elsewhere. Do it now because it looks like it's going to get tougher and tougher! Drop that piece of paper into that mailbox now!!

QUIET ON LONDONDERRY?

The noise was unnerving. The attitude of the driver uncooperative to say the least. The traffic danger considerable. We refer to the sewer plant related truck traffic up and down Londonderry all day and night, each day of the week. We thank the residents who were concerned and upset and made us, once again, aware of the problem. We think we took the right type of action because from what we've been told and what we've observed the drivers now do not exceed 20 MPH and they are carrying the very specific orders to reduce noise right down the line. So, for the time being we know the situation has markedly improved. It's safe to assume it will not last. Please keep us informed so that we can stop abuse fast.

GARAGE SALE IN SEPT.

We had one earlier this year and both the Stratford Women's Club and we were gratified as to how much response there was to this community service which we have had twice each year these past six years. Come late September we hope to join with the ladies once again and have another one. Hence, hold on to all those things you want to throw away or needlessly store forever. Wait until September and make your neighbors happy.

IT'S OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

This is rather sticky so let's tread carefully. In the past month an awful lot of people, older residents, have called to complain about a general deterioration of our community. Houses very badly in need of paint, gutters falling off, dogs running loose day and night. Trucks permanently parked on front lawns and trailers and mobile homes parked on the side of streets, etc. We have not been able to help those who called and were concerned. Thank goodness this is a free country - but - this is a reputable community and we all have a rather large investment in it. There are an awful lot of new owners and renters. So, with all due respect and humility, let's not park trailers and mobile homes on the street permanently. Let's not park trucks and cars on lawns. Think of your neighbors - they are offended!! Don't say you don't care. Say you care and let's keep this one of the greatest, most valuable places in the County! Your help is needed!!!!

JOT THIS DOWN

Listed below are more additions to your directory and its addendum - we are sure that there must be more but with vacation time and everyone being busy - these are the only changes our membership committee chairman Peggy Buss has received recently. New residents should call their block captain and let her/him know you are in. She'll give you a welcome newsletter, a directory, an addendum thereto and just say "hi". Should you not know who your block captain is, by all means call either Peggy on 780-1005 or Jane Bush our Executive Coordinator on 780-2857 and they'll take it from there.

GILLIS, John
8445 Porter

Carolyn
780-8327

KINSEY, Bruce
8439 Porter

Nancy
780-0980

SMITH, Charles H.
2307 Creek Drive

Dorothy
360-3203

STONE, Earl
2506 Cavendish

Linda
360-5381

WEBER, Thomas
8441 Porter

Carol
360-4227

ANOTHER CHANCE GET THE BEETLES

In the last Newsletter we wrote about a community wide Japanese Beetle control program recommended by the authorities, which supposedly is a one-time treatment which would cost each participant about but no more than \$15.00. We were formally informed that this treatment would be ineffective unless at least 50% of the residents participated. This one notice last month resulted in 85 indications of interest to participate. An amazing response, but, not good enough. We must have more participation to request it. Hence, please call 780-9388 and indicate that you would like to hear more about it and would be interested. Otherwise we'll not have enough. The substance used is basically a milky spore fully approved by all environmental agencies.

THANKS FOR THE AUDIT

We wish to express our sincere thanks to Lionel Roberts for the most efficient and timely audit of our books. Upon completing this community service, COL Roberts, now retired and working with Routh Robbins wrote the association a certified statement that the books were in great shape and that our treasurer Ann Williams had done a great job. Thanks to both and welcome aboard Mel Richmond, Ann's replacement on the Board.

EPILOGUE TO A FRIEND

"
The following needs no comment: This bright, beautiful, sunny Saturday morning was turned suddenly gray and dismal at 9:30 for us by the news, via a kind neighbor, that our cat had been hit and killed by a car, apparently only minutes before.

Had the driver the courtesy to stop, he'd have found a tag on "Charlie's" collar bearing our name, address and phone number--also that he or she had only a yard and a driveway to cross to find our home. Judging from the tire tracks made in the middle of the road, and their length, the one and only reason for the loss of our pet was due to excessive speed of the car. Who the driver was, we have no idea, so you can breathe a sigh of relief that you will not have to see the look on our daughters face. I firmly believe you live in Stratford Landing also. Since there are no through streets to major highways in here, the bulk of the traffic that passes our home on Cavendish Drive is local. Oddly enough, one can always tell the visitors searching for a certain street and house number--they are always driving slower, the legal 25 mph limit or less in most cases.

Now for those of you who are not animal lovers, you are probably thinking "so what's one cat more or less?" To us he was a beautiful creature, spoiled and pampered by our four children when they too were younger. He was truly a part of our family and we will miss him greatly, but to explain our feelings is not my point in writing this. If you would allow me to carry this accident one step further and ask, supposing that had been a child in the middle of Cavendish Drive this morning? -----what then? Would you have said how sorry you were, how you didn't realize you were moving so fast? how it was an accident, how you never meant to injure any one? Your remarks would be sincere, no doubt, but neither healing nor useful, and certainly too late. Nor would time heal the mental scar that you as the driver would carry. We will, at some time, find another kitten to once again spoil and pamper, but replacing a child is not quite that simple!

What I find so amazing, are the number of residents who, with such consistancy, drive on Cavendish at speeds well in excess of 25 mph. There are the commuters in the morning, one in particular in a large silver gray heavy car that flies past with such seeming impatience five mornings a week and seems to resent the fact that children are out walking to school. He looks like a kind man, perhaps a father, and surely not his intention to injure, but did it ever occur to him to leave just five minutes earlier and allow for the walkers?

Then there is the young man in the blue compact who seems to be in a hurry in either direction, at any time of the day or evening--to where and why that you can't observe the 25 mph limit?

And in the afternoon the mothers, in the station wagons, they themselves with children in their cars but with a heavy foot on the gas pedal because dinner hour is approaching and they are a bit later returning home than they wanted to be. How sorry will they be if next time that is a child in the road rather than someones pet cat? What is there to say to another Mother? You're sorry and of course, didn't mean it?

And then there are those few irresponsible teen-age drivers that should be relegated to a tricycle since they are the ones that give all teen-age drivers a bad name. As I write this even now, the brakes and tires are screeching over on Londonderry, -- is it another animal-----or a child?

We in Stratford Landing consider ourselves refined, cultured, considerate, intelligent and most of all civilized. I can only shake my head in wonder at times as I watch the "residential traffic" pass by. Sadly, Pat "

"ONLY A BROKEN ARM"

Well it's finally happened. "Only a broken arm" ---- bike riders at night without any type of reflectors are taking risks and endangering the rights of drivers something awful. We simply cannot understand parents who care so little about their children not to spend a few minutes and a few cents affixing reflectors on the peddles, the back of the seats and/or fenders of their children's bikes. But, boy, when something happens to them --- well you know, all h--- breaks loose.

We have had over 15 bikes stripped or viciously made inoperative by some really twisted young minds right here in our community. We now have some suspects. These young men who have caused so much grief and frustration to youngsters and their parents are sick and they must be treated one way or the other. The first time these young men are caught in the act, the offended and we as their representatives will know what to do.

We cannot overemphasize the illegality and danger of using air guns, BB guns and the like in our community. Riding mini-bikes without a license. The complaints keep coming in and the first summonses have been written. May we mention that it isn't the youngsters who ought to be punished but their parents? The other night our community services officer from the Fairfax County Police drove around our area about 10:00 p.m. He went through about nine streets for about 15 minutes. Results? Two reckless driving, two speeding, one drunk driving and one driving without a license summonses had to be written. Sets of parents have to go to court. Money has to be spent. Records are established. Is it worth it?

For the new residents. Please ascertain that your neighbors have keys to your homes when you are gone overnight and be sure your houses have a spot light or other illumination at night. We are a "dead-end" community. We are relatively affluent - the temptation appears to be great. An ounce of prevention is worth-----.

JOT THIS DOWN

A Pop Concert by the Fairfax County Symphony playing outdoors under the lights, nice popular music for the family, preceded by a bikerama with prizes for the youngsters, a first and second echelon bike maintenance course, voluntary inspection of bikes, free distribution of bike reflectors, all kinds of rides and ponies for the little ones, plus games, hot dogs and soft drinks - all this we are planning as a Ft. Hunt Day at the Ft. Hunt High Athletic Field on a Saturday afternoon in late September. It should be fun for all - oh yes - we'll also have a well known Scottish bag pipe band - it'll take work though. How about volunteering to help plan and run it?!?! One afternoon - that's all. Give us a call won't you? We'll have it whether you volunteer or not - but it's good to give rather than receive all of the time.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Cash Balance as of 25 June 1973:	\$581.18
Receipts:	-----
Disbursements:	
June newsletter	\$149.33
Burma Road mowing	20.00
Florist	15.60
	<u>\$184.93</u>
Cash on Hand:	396.25
Savings and CD:	<u>2292.78</u>
Total Assets as of 16 July 1973:	\$2689.03

THANKS FOR THE AUDIT
MAY 1984

This Newsletter is published each month by the Little Hunting Creek Citizens Association, Inc. for the benefit and information of its member residents. All members may submit items for inclusion at no charge by furnishing them to the Secretary in writing no later than the 15th of each month. The Executive Board meets on the first 2 digit Monday.

Peter H. Brinitzer, 780-9388
President

Lynn Adams, 780-7741
Vice-President

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Dr. Bruce Collette, 360-5188
MVCCA Env. & Parks

Sara Collette, 360-5188
MVCCA Education

Gene Seevers, 780-3919
MVCCA Health & Welfare

John Crist, 780-3710
MVCCA Planning & Zoning

Fred Morley, 360-4736
MVCCA Planning & Zoning

Sandy Stewart, 780-2092
MVCCA Education

John Milligan, 780-1599
MVCCA Public Safety

PERSONAL ITEMS

We are terribly sorry, but somehow, for some unknown reason we have misplaced, which means we have lost a number of ads which were submitted to us for the Personal Items section of this Newsletter. We are sorry and we hope they will be resubmitted for next month. Here is what we have salvaged:

FOUND:

Girl's bike, banana seat, blue-green metallic color - telephone 360-6122.
Man's glasses, gray frame, Malamut optical - telephone 360-4317.
Boy's bike, banana seat, red, 780-0619.

FOR SALE:

Argus 35mm slide projector and 27 slide magazine - \$20; Aurora spider racer track mounted on 4x8 plywood sheet, 3 cars and power pack \$20. Call 780-91.
White bullsh Boxer pups, excellent watch dogs & marvellous with children - \$25. 780-5123.

FOR RENT:

Luxury 1 bdr, 1½ bath, condominium apartment at Sea Colony Bethany Beach, Delaware w/ w&d, disp, dishwasher, A/C; beach front-ocean view-tennis & pool - will sleep 6. Available in Aug/Sep - call Paul/Bev Peterson at 780-2653.

DUTCH COLONIAL HOUSE: 6 bdrms, 3½ baths, family room, pool membership use. Available in mid-September - call 780-7637.

OTHER ORGS' NEWS

We invite everyone to become acquainted with St. Aidan's Episcopal Church on Riverside Road. Regardless of your church affiliation, or absence of it, St. Aidan's is part of your community and we hope you will think of it that way. Our new church sanctuary has been specifically designed to serve the entire community, not only its parishioners. The interior of the building is simple and natural. The furnishings are flexible, so that various types of gatherings - religious, musical, dramatic and social - can be accommodated. In addition to its sanctuary and parish hall, St. Aidan's also has a modern, two-story classroom building which houses a Day School for three-year-olds through first graders, and to which everyone is welcome to apply.

St. Aidan's has been a part of our community for ten years. Its members seek to know and care about each other, and their neighbors. They worship, work, study and play together in ways which recognize both the changing needs of the present and the inherited values of the past, undertaking the various facets of the life of a congregation responding to the needs of the entire community. Members participate in all aspects of parish life as they feel called to do so. The parish helps to support the United Community Ministries, sponsors a School for Christian Growth, and has been the site of a Social Seminar on the needs of youth.

We always seek new ways to use the resources God has given us. To our many old friends, we say thank you for your continued love and support; we trust we shall continue worthy of your confidence. To newcomers we say again, welcome to St. Aidan's, it is yours in your community. Arthur H. Underwood, Rector, St. Aidan's Church.



There were over 200 flags displayed on the Fourth of July, at approximately 28% of the homes in the area. Hats off to all who joined in this demonstration of patriotism.

Jim Mayer K of C
Potomac General Assembly



The Electoral Board of Fairfax County has recently made a decision that all those registered voters who did not vote in the year of 1972 would be purged from the Electoral Books. This is done periodically in order to be sure that only eligible voters can vote. All of those purged from the lists were notified twice. First by post card then by registered letter. Those who did not respond were removed from the registered voters list.

There is always some who do not get their mail or who forgot. So in order to vote this Fall it would be a good idea to check on your own status. In order to vote you must be registered--so take time now to check, as when you go to the polls to vote will be too late, as the polls books close 30 days before any election.

I have a list of purged voters from this precinct (Stratford) and will be glad to check the list for you or call Electoral Board, 691-2686. This applies to both the Democratic and Republican parties and Ruth Freaney - 780-2239.