



Little Hunting Creek Citizens Association

NEWSLETTER

Vol VII

Sep 1974

No. 9

Stratford Landing • Mt. Vernon District • Fairfax County

GARAGE SALE OCTOBER 19TH

It's that time of year again. Once more we are going to sponsor our semi-annual community Garage Sale. Once again we salute the Stratford Womans Club for their community spirit in running the sale for us. The date is Saturday, the 19th of October. It will be held in front of the tennis courts on Camden Street corner with Stirrup Lane and the rules will be as usual. You may bring all items for which you wish more than \$1.00 (or as a donation) to the site between noon and 2 PM on Saturday. The sale begins at 2 PM and will be over by 5 PM. You may pick up all items not sold between 5 and 6 PM. Anything not picked up by 6 PM will be given to charity. The Stratford Teen Club will assist by bringing to the site any items that are too heavy for you to carry or transport to the sale. When buying an item, the Club members will assist you in loading and delivering, and after the sale they will bring back items to your home that were not sold. They will, we hope, get a small tip when helping you. You may bring anything you wish to the sale except clothing. All payments for items sold will be by check with a week after the sale with 10% taken out for a charity selected by the Womans Club. These sales make it possible for all residents to get rid of unneeded items and we hope for a great turn-out once again this year. Since the sale will take place before the October Newsletter is out, mark your calendar now and watch for the signs that will be posted. Come on out to the sale, meet your neighbors, pick up a bargain (or two), and buy some of the goodies which the gals bake and offer for a song (that means little cost).

MEETING OCTOBER 29TH BOTH CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATES TO SPEAK

On November 4th it will be our obligation once again to elect the man who will represent us in the House of Representatives. Both the Democratic and Republican parties have chosen their candidates. On October 29th, a Tuesday night and only one week before elections, our Civic Association should consider itself extremely fortunate to be able to have both Herbert E. Harris, presently the Mt Vernon District Representative of the County Board of Supervisors, and Stan Parris, our incumbent Representative, present at our meeting. We feel that it is one of the association's functions to afford all of the community's residents the opportunity to meet and hear the views of two men who are vying for our support. Their schedule is an extremely busy one. Both candidates know our community and its association. Both know that in the past years their presence has been justified by our turn-out of citizens. Please help us to maintain our great community representation. Please attend this annual officers' election meeting. Make your plans now for Tuesday the 29th of October at 8 PM at the Stratford Elementary School to hear what's going on in YOUR community - to meet the candidates to federal office. We will publish the specific agenda for the meeting in the October Newsletter. We've never had less than 100 residents to one of our meetings in seven years and we solicit your support to make it possible for us to continue to effectively represent your interests.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

LOOK AT THE RECORD

OK, take time and look at the record -- Newsletters each and every month. Japanese Beetle control. Special garbage pick-ups on a regular basis. Personal Items making it possible for you to sell and buy, to get services and to offer them without charge, advertising and publicity for your organization and activity. Maintenance of roads and signs. Representation on each and every functional committee of the Mt Vernon Council of Citizens Association. Free water pressure reducing valves. A place to call to find some relief with situations and incidents in the Public Safety realm when you feel bitter and frustrated because you have no recourse; the Civic Association helps out with the Police and other agencies; garage sales, Children's Carnivals, Halloween and Christmas events and activities, directories, streetlights and access roads into our community. Is there really any resident who can honestly claim that in some way - tangible or intangible - over the years there has been nothing, absolutely nothing that the Association has done for a resident family? Well the time has come - just once a year for the Membership Drive - \$3.00 per family once a year (and when you move in after the first of the year, a free ride and no dues until the following September/October). There have, in the past seven years and out of more than 700 homes, never been more than 10 or less families who haven't willingly joined our, their association. Little, very little, is asked but now it's your turn. Don't wait for the Block Captain to come to you. Make out your check for \$3.00 to LHCCA (our association). Be sure your name and address is on your check and drop it into your Block Captain's mail box. Do it now before you forget. The job of the Block Captain is a time consuming one and she has many other things to do. We must have the Membership Drive completed before our October 29th Annual Officers' election meeting. If you want to show your support to the work of the association, if you wish to receive your monthly Newsletter, your directory, please join now. It's really the only tangible means we have of gauging our effectiveness. If for some reason you do not know your Block Captain, please call our Membership Chairman, Peggy Buss, on 780-1005 and she'll clue you in. Please don't wait and forget. Do it now! It is one community - Renters and Owners; Military and Civilian and Retired; Republicans, Democrats and Independents; all with one aim - to make this the best possible place to live and bring up the young ones. That's the name of the game - the purpose of this association!

NOW BLOCK CAPTAINS NOW

Probably we should write personal letters about this, but alas there's just so much time in a day, so here publically our appeal to our 30-odd, dedicated Block Captains. We know you're busy; we know there are good reasons once in a while; BUT we are getting a lot of calls from irate members who say that they get their newsletters so late they miss out on items for sale and on upcoming events. So here's a plea! Make some youngster happy for doing a community service - let him deliver the newsletter the week-end you receive your batch. Make some arrangements when you are going to be gone but please let's get the newsletters out as soon as possible. This is the month when your job is troublesome and time consuming. But what can we say? Without your help - without you - we couldn't function because we need to get the once a year Membership Drive started and finished within the next 30 days. Each year some of the Captains who have large blocks of up to 30 families finish first while others who have fewer than ten simply cannot find the time. This year, please surprise us by getting it done right quickly. If a resident is not home, do go back; if a resident hasn't the money, take an IOU, but please get it done. Peggy Buss is waiting for your report and when you realize that only paid members can constitutionally vote in the election, that delivery of directories and newsletters depends on paid membership, that trying to administer to this size organization takes loads and loads of administration, perhaps you will realize that your job and getting it done simply cannot be overemphasized. Please get it over with. Our aim of course is 100% membership. We may not always do anything right for some; we may never please everyone; BUT we certainly do try. We certainly do listen; we certainly do face up to our mistakes and oversights so let's drive for a good and speedy target date of every captain being finished by 20 October - and thanks ever so much.

HALLOWEEN EVENTS

Just a couple of days ago the air conditioners were still going. Now it's getting crisp and cool and before we know it it will be Halloween time. Once again this year your civic association is going to make it a fun time for the young set. On Saturday, the 26th of October, in the amphitheater in the Stratford Elementary School Park we will have the annual Costume judging contest. The Stratford Teen Club will be running it. They have chosen the judges and they are making plans for all kinds of games for the young ones. The Teen Club will organize competitions by age groups and there will be plenty of prizes for all those who win in the games, those who are costumed and don't win prizes, and of course for those who do win as the ugliest, the most original, etc. there'll be bigger prizes. It will be a fun day in the Stratford tradition and a good time for the older folks to take plenty of pictures and the like. The time will be 2 PM and we hope all the youngsters up to and including age 10 will be there and compete. Make your plans now. Start working on those costumes and participate in yet another fun event within the community for the community.

A word about TRICK AND TREAT - so that everyone reads from the same page of the book. As in previous years, may we strongly suggest that all Trick and Treating be done on Thursday night, the 31st of October ONLY - BETWEEN 7-9 PM. That way people won't be bothered during dinner hour and it will stop all that door bell ringing into all hours of the night. Please let's have everyone adhere to that 2-hour limit. It's the safe and sane thing to do. Accompany the younger children!

TEEN CLUB - RIGHT ON

When things are going well one can be pleased -- when things don't go too well and one is concerned what the future will bring, one gets worried -- so much greater is the satisfaction however when things take an upswing after being down. Subsequent to the Stratford Teen Club beach trip, where so many youngsters had a great time, the fortunes of the Teen Club are definitely up. More than 30 young people attended the last meeting of the Club. The enthusiasm, the vibrancy, the positive attitude were just great. All kinds of things were discussed. The highlight is the fact that the Club is definitely "right on"! On Saturday night, the 2nd of November (and that date is just a wee bit tentative yet), there will be a "Fifties" concert/dance. The School auditorium at Ft Hunt Elementary will be decorated. There will be a great "50's" band. Everyone who will be let in will be in appropriate costume (we'll even have some salad oil at the door for those who didn't wet down their hair). The admission will be real low; the publicity and advertising will be low key and just for the area of Ft Hunt High to make it a local, great crowd. All in all it should be great fun -- the In Place to be that night. But there's more! The Club will actively participate in the garage sale, the Halloween Costume Contest, the Ice Skating Rink that we'll have again this year, and in the Christmas Santa Claus Parade. Plans are being made for a Ski Trip too, so now is the time to get with the Club. No dues, just fun! Call the Club Secretary, Barbara Cannon, on 780-1077 and get your name and number on her list of people to call for the next meeting.

ICE SKATING ANYONE?

Well, come a couple of years from now, or possibly even next winter, there will be no need for us to tell you that once again this year we are planning to have ice skating right here in our park - as soon as the weather permits. The large indoor-outdoor year 'round ice skating facility planned by the County Park Authority should be operational in the District Park next to the Martha Washington Library on Ft Hunt Road. For this year though we'll go it alone once more. With the cooperation of the Park Authority we plan to once again dig out and have skating under the trees and under the lights in two rinks for both young and old. The Teen Club will again run it and it will be supervised. There'll be warm up benches and hot pot-belly stove fire and of course skate exchange too. All we need now is to await some good, clean, healthy cold weather and we'll do the rest.

NOMINATIONS

In accordance with our constitution and by-laws, the officers of the association are elected by the membership in meeting once a year, in the last quarter of that calendar year. The 29th of October meeting will see this election take place. Now is the month when a nominations committee consisting of two members from the Executive Board and three members from the association must be formed, whose task it is to present the slate for election. Its chairman this year will be Sandy Stewart, who is our representative on the Education Committee of the Council. His number is 780-2092. If you have the interest and desire to be a candidate for the elected offices of President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, Civic Improvements, Membership, Recreation or Rules Committee please contact Sandy before the 15th of October and submit your names and the office in which you are interested.

PROGRESS PROGRESS

We think we're making progress on two fronts. The directory is at the printer with the ads getting worked on to make them camera ready and the signs for the first entry ornament are being worked on to get the names affixed. Slowly but surely we're getting there, but if you think it's been easy and hasn't taken loads of time, coordination and discussion plus negotiation and the like you're just plain wrong. It's a good time now to recognize Peggy Buss and the herculean task that she has had in getting the names up to snuff - to get them alphabetized, to ascertain who has moved in and who has moved out, and goodness only knows all the rest of the painstaking work that she has had to do. With more than 50 families moving either in or out of our community in one recent month or so this summer, just imagine how much work it created! To Peggy for her self-effacing efforts, thanks a million.

GOOD ADVICE

Not that we're expert gardeners, but our experience over the years here in Northern Virginia has proved that those little cocoons hanging from some types of evergreens such as cedars, junipers, pfitzers, arborvitas, etc. contain a type of bag worm which devours the green foliage and eventually will kill the tree or shrub. Also, experience has shown that a sure way to get rid of them is to pull off the cocoons as soon as they appear and burn them. These things can spread from one tree/bush (or yard) very rapidly. And, while we're at it, ever see beautiful, manicured and well kept lawns and then see cracks in the sidewalks and gutter just flowing over with weeds and debris? Silly, isn't it and bad looking? Well, when you're cleaning up this week-end take a look and let's see whether we can't make these unsightly places look just as great as the lawns have this year. Little effort with great results. Pride in our community is the key to continued well being of the community.

LOOK PICKUP - RIGHT ON

If you have smaller children undoubtedly you have been to the Stratford Landing Park and have been chagrined by the conditions, especially in the equipment area where most of the small children like to play. We have contacted the Park Authority and have made it clear that we think it their responsibility to keep that area safe from debris, especially glass. They are at a loss. Whenever they clean it, others smash beer bottles and the like (probably at night). Now the Teen Club will send in one boy and one girl volunteer on a regular basis each week. The association will pay a slight amount for their help and they will make sure that the area is clean, neat, and therefore both a desirable and safe place for children to play. Your job: be civic minded and responsible. If you see littering and damage being done, stop it. Don't mess up the area yourself and, if you can just do a little picking up here and there it'll make you feel that much better yourself. Hey, and thanks a lot.

BAAAD NEWS

Water charges are about to go up! We don't want to have our residents get the terrible shock of getting increased water bills without knowing what happened. Hence Mel Richmond has taken the trouble of highlighting what's going to happen. Now if you are terribly unhappy, and that should be all of us, and more importantly if you can come up with some alternative suggestions or justifications why the rate hikes are not proper, do contact Herb Harris in his office at 768-3775 as soon as possible and let him know. Regardless, do read what Mel has to say - he's in the know and what he says is correct - unless the Board of Supervisors changes what follows. In short, increased water rates and possibly increased VEPCO rates once again bring home to all of us that it probably just can't go on this way and we have no choice but to save and conserve wherever possible to be able to make ends meet.

The Fairfax County Water Authority has recommended that an increase in water rates be granted effective October 1, 1974. The last rate increase was approved in 1967. The basis for the increase is caused by rising costs for chemicals, gasoline, pipe, other essential material, and electric power rates (increase of approximately 150 per cent).

Significant items of interest are:

Current Rate: 72¢ per 1,000 gallons for the first 10,000 gallons
58¢ per 1,000 gallons for the next 490,000 gallons
Minimum charge - \$7.20 per quarter

Proposed Rate: 68¢ per 1,000 gallons plus a \$3.00 service charge to cover fixed costs, (Effective 10/1/74)

Proposed Rate: 64¢ per 1,000 gallons plus an excess use surcharge of \$1. per 1,000 (Effective 6/1/75) gallons for all water used in excess of 1.3 times that used during winter quarter (February - April).

Proposed Rate 60¢ per 1,000 gallons plus an excess use surcharge of \$2 per 1,000 (Effective 6/1/76) gallons for all water used in excess of 1.3 times that used during winter quarter (February - April).

Households consuming 24,000 gallons each quarter will experience a 26 per cent increase in October 1974, a 20 per cent increase effective in June 1975, and a 14 per cent increase in June 1976.

Excess use surcharge, when imposed, will prevent customers from subsidizing excess peak users.

EXAMPLE:

Winter (Feb-Apr)	15,000 gals.	(15 x 68¢ + \$3.00) =	\$13.20
*Spring (May-Jul)	20,000 gals.	(20 x 68¢ + \$3.00) =	16.60
Summer (Aug-Oct)	40,000 gals.	(40 x 64¢ + \$3.00)	

**PLUS excess use charge for all in excess of 1.3 times water consumed
(40 - (15 x 1.3) x \$1.00) = \$49.10

NOTE:

*Per 1,000 gallons rate change on June 1, 1975, not reflected in illustration.

**Excess use charges increased to \$2.00 in June 1976.

WE WERE PLEASED

Hey, were we ever surprised and pleased! Last month we asked for a volunteer to become our representative on the Mt Vernon Council's Transportation Committee. Would you believe that we've had eleven - count them - eleven volunteers? Just great! Of course that's the reason why the Board has not made a decision until now. That's why we haven't contacted the eleven who were good enough to volunteer! We will though and we sincerely thank each and everyone who did offer their intellect and time and dedication. It just proves once again that we have a great bunch of guys and gals right here.

ALL OVER

Few things that have been done over the years were more troublesome than that Beetle Control action. Would you believe that after last month's Newsletter there were more than 70 - count them - 70 additional families which joined in? Brother, any time you can get almost 50% of any community of our size to join and do something together, you are beating the law of averages. To Mel Richmond, our Treasurer, for all of his book-keeping help, our thanks. We had only one complaint about the entire operation, which is now complete, and that again is a pretty good average. Now, one favor please! Come next summer and the heat, no matter what happens, please don't call us to complain that you saw a beetle in your garden because honestly it won't be our fault and there'll be nothing we can do about it. Right? -- Right.

MORE BAAAD NEWS

Well, another month - but rather than boring you with all the complaints and things, let's concentrate on one area - parties. There have been an excessive amount of parties - given by the younger folks (especially when their parents are out of town) in a special little area of our community. The results have been horrendous -- too many cars, too much dragging, too much beer and debris on neighbors' front lawns, and way too much commotion (till 6-7 in the morning). The Police have had to be called and some were so justifiably upset they talked about using weapons and so on. The facts are clear. When there is a party, it is the responsibility of the host to maintain that decorum required. There are private rights. There is eminent domain. The line is drawn though when the general health and welfare of others is negatively affected by the exercise of personal rights. We encourage all residents to let us utilize our relationwith with the County Police Department by letting us know these type problems so that we can intercede on your behalf. 780-9388.

REMEMBER

We have the distinct feeling that there must be some who didn't notice the fact that we have a new Association Secretary and that all Personal Items notices no longer go to Diane, who is out of town for a couple of months. We have no way of knowing how many notices are at her home and hence are not being published this month. Remember that we will accept all personal items notices and those of other organizations with which our residents are involved (except political parties, et al) and that the place to put these are in Laurita Swope's mailbox at 2404 Cavendish. Remember we're here to render community service and letting people know what's going on with others is part of the job. No charge of course. We know this is one of the best ways to spread the word.

GARBAGE PICKUPS

The special garbage pick-ups go on as heretofore. If you have an item that cannot be picked up or isn't collected during regular pick-up please give us a call and we'll be able to arrange for a guaranteed date and time when you'll be able to get rid of this and that. 780-9388 is the number (that's not the local garbage man), and as soon as we have ten needing the special service, they'll get it.

A GOOD CAUSE

There are so many activities seeking volunteer help that it's impossible to name them all - youth athletic programs, scouting movements, school activities, civic associations, church - you name it. Most are involved one way or the other. Now comes another function that needs help. We happen to know how important this one is and we think it's right down some of our neighbors' alley. Last year 5,952 juvenile cases were processed by our juvenile courts, of which 1,644 were juvenile status offender cases. The court services need help - Emergency Youth Service Homes; Youth Service Homes; Youth Service Group Homes; Volunteer Sponsors; Volunteer Teacher Aids, etc. There just isn't room to go into details here but should you think you might be interested in any of these groups, do please give us a call. We have some details, we can fill in some, and we know where to steer you should our initial descriptions indicate that you'd like to learn more about these activities. Call us - 780-9388.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance August 20, 1974	509.72
Refund from State on Sign	<u>11.21</u>
TOTAL	\$ 520.93

Expenditures

Newsletter - July	\$59.52
Newsletter - August	42.64
Mowing - Burma Road	15.00
Printing (Welcome Letters)	<u>23.14</u>
	<u>140.30</u>
Balance September 18, 1974	\$ 380.63
Golden Bond - Clarendon Bank & Trust	1,422.65
Golden Bond - Clarendon Bank & Trust	<u>1,000.00</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$2,803.28</u>

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 digitated Mondays each month in open session.

Peter H. Brinitzer, 780-9388
President

Lynn Adams, 780-7741
Vice President

Laurita Swope, 780-0230
Secretary

Mel Richmond, 780-3947
Treasurer

Peggy Buss, 780-1005
Membership

John McAleer, 780-8455
Civic Improvements

John Milligan, 780-1599
Rules

Lou Denit, 780-1052
Recreation

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

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

MVCCA, Transportation

John Milligan, 780-1599
MVCCA, Public Safety

Sara Collette, 360-5188
MVCCA, Health & Welfare

MVCCA, Budget & Finance

Fred Morley, 360-4736
MVCCA, Planning & Zoning

Sandy Stewart, 780-2092
MVCCA, Education

OTHER ORG'S NEWS

STRATFORD WOMAN'S CLUB. This is to announce the first annual "Show and Sell" to be sponsored by the Club on February 8, 1975. All area professional and non-professional artists and handicrafters are invited to contribute their original work for exhibit and/or sale. Plan to participate. A wonderful opportunity to meet and share talents with fellow artists. This advance notice is being published to give you enough time to complete your masterpieces. For additional information regarding categories, call the following: General Chairwoman, Barbara Jackson, 780-7952; Arts and Crafts, Ruth Glass, 780-4121; Needlework, Marie Wardell, 780-6459; Visual Arts, Marlene Stogoski, 780-1528.

WOODLAWN PLANTATION: Horse and Carriage Show, Sunday, October 13, 11 AM to 5 PM. Races, show horse competition, fun and games, flea market, etc., very low admission. For further information call 780-3118.

PERSONAL ITEMS

FOR SALE: Presto Home Humidifier; Early American Kitchen Dinette Set; 2 Recliner Lounger Chairs; Upright Kirby Sweeper w/attachments; Patio Table w/umbrella; Plate Glass Mirror; Venetian Blinds; Oval Turquoise Braided Rug; Argus Automatic 500 w/Slide Projector; Christmas decorations; 8 ft Xmas Tree; Polished brass Fireplace Screen and Andirons; Audio, Electronic & Photo Items; Clothing - children and adult; Portable B&W TV; Portable GE Vacuum Sweeper; Miscellaneous household items. Yard Sale Saturday, October 5. 2413 Stirrup - 780-1390.

FOR SALE: 20 Window Shutters (wood) \$3.00 each - 780-3947 after 5 PM.

NOTARY PUBLIC: A. R. Powell, 2405 Cavendish - 780-1929 - Mon-Sat.

BABY SITTING: Day & Night, LIGHT HOUSEKEEPING, PARTY HELP, call 780-1588.

BABY SITTING: Experienced - call Pat Powell - 780-1929.

REAL ESTATE COUNSELLING: Advice and aid in the problem of buying, selling or renting homes is offered by Stratford Landing residents who have expert knowledge and a very personal interest in the current real estate values in the community. Long & Foster Realtors - Phyllis Shearer - 360-6944 and Kae Wells - 360-6159.

VOLUNTEER HELP NEEDED: Hostess work, escort tours, school tours, orientation, etc., part time at Woodlawn Plantation. Call 780-3118 for further information.