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NEWSLETTER

Vol VII

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No 2

Stratford Landing • Mt. Vernon District • Fairfax County

UPCOMING EVENTS

CARNIVAL

MEETING

GARAGE SALE

BAND CONCERT

Under upcoming events please note that we are planning a garage sale probably in late April or early May. That we will be sponsoring a carnival for all our young ones with ponies and rides and games, hot dogs and soft drinks, just as in past years right here in the community at the Stratford Landing Park again in late April or May for your pleasure. Also, as the warm weather comes along, we plan to sponsor another concert by one of the great US Military Service Organization band, color guards and drill teams right here in our area at the Ft Hunt High Athletic Stadium just as in years past when we have been able to bring out thousands of listeners in May or early June. It's your civic association doing things for you! The time too has come for a general membership meeting of the association. We are now planning this meeting determining who would be the most interesting and attractive guest speaker and the meeting probably will take place in late April or early May.

EPILOGUE

No one can say we didn't try; and an awful lot of thanks go to Jane Bush for all her efforts but, we were not directly successful in organizing a charter bus service between Stratford and the downtown areas. However a lot of good came out of it. More than 150 residents, and that is an awful lot, expressed an interest. Trouble was they were going to too many places at too varying times and coming back at too many odd hours. The good which came out of it is that we were able to send out letters to each and every one of these people telling them what occurred and, giving them the vital data on all the other Stratforders who, most times unknown to them, were going to the same destinations each day so that they could car pool with them. And boy, have they ever. We know of at least 11 car pools which started this way right here. The story of why the bus service failed is probably also explained by the fact that it was relatively expensive, (more so certainly than car pooling) and, that the hours most of us work simply do not permit a more or less permanent commitment to either catching that bus each day close to 5 PM or having no way to get home. Anyhow it was most certainly worth the effort and proved once again what good responses we get to the many many things which we offer. We'll say this: it makes the criticism and complaints a little less painful.

This issue, for the first time in many years has come out so late as to miss the monthly issue for February. We are sorry that extenuating circumstances made it impossible to come out earlier which results in the announcements of some "Other Organizational News" activities having missed that chance to advertise through this media. We'll be back on the regular schedule of publishing so as to assure your receipt by the last weekend of each month effective with the March issue.

LET'S WORK TOGETHER

The month of February wasn't the best as far as Stratford was concerned. There were too many calls from too many residents who were unhappy about a number of occurrences. The worst offensive and most frequently upsetting was the dog problem. Something simply has to be done before neighbor turns against neighbor. Specifically it is the incessant, continuous, day and night barking of dogs. This has disturbed neighbors' sleep, affected the recuperation of children when ill, has had and continues to have a downright unnerving effect on the people who live next to these barking dogs' homes etc. These are not dogs who may be let out into the back yards and who occasionally bark, but they are the kinds of dogs who apparently are left out all day and many times all night also, which simply bark and bark "driving people right up the walls". Frankly we don't know what to do and solicit your suggestions. Let us say though that there have been at least 30 calls this past month alone. This is not just an isolated case or two involving one or two dogs. It's much more wide spread than that. It would seem that owners of dogs have some sort of responsibility towards their neighbors to control their pets and face up to the responsibility of realizing that they are not alone in this community and have certain basic obligations which must be met. If the complaints do not stop then, barring good suggestions which we urgently invite, we will consult with the County Attorney to see what recourse is available to the offended.

On one block things apparently got so bad that some of the neighbors, upset by speeding cars, upending of garbage by loose running dogs, excessive noise by motorcyclists going up and down their street, were ready to form some sort of their own group to try to stem excesses. Let's just say this: summer is coming soon. We have had our try here in Stratford with Citizens' Courtesy Patrols way back in 1968. We were instrumental in setting up the Police Community Relations Unit, we have a community service officer, Andy Wysclinski assigned to us. We have a cohesive, effective and tangibly productive Civic Association. Let's all work together, let's talk to each other, and we can resolve most all of our problems. BUT, we must know about the problems. Call us - 780-9388.

IT'S STARTED

Driven up Wittington lately? Yes, the construction of the first of the 23 homes which will be spaced on both sides of the street has begun. We are now establishing our contacts with the builders so that we can assist them if we should and also curb any undesirable side effects from their activity. In addition, we are staying in contact with County Development officials to make sure that the improvements to Wittington and Elkin (like rounding out the intersection, curb and guttering etc.) get accomplished without fail.

LAST CHANCE TO GET IN

The indicated movement of residents into and out of our area, especially with the more or less normal early spring rotation of military personnel, appears to be as great as ever. The directory is a time consuming, and very costly effort. For the reason stated and because we are just now completing the solicitation for ads to pay for the directory, this will definitely be the

last chance to leave them out of the directory. Please call Peggy Buss, our Membership Committee chairman, at 780-1005 right away and let her have the information. We'll all appreciate it. Of course you know that Board action made all new residents who arrived after the first of the year members of the Association without having to pay dues until the next membership drive later this year. Welcome!

WATCH THE FUMES

Sometimes, all of us are encountering long lines to purchase gasoline, resulting in waits of thirty or more minutes. Most people waiting in line to obtain gasoline sit with their engine idling and their car windows closed. Even with an excellent exhaust system, this can be a hazard to your health in that the car heating systems intake air from the outside which can be heavy in carbon monoxide. A leak in the exhaust system can compound the problem. We recommend you ensure that windows remain open, to minimize the danger of carbon monoxide poisoning when waiting in line for gasoline. Carbon monoxide gas is odorless and invisible.

INCORRECT INFORMATION

Some time ago, an official of the Animal Shelter reported that during a requested visit of the dog catchers to Stratford, 35 summons were issued for violation of ordinances which subsequently had to be withdrawn because of complaints and the intercession of our district supervisor. Since that time the dog catchers have not come back into the area. We have checked this out and it is absolutely incorrect. It never occurred in Stratford and the dog catchers, based on our request, triggered by the many recorded complaints, have been in here as recently as a month ago. We are sorry that this innocent but still erroneous information was passed and assure you it did not happen here to the very best of our knowledge.

LET'S KEEP IT CLEAN

Filth on the sides of streets both within our community and those neighboring it is a terrible thing to have to look at each day. We are very much aware of it. In previous years we have asked the scout troops as a community service to come out and clean up our neighborhood in the spring and fall. Thus this spring again, within the month, we will once again contact the local troops and ask them, won't they please do this for all of us. The response in the past has been great. We are hoping and we are certain that this time once again we'll all benefit by the leadership that the scouts and their parent leaders demonstrate for us. At the same time though, you've simply got to help. Don't litter. Don't mar the beauty and the environment of our area. It's ours. We work hard and long to make it possible for us to live here and to enjoy it. Stop those whom you see dumping and you'll be doing yourself the favor. If you are associated with a scouting activity contact Lynn Adams at 780-7741 and coordinate with our Vice President how best to get the job done.

IT WORKED OUT

We tried it in February and it was a great success. Special garbage pick-ups for items not picked up by the weekly service. Fifteen residents called and said they needed one and on the given day and time, the County came in with two big trucks and did the job. The County saves time, fuel and money by this sort of coordinated action and we get quick service for those who need it without having trash lining the streets for days and weeks on end. We already have five names. We'll arrange for another pick-up IF we get five more names. Call us and you'll have the service - 780-9388.

RIDE ALONG WORKED TOO

The ride-along program with our County Police Community Relations Officer has been a very constructive and productive activity. Scores of residents have now ridden with Andy Wysclinski. They have spent time in the central communications headquarters of the Police, have seen how the police operate while in the patrol cars etc. We invite you to avail yourself of this community service. It'll take 2-4 hours in the evenings during the week and by calling us we'll make the arrangements and nominate dates for you.

WE WILL OVERCOME

The delays encountered by our Creek Drive and Stockton Parkway residents of the Harbour Point section in having their streets lighted are recognized and being worked on. They involve temporary set backs between the County, State Highway Department and VEPCO bureaucracy and are being corrected now with about the greatest amount of pressure we have put on the authorities in a number of years. The money has been funded and only dragging feet have to be lifted a little to get the lights in which will be accomplished!

WE SERVE YOU

Notice our little box listing the members of the Executive Board of your association. See what their specific functions are. Should you want to know what's happening in any of the disciplines or areas of your interest which they represent in our area, don't hesitate to give them a call and discuss it with them. Know that all of them, week after week and month after month, are busy and active representing us on boards and panels and committees and they cannot but benefit from your contributions and thoughts.

PROTECT YOUR GAS TANK

It's a regrettable sign of the times that there have been many complaints this month from residents who have had gasoline siphoned out of their gas tanks during the nighttime hours. Assuming, as we must that some shortages will remain with us for a while, it appears quite advisable for our residents to take a number of steps to discourage this disgusting type of thievery. First Park your car in your driveway with the front of the car facing the street thus forcing the potential thief to right right up to the end of your driveway. Second, don't park your car on the street unless absolutely necessary. Third if you must, park it under a streetlight. We think you should invest either in a lock for your gas tank or perhaps even better yet get one of the very cheaply priced spiral type gauges which fit into your tank and once in won't come out again which makes it impossible to put a hose down into it. It's worth doing something, anything because not until you go through the frustration of one of these experiences will you really know how helpless and angry you can feel.

GOOD NEWS

One of the most dangerous hazards vehicles in the Stratford Landing area is the lack of sidewalks along Riverside Drive between Cavendish and the Stratford Park. We have been concerned about this problem for sometime in that Riverside Road is a major pedestrian walkway for students walking to the Stratford Landing Elementary School and the Fort Hunt High School. The lack of sidewalks along Riverside Road is compounded by the fact that on the west side shoulders are not maintained, leaving a muddy ditch, and on the east side rain brings flooding to the church land which makes it unusable for pedestrians. We contacted the Virginia Department of Highways which has agreed to provide a three to four foot gravel shoulder on the west side of Riverside Road from Cavendish to the Stratford Landing Elementary School! We still recognize the urgency to have adequate sidewalks along Riverside Road. We're working with Fairfax County to get them. We've established as our first priority for sidewalks in our area a sidewalk along Riverside Road.

USE US!

We wish once again to remind all organizations which are non-partisan, to exploit the other organizations' news page of our newsletter to propagate their activities. Only in this way can we really serve the interests of our readers at no charge to the organizations. Scouts, Sr. citizens, schools, churches, etc., are invited to use us! Realize too that the page of Personal Items is there, at no charge to our residents, to advertize personal matters. It's your newsletter, it's something for nothing and we hope you know that our effectiveness in bringing about sales etc. has been great.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance, Jan 1, 1974

\$675.71

DISBURSEMENTS:

State of Va - Registration fee	\$5.00	
Journal Subscription	12.00	
Skating Rink Work	111.50	
Sign For Elkin/Ft Hunt Rd	150.00	
Postage	3.20	
Printing Dec & Jan Newsletters	116.64	
Dues Mt Vernon Council	30.00	
Postage & supplies	<u>8.06</u>	\$436.40
Cash on Hand		\$239.31
Certificate of Deposit		1000.00
Golden Bond Clarendon Bank & Trust		1422.65
Golden Bond Clarendon Bank & Trust		<u>1000.00</u>
Total Assets		\$3661.96

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 Executive 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, 780-1052
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 Steward, 780-2092
MVCCA, Education

OTHER ORGS' NEWS

If you are interested in the following activities you will be interested in Troop 1509 - sailing, white-water canoeing, horseback packing, firefighting, skiing, space technology, forestry, aviation, mountaineering, ecology, foreign embassy social, pioneering, rifle and shotgun activities and lots more. If you like action and a chance to do something really different, contact any of the following persons: Capt. Kurzenhauser - 780-5675, Mr. Opp - 780-1196, Capt. Piper - 780-3104, Capt. Purdy - 780-2914, Col. Solt - 780-8442, Mr. Thiéberger - 780-2982. Meetings are held Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. in the all purpose hall behind St. Aidan's Church, 8531 Riverside Road. See you there!

Troop 1509 fund raising drive - Feb 23rd and Mar. 9th. Scouts will earn the SALESMANSHIP merit badge through service to our community customers. Sylvania LONG-LIFE light bulbs with 3 year/2500 hour guarantee will be offered.

PERSONAL ITEMS

FOR SALE:

Air Force officer's mess dress size 38 - call 360-4724.

Telefunken radio/phonograph stereo - call 360-4724.

Aquariums, hoods, heaters, stands 10 gals and up - Black orchid guppies of Florida \$10.00/trio, Underwater flash unit for Nikonus - used once \$60.00
Call Jeff after 4:00 pm 780-8543.

Puppy - loving female miniature schnauzer. Excellent with children. AKC.
Shots and paper trained. Call 360-5088.

AFX Mazda Spider Track with 4 cars. Mounted on 4 x 8 plywood. \$12.00.
Mattel's Hot Wheels Factory. \$6.00 - Call 780-7647.

Colorful patchwork quilts, single, double and queen size made in Appalachians -
\$25 - \$45.00. Crib size \$8.00 - \$10.00. Also skirts, pillows, rag dolls, pot
holders and misc. crafts OPEN HOUSE - March 7, 10 am to 3 pm, 2502 Duxbury Pl.
Call 780-2731.

House - Colonial 3 Br, 2½ bath in Stratford Landing. Corner lot with land-
scaping offers privacy. Fenced rear yard, paneled and carpeted basement rec,
room. SRA pool & tennis membership. Available June 1, 1974. \$60,500.00.

1968 Polara Dodge - 4 door hard top, A/t, power, A/C, good condition. Just
inspected. \$649.00. 780-2857

FOR RENT:

Apartment - Ocean City, Maryland 2 BR plus Den, one block from ocean. 2 baths,
w/w carpeting, a/c fully equipped kitchen with self cleaning and frost free
refrig., washer & dryer, sleeps 6-8, no pets. \$250.00 per week in July and
August. Off season rates. Call 780-3815.

LOST:

Man's prescription glasses, gold rim. After 6 call 360-5135.

Boy's bike, Sears 24 in red/white stripe. Banana seat (New). 360-4726

FOUND

Boy's gold bike - Stingray. 360-3203.

COMMUNITY SERVICES:

Notary Public - A.R. Powell, 2405 Cavendish Drive. Mon - Sat - 780-1929.

Sewing - All types of custom sewing done. Over 30 years experience. 360-6756.

All people interested in forming carpools to horse riding classes for the
near future or early summer please let your interest be known by calling
Betsy Ragein at 780-4259.

Tutor (college student) wishes to teach High School math at very reasonable
rate. Call 360-3472.

New Dog Obedience classes will be starting in the Stratford area on Thursday,
March 7 at 7 PM. Most people simply want to get their dogs easier to live with
and learn to effectively communicate with the discipline their dogs. If you have
a problem dog or are interested in learning how to show your dog in obedience,
you will find help here. A fee will be charged for the two week course. For
further information call 780-8909