



NEWSLETTER

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Stratford Landing • Mt. Vernon District • Fairfax County

BUS CHARTER-LAST CHANCE

Just about 20% of our families responded one way or another to our offer to institute Charter Bus Service from Stratford to work destinations and return in the evenings. We were pleased by the response. All those who expressed interest but there were not enough passengers to make a go of the program have been written individual letters and each was furnished the data to enable individual contacts with others in the area heading for the same destinations. We know that this has already triggered a number of car pools. This is great! Those who appeared to be alone in the destinations, were called - with regrets. That leaves us with about 40 guys and some gals all of whom head for National Airport, Crystal City, the Pentagon and Rosslyn. We need FOUR more to get started and twelve more to make this scheme a self-sustaining permanent service. Here are the details and this will be the last time that we shall be formally offering this service - DEPART Stratford at 0710 at the cul-de-sac on Stirrup - proceed on Stirrup, into Camden stopping at each corner picking up passengers, Head for National Airport, one stop, to Crystal City one stop, for the Pentagon arriving at 0750 and on to Rosslyn arriving at 0810. No parking problems, no getting wet, no parking fees. No wear and tear on the car, no gasoline costs, meeting new friends, etc. Departure from Rosslyn at 1705, the Pentagon at 1715, one stop at Crystal City and National Airport and dropping off passengers throughout Camden and Stirrup terminating at 1755. Cost: \$1.00 each trip. Initial commitment: \$40 for one month, five days a week 20 days in the month. The bus costs \$50 each way. Its seating capacity is 52. The county will subsidize, after the first month of operation up to \$250 per month. This association has to fund for the cost vs riders difference for the first month. Our proposition: we will start when our first month cost is no higher than that which the County will subsidize - i.e., \$250. (With membership approval.) We need just a handful of more people. Won't you PLEASE HELP MAKE THIS OPERATIONAL? We can go or no-go on a monthly basis but give it a chance - Please call 780-9388 or 780-2857 NOW if you didn't fill out a slip and let's get the show on the road! It's extremely difficult to get something like this started but once it's on, it'll move. Remember, a charter bus is one good way of being able to cut down on that often-times unneeded overtime and the bosses have all been told to cooperate.

THE WINNERS!

It was a different Christmas. Probably not as much seasonal as in years past but, not a single family broke the self-imposed ban on outside electric decorations and that was a terrific demonstration of "solidarity". At the same time, there probably wasn't a house which didn't at least have a nice wreath adorning the doors, etc. Lou Denit and his faithful crew of judges went around and had considerable difficulty in choosing those to whom prizes should be awarded. Let's all hope that next year things will have returned to normal so we can light up once again. This year special mention was given by the judges to 8700 Bradgate, 8616, 8703, 8709 Highgate, 2215 and 2408 Londonderry, 2301, 2306, 2311 and 2331 Creek Drive, 2227 Wittington, 2421 Cavendish, 8717 Stockton and 2624 Childs. The winners were: The Guyettes at 8610 Yardley, the Bamberys at 2505 Duxbury and the Bahlmans at 2416 Stirrup who have received their awards and our sincere thanks for doing such great jobs in making their homes and our area decorative during the holiday season.

THANKS SANTA

Well, we tried it and it worked. It seems like ages ago but it was only last month that Santa Claus, the Elfs, the wagon and the ponies visited us just before Christmas. Just seeing the faces of the little ones when they saw Santa and the Ponies made the whole thing very worthwhile. Naturally we received complaints that there wasn't enough noise to let everyone know that Santa was on the streets. But it took just about three hours, each and every street was covered, double the candy was dispensed than years past and, the children enjoyed it. Next year we'll see if we can't borrow a siren but we did have horns and bells and had announced the date and time. To Vi Sepper, Miss Sepper, Miss Cannon and FX O'Keefe as well as Lou Denit our sincere thanks.

SPECIAL GARBAGE PICK-UP

We tried it earlier this month and it seemed to work. The idea is that rather than individual residents calling the county trying to get special garbage pick-ups for items not accepted during the weekly pick-ups, we would arrange with the county for once a month pick-ups throughout the community if this was warranted. Experience has shown that because of a lack of fuel and the distances involved, there was some trouble by individual residents gaining cooperation for single pick-ups. Based on your reaction, a call to 780-9388 would let us know that you'd like to have a pick-up, we would wait until we had a number of calls then arrange for a community-wide trip by the truck(s) on a specified date which we would announce ahead of time. In that way too, we would probably reduce the time and amount of waste which rests on the curbs waiting for a hit or miss disposal. Let's give it a try and see how it works

LICENCE DEADLINE

Fairfax County residents must purchase 1974 dog licenses by January 31. The law specifies that all dogs six months of age or older must be licensed annually. Applications for licenses must be accompanied by valid certification of inoculation against rabies. Dog tags for the current year are on sale for \$5.00 each at the Department of Finance, second floor, Massey Building, 4100 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax and Branch Assessments Offices--6210 N. Kings Highway, Groveton; 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean; and 6121 Franconia Road, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., every Monday, and from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. Licenses may also be purchased by mail from the Department of Finance. Mail applications do not require any special form but must be accompanied by rabies immunization certificates, which will be returned to the dog owner with licenses.

WHATS IN A NAME?

As we begin yet another year, this is probably a good time to point out to all of our neighbors just what all those names in the box at the end of the newsletter mean. They mean a lot of people who together run this association. Each has a vote, each attends the monthly executive board meetings and each has a specific function which requires a very considerable amount of time and effort. We are very active, probably the most active association within the Mt. Vernon Council of Civic Associations. This latter organization carries very considerable influence as a representative council for all of the associations with the district. Dr. Bruce Collette represents us on the Environment and Parks Committee. His work has gained him similar posts on both County and regional activities. Gene SeEVERS works with Health & Welfare which means the Hospital and Mental Health Center. Jim BamBERY and Transportation matters are practically synonymous. Sandy Stewart and Sarah Collette represent us on Education matters. Fred Morley is a mainstay of the Planning and Zoning Committee while John Milligan is Public Safety spokesman on the Council Committee. John Crist is the Chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee. Between these committees, each and every resident has a voice on matters in these fields. Contact your neighbors, their numbers are in the box and discuss with them items you'd like surfaced, discussed, researched, etc. They'd be only too happy to respond to you.

COLD WAVE COMING ?

One day, we had the rink fully staffed to protect the fledgling ice. That's as far as we've gotten to skating this year. The rinks are dug, the facility is in a go posture but we simply haven't had the cold weather. It's a pity to go down there and see all the wood stolen, thrown into the rinks, and the damage which is brought about by a bunch of youngsters whose parents obviously haven't or aren't spending enough time orienting them as to the rights and wrongs of general health and welfare. We, of course, will never understand why so many should be punished in so many tangible and intangibles ways by the acts of so few malicious and apparently uncontrolled. We'll keep watching the forecasts and as appropriate, John Hathaway and Pete Tatro and their crews will bring things back into shape and do their best to make the rinks operational for all to use weather permitting. As soon as possible thereafter, we'll have a skate exchange to preclude a lot of parents having to buy skates when they get too small each year and they are used so infrequently.

SAVE MONEY & TROUBLE

Good news!! We actually held up publication of this newsletter to make sure we had all of our facts straight. Here they are and they are straight: The water pressure in Stratford is exceedingly high and actually potentially dangerous. The County Water Authority now has procured, based on our work, the type of water pressure reducing valve which, when installed, will reduce this pressure, protect your home, cut down your water bill, etc. The valve is available free of charge. Once procured the cost of having it installed including license, etc., will be no more than between \$20-\$25 depending on the plumber you use. This is a nominal cost compared to the cost of the valve if you had to buy it, the amount of water you are now wasting and the potential damage you are causing your water connected implements. The pumps may be procured any work day from 9-5 at the Fairfax County Water Authority facility which is between Huntington Avenue and the Beltway and between US Route 1 and Telegraph Road. We thank Fred Morley for all his work to get all the details and by all means give him a call should you wish to do it yourself and wish more details. Fred's number 360-4736 or 780-9388. Remember if you picked up a valve before 15 December 1973 and you haven't installed it, don't!! Return it and get the new type. If you installed the old type, you're ok - it probably just cost you more to install.

ICY STREETS

As this is being written the temperature is in the high 60's. But it's less than a month ago during this crazy mixed up "winter" that loads and loads of accidents occurred during a real snow and ice spell. Loads of our residents were really upset about the condition of our roads days after the main roads were dry and devoid of snow and ice. There were too many iced up streets in too many sub-divisions throughout the county and Northern Virginia for the State Highway Department to get to the first couple of days. This is NOT a County function. The responsibility belongs to the Fairfax Resident Engineer of the State Highway System with whom we have had very frequent contact especially during the ice spell. There simply wasn't enough equipment to first handle the highways, the through roads, the district roads and then, finally, by priority, the subdivision streets. Even when, as in our case, they did finally get to us, they had the wrong equipment trying to cure the wrong ill. We documented this and had some interesting go-rounds with the authorities. Suffice it that comes the next time, we think they'll come in with the right equipment and the right therapy for the right ill. In the meantime, we received a very good suggestion that we have cans or boxes with sand placed at the corners of Cavendish and Riverside, Stratford Lane and Camden and Stratford Lane and the Parkway. This we are following through on now and we won't drop it until we get some good and reasonable responses. And, thanks for the suggestion.

ANOTHER MONTH - - -

Since the last newsletter, we have really been in some sort of trauma because of the number and type of complaint calls which we and the police have received and handled. One night we were out chasing down a Great Dane trying to find his home and owner after that beautiful animal had kept a whole block awake by his barking, etc. That's a lot of fun and perhaps you had better not try that kind of evening (night) sport. Right during the holidays, during the snow and ice spell when we really needed our street, stop and speed limit signs, about 30% of all of them came down. Some collected at street corners, others just strewn about. Ripped off, broken down or pulled out. Boy, it takes some sort of warped sense of humor to take down stop signs during a time when driving is hazardous, anyhow. One thing is for sure, this was done by "in-house talent". Whenever apprehended, no matter what it takes, those who did it will pay and the some and that's for sure!! Some families are being literally victimized by raw eggs, threatening notes, other indignities by some more young in-house talent because one or the other adult may have asked that a dog not be hurt, a child not be beaten up, etc. Then comes the backlash! Thank goodness, in almost all of these cases the culprit is identified and, together with the parents, Mental Health, our community service officer from the police, solutions are found. There have been slashed tires, ripped antennas, parties which got out of hand, some of which have been in the daytime when both parents are at work and the youngsters use their homes for activities not too highly conducive to the welfare of the neighbors. There has been speeding and dragging but, when we are notified, together with the police and the parents, some sort of resolution has been found. The important things to remember are that the instances are isolated. That the great, overwhelming majority of our youngsters and families are great people and that we must know, to be able to help. We get continuing calls about panel trucks and the like being parked, days on end, on the front lawns of private homes. That certainly doesn't enhance the neighborhood and commercial vehicle parking is prohibited by ordinances.

DO IT NOW

Now this is important!! Any number of gals are real busy right now finalizing our new directory. This very valuable little book takes a terrific amount of work. All the names and data must be typed and made ready for type setting. All of the data and spelling must be checked and double checked. All of the ads must be solicited and the formats made, brought up to snuff and prepared for professional printing. It is really a herculean task. And a very expensive proposition. There have been any number of new residents since October 1973. WE MUST HAVE THEIR NAMES AND THE OTHER DATA WHICH IS TO APPEAR IN THE DIRECTORY WHICH USUALLY LASTS FOR TWO YEARS. Please, if you are a new resident since October, if you are about to leave the area, if you have already sold or rented your home, won't you PLEASE contact Peggy Buss on 780-1005 IMMEDIATELY and let her have the information?? Without it, what we put out now will be less than the best and we are striving to make this an up-to-date and reliable document. Help us get ads! The cost of producing this directory has skyrocketed from 2 years ago and we so very much would appreciate your contact with Shirley Faulkner, 780-1968, telling her of anyone who might put in an ad and help defray the cost. We try to do everything humanly possible to serve you well but your help is the key to success.

DON'T BE MISLED

A few months ago it was a disreputable contractor who "ripped off" a resident promising to redo his driveway. Now yet another resident has had bitter experience with yet another contractor who committed himself to do a job on the resident's house, the roof only, to fully fail. This causes so much grief and aggravation. Money and time and possible suits and what have you! So, once again - do not pay for any services not rendered. Demand references!! Demand contracts!! Check references and pay only for specific and satisfactory services. Finally, demand to see County permits and licenses to perform work. Don't forget the County has a Consumer Service Commission. It exists to assure that you do not get bilked. Call the County, 691-2000 and contact the Commission. At one of our next association meetings we shall ask this body to talk to us and to explain its services to the community.

SIGNS ON THE WAY

We are making good progress and before the summer is out there should be some really nice and appropriate entrance signs for our community at the three strategic sites discussed at the last meeting. Additionally there will also be a sign showing the way to Stratford on Ft. Hunt and Elkins. Lynn Adams is the great guy coordinating this effort and he could still use some help, so, if you are handy with tools and bricks, etc., have some ideas, do contact him and let him tell you where we are on this project and what the schedule of progress is (780-7741). We will, of course, stay with the general design and the cost which were approved at the last general membership meeting and look forward to something which has really been missing for such a long time.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance November 16, 1973	\$1,888.19
Dues	9.00
	<u>\$1,897.19</u>

Disbursements:

December Newsletter	\$ 87.98	
Signs	3.50	
Christmas Candy	70.00	
Purchase of Bond	1,000.00	
Christmas Sled	50.00	
Miscellaneous Expenses	10.00	<u>1,221.48</u>

Total	\$ 675.71
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Certificate of Deposit	1,000.00
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Golden Bond--Clarendon Bank and Trust	1,422.65
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Golden Bond--Clarendon Bank and Trust	<u>1,000.00</u>
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Total Assets	\$4,098.36
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NOTE: The savings account (at 5%) was closed out on January 5, 1974, and a Golden Bond in the amount of \$1,422.65 was purchased at Clarendon Bank and Trust at 6% for one year. Additionally, a \$1,000 Golden Bond in the amount of \$1,000 was purchased because we had excess funds in the bank account.

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 in the "Other Orgs' News" and "Personal Items" sections by submitting them to the Secretary in writing by the 15th of each month. Other contributions to this publication are welcome, subject to edit. The Exec Board meets on the first 2 digit Monday each month in open session.

Peter H Brinitzer, 780-9388
President

Lynn Adams, 780-7741
Vice President

Diane Rauch, 780-4389
Secretary

Mel Richmond, 780-3947
Treasurer

Peggy Buss, 780-1005
Treasurer

John McAleer, 780-8455
Civic Improvements

John Milligan, 780-1599
Rules

Lou Denit, 780-1092
Recreation

Jane Bush, 780-2857
Exec Coord & Lost & Found

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

Jim Bambery, 780-7495
MVCCA, Transportation

John Milligan, 780-1599
MVCCA, Public Safety

Gene Seevers, 780-3919
MVCCA, Health & Welfare

John Crist, 780-3710
MVCCA, Budget & Finance

Fred Morley, 360-4736
MVCCA, Planning & Zoning

Sara Collette, 360-5188 & Sandy Stewart, 780-2092
MVCCA, Education

PERSONAL ITEMS

FOR SALE:

2 Sears snow guard 78 tires - D78-14 tubeless, excellent condition - call 360-7493.
1 girl's 5 speed Spider Bike, as is - \$18.00; 1 girl's 26" plain old bike, fair, 360-5188.
2 vaporizers, Regina electric broom, folding wooden clothes rack, Telefunken Stereo, 360-4724.

Adjustable pull down lamp \$5.00, 2 twin head boards \$10.00, 1 metal cot w/mattress \$5.00, 1 crib mattress with 2 sheets, \$5.00, call 360-3826.

1968 Polara Dodge, 4 Door Hard Top, Excellent condition, A/T, Power, A/C, \$649., 780-2857.

Chinese Oriental Rug, Handmade, \$400., Teak Bar with inlaid green marble top, \$375., cotton quilted bedspread (king size), \$10.00, RCA Whirlpool portable dishwasher, \$40.00, GE Refrigerator, \$20.00, call 780-0208.

Barbie dolls: 1 house, 1 coffee shop, 2 cases of clothes, 2 barbies, 1 Ken and 1 Midge, good condition, \$25.00; 1 boy's black bike, 3 speed, Iverson, great condition, \$25.00, call 780-2312 after 5 p.m.

WANTED:

Babysitting jobs in my home for pre-school child, \$1.00 per hour, call 360-7190.

Experienced babysitter available, call 360-4296.

House to buy from owner, 4-5 bedrooms with possession in May, June or July, 780-8432.

House to rent or lease with occupancy in April - call 780-8183.

Renters for two year old brick Townhouse on lake with boat ramp, immaculate, end unit, pool and tennis membership, 3 bedrooms, 2½ baths, walkout basement, CAC, w/w carpet, Springfield area, available now!! \$325.00 per month, call 360-6159.

FOUND:

Vicinity of Stratford Tennis Courts, silver ID bracelet engraved with girl's name, 780-0462.

Men's glasses with black frames - 360-7190.

Black cat, female, 6 months plus old, claim or adopt - 360-7994.

Girl's gold bike, Stingray, Schwinn - 780-7411.

NOTARY PUBLIC: A. R. POWELL, 2405 Cavendish Dr., 780-1929, Monday thru Saturday.

FT HUNT HIGH SCHOOL BAND: February 28th - Concert Band - Orchestra Concert in school auditorium, tickets \$1.00. Symphonic Band Concert first week in March - cancelled Christmas Concert tickets are valid.

PLEASE NOTE

We just learned that the Fort Hunt High Drama & Choral Department are presenting that wonderful musical, "No! No! Nanette" in the school auditorium this weekend on the 30th, 31st and 1st at 8:00 PM. Tickets are \$3 at the door. This is a nice play given by a great bunch of dedicated youngsters and there's still time for you to plan an evening out this weekend and show the young people you are interested in their activities.

Seems that we have a little extra space so let's remind everyone that the "Other Organizations News" section of this Newsletter is available to any and all activities in which Stratforders are involved, except partisan political, to announce and publicize their doings. Sr Citizens, PTAs, Scouts, Athletic organizations, school clubs, you name it. If it's of potential interest to the community, if you can type the announcements, get them to the Secretary by the 15th of the month and you understand that this newsletter gets into the hands of the residents during the last week each month, and, we sometimes must cut down based on space limitations, then why not enhance your activities' success by a little publicity. Of course there's no charge.