

Stratford Landing • Mt. Vernon District • Fairfax County

GARAGE SALE COMING UP

It must be spring because the big news this month is that we'll have our semi-annual community garage sale on Saturday, the 3rd of May from 2-5 PM at the Stratford Landing Park once again with the wonderful assistance of the Stratford Women's Club. Now is the time then to start collecting all those unneeded items during spring cleaning and getting them ready for the sale. The gals will be offering cakes and goodies once again and the Teen Club will be there to help bring to and take from the sale those items that are too heavy for you to transport yourself. Any item will be accepted for sale if you believe it worth at least \$1.00 except clothing which, experience has shown, simply doesn't "move". The sale will close promptly at 5 PM and those items not picked up by 6 PM will be donated to charity. Items should be brought to the sale no later than 1:30 PM PLEASE. We'll have additional details in the next newsletter but for now we sincerely hope and ask for your full support to the activity. It's the best way to clean house, make some money and let some others enjoy not used but rather previously owned items.

ASSESSMENTS

None of us has received a bill as yet. That doesn't change the fact that the real property reassessments have occurred and that most of them have resulted in considerable increases in the assessed values of our homes. Based on over 90 calls that we received, we found only one owner whose house appeared to have been overassessed. That didn't change the fact that the rate of increase was terribly quick and terribly steep. Rather than engaging in negative thinking and uselessly complaining and/or getting terribly upset, which doesn't help the situation at all, here's what the situation is now and what we plan to do. First and most important is that the reason you haven't been billed is because the Board of Supervisors have not set the tax rate yet. Will it be \$4.00 per \$100.00 of assessed value as last year? We know it will not be higher. Or will the Board find it possible to reduce that rate to lessen the impact of the assessments? In order to lower the tax rate the Board will either have to find other revenue sources through which to meet its and our financial obligations or else lower the budget by doing without one thing or another. Could be schools or school services, or county employee pay raises, reducing the county staff with an attendant decrease in county services. We plan to testify in the Public Hearings on the budget specifically addressing the tax rate. We will join many other civic associations in so doing. We will talk with our supervisor and attempt to gain his support. We will appropriately challenge tri-annual assessments and opt for annual assessments across the board for the entire county each year. We will ascertain that the legislative decisions made in Richmond as to the limits to which the tax base may be increased each year are strictly adhered to. We will attempt to ensure that not only single family home owners but other types of residential, industrial and commercial assessments and tax rates are fairly and equitably arrived at so as to assure a spread of the financial trauma to all. Lowell Shearer is our representative on the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Association's Budget and Finance Committee. Contact him with your comments - 360-6944.

PROGRESS

We hope that by the time you read this newsletter the second of our entry signs to our community will be in place at the entry to our old Burma Road, now an integral part of Camden Street. Weather conditions and other factors precluded it from being put up earlier. We sincerely thank some of the residents of Creek Drive who own the property for their great community spirit in permitting us to place this entry sign on their property. As spring progresses we will commence beautification.

CHILDRENS CARNIVAL COMING

Ponies, merry-go-rounds, trains - all the things which the real young set 10 and below really enjoy. Plus games and hot dogs and soda pops and free prizes - the whole shootin' match. It's the time to announce that once again this spring, with the help of the Teen Club, we'll have our childrens carnival right here in our community next to the school in Stratford Landing Park. The date: Sunday afternoon, the 4th of May from 2-5 PM. The prices for the rides and food will be as low or lower than you'll find them anywhere as has been proven in previous years. It will be fun for all and it will be the way to spend a Sunday afternoon with the young set without leaving the community. It's planned for you; it takes time and effort and we solicit your support.

IT HAD TO BE DONE

You will never know how sorry we are to have to resort to putting bad news or unpleasant items into this newsletter. It does not reflect well on our community and it is frustrating to receive the calls of anguish without being able to take firm corrective action. Based on all of the complaints over a series of months, seven dog wardens were in our community during the past month. On one day alone 28 summons were issued; 11 pets were actually taken to the pound. That was on one day alone. The dogs do awful damage. They tear up garbage bags and overturn cans. They ruin shubbery. They attack children and other dogs. They have hurt and even killed other type pets. They deposit waste on other people's lawns. Why should others have to suffer because some of our residents do not possess that modicum of consideration expected as absolutely basic for a well educated and moderately affluent community? The other night about 8 PM one of our residents drove around the area and counted 39 dogs running loose the day after the dog wardens were in the community. We shall on a once a week basis continue to have dog wardens in our community. Please understand. Thank goodness this is still a free country. Not a police state. We do not act. We react! We believe we are not over-reacting. But one of the basic obligations of any free society in order to remain free is to respect the rights and privileges of others. Your comments are invited.

VANDALISM IS UNACCEPTABLE

How much effort is put into beautifying front yards? In planting trees and seeing them grow and develop into things of joy and beauty? Eighteen homes in one square block of our community this past weekend were subjected to probably the sickest bunch of minds yet surfaced in lo these many years. Young trees sawed in half - older trees defaced and ruined - bushes literally decimated. No, this was not a singular act of vengeance. No, not any one was signaled out. It was a ruthless, well thought out set of terror against the residents of two streets. It must have taken time, considerable time. It must have been planned because both a saw and shears appear to have been used. One of the offended suggested we don't even mention this in our newsletter because it will indicate to the "sick mind(s)" that recognition is being afforded. This might be true. But, on behalf of this association let's clearly state - we have increased police surveillance in the area. We have asked and ask now for greater vigilance by the residents. The people involved, should they not be able to control themselves, will be caught sooner or later. We appreciated the calls from the offended. These calls and the alert of the police made it possible to get additional patrols. The police are certain that youngsters from our area are involved. We concur. We even have suspects. Parents, do you know what your kids are doing? The warm weather is now here. The days are longer. We must expect increased activity. If you don't have the interest, the concern, the sense of responsibility to know what your children are doing, then something is wrong. When it affects the general health and welfare and the private property of others, it becomes the business of people other than you!

ATTACHMENTS

Accompanying this newsletter, if your block captains were good enough to distribute them with it, should be two enclosures which are being disseminated as a public service. The first announces a major event sponsored by the PTA of the Stratford Landing Elementary School. We support this event and the PTA's undertaking. It is demonstrative of a vibrant and active organization trying to foster the well being of their children's school. The other attachment is part of the effort to attempt to control prices being charged by VEPCO for one of our most indispensable utilities. The effort is supported by the Consumer Affairs Committee of the Mount Vernon Council. We ask you to read the literature and decide whether you wish to support it. Edith Molnar, one of our community residents, informs that she and a group of volunteers will be by your house soon asking you to sign an attending petition. We have agreed to use the means of the newsletter to disseminate this information, leaving the type and degree of support you wish to render to your decision. Edith can be reached on 780-7486.

BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

During daylight hours one of our homes was forcibly entered and very considerable valuables were stolen. It was the first major break-in in quite a while. Naturally the police are conducting an active investigation. Until now the rise in crime has not measurably impacted on our community. With warmer weather, with the impending vacation season extraordinary steps should now be taken to discourage break-ins. The key is the neighbor. Regrettably all of us appear to have the responsibility of observing activities to our left and right and across the street. It is better to be overly alert and call the police once too often than once too little. If you have taken the necessary precautions - like locking windows and doors, making sure that all locks work, leaving lights on in the house and even on the outside, keeping valuables in safe containers within your homes, then only the watchfulness of your neighbor can be the best protection. A break-in during daylight means unnatural movement and noise - strangers in the yard and unknown cars in the vicinity. Let's help each other and the police. An ounce of watchfulness is worth a lot of grief and personal loss

VACANCY FILLED

We are very pleased to let you know that by looking at the box at the end of the official part of this newsletter, you will note that we have been able to fill all vacancies on our Executive Board. The significant facet is that we did not have to approach and thus recruit any of the positions which needed to be filled. For the Health and Welfare Committee of the Mt. Vernon Council no less than 11 of our residents called to offer their services. If you knew how much difficulty other Associations have in manning their committee slots, you would realize how fortunate we are. To all who volunteered, our sincere thanks. The Board selected Bob Grassi. Bob has wide experience and background in hospital administration through his relations with the National Orthopedic Hospital, the Arlington Hospital, etc.

TREASURER'S REPORT

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|---------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| Balance February 27, 1975 | | \$2,101.53 |
| Revenue | | |
| Dues | | <u>9.00</u> |
| Sub-total | | \$2,110.53 |
| Expenditures | | |
| Mount Vernon Council Sub | \$ 9.00 | |
| Ice Rink | <u>11.25</u> | |
| Sub-total | | <u>20.25</u> |
| Balance March 14, 1975 | | \$2,090.28 |
| Savings Clarendon Trust | | <u>1,000.00</u> |
| Total Assets | | <u>\$3,090.28</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 digit Monday 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 Coord & Lost & Found |
| Dr. Bruce Collette, 360-5188 MVCCA, Env & Parks | David Von Seggern, 780-4914 MVCCA, Transportation | John Milligan, 780-1599 MVCCA, Public Safety |
| Bob Grassi, 780-2487 MVCCA, Health & Welfare | Lowell Shearer, 360-6944 MVCCA, Budget & Finance | Fred Morley, 360-4736 MVCCA, Planning & Zoning |
| Kay Lewis, 780-5198 Newsletter | Sara Collette, 360-5188 MVCCA, Education | "Koz" Kosciuszko, 780-2349 MVCCA, Consumer Affairs |

OTHER ORGS' NEWS

STRATFORD RECREATION ASSOCIATION: Gals! We have a real need for at least three or four more ladies who are interested in joining the Ladies singles and doubles tennis team which we are fielding in the Northern Virginia Tennis League. Whether you have played competitively or not, if you like joining a good group, improve your play, have fun and want to help make it possible for us to field a team, do please get in touch with Doe Steele on 360-4971 right away. We are not looking for champions but for those who know enough about the game (or are willing to learn) to make and keep us viable.

FORT HUNT YOUTH ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION: When the Fort Hunt Youth Athletic Association opens the 1975 Little League season on Saturday, May 3, at Darsey Field, you'll be able to get your favorite snack at the FHYAA Boosters concession stand at the field during the day. Darsey is located behind the Plymouth Haven Baptist Church at the corner of Fort Hunt Road and Plymouth Road. Opening day festivities begin that morning and several games follow throughout the day ending in late afternoon. Team pictures for the 700-plus player league will be taken there as well that day. Parents will love this added attraction to the day's activities. If the concession stand does the kind of business it expects and makes a profit there is a good chance the FHYAA will extend the concession services to evening and Saturday games at other times during the season. Profits will be used to improve the baseball program and reduce registration fees. Many of you with boys and girls playing this season will be called on to help with the concession stand operations ... if it is to be successful. Carroll Jones, concession coordinator, would appreciate volunteers. She can be reached on 780-0462.

FORT HUNT HIGH SCHOOL BAND: ALEXANDRIA LITTLE THEATRE - sponsored by the Fort Hunt High School Band Parents. Tuesday, April 15th at 8:30 PM. The theatre production is entitled "Ladies in Retirement" - a suspense thriller by playwrights Edward Percy and Reginold Dunham. Tickets \$5.00. For ticket information call 768-4119 or 765-4528.
Wednesday, April 23 - Symphonic Band Concert - school auditorium - 8:00 PM - \$1.00

THE POTOMAC PATH GARDEN CLUB proudly offers its second plant sale. The entire proceeds will be donated to the Mount Vernon Mental Health Center to be used for their landscaping program. Azaleas - \$3.50 (B. & B.) Red - Hershey Red, Hino Crimson, Stewartsonium, Hinodegiri, Hexe, Maxwellli. White - Delaware Valley. Pink - Eureka. Lavender - Poukhanense. Rhododendrons - \$4.50 (2 gal. cans). Camellias - \$12.00 (3 gal. square cans). Pieris Japonica - \$4.00 (1 gal. can). Please place orders as quickly as possible, by calling 780-2156, 780-0241, 780-9160.

PERSONAL ITEMS

SALE OR RENT: Randall style, 4-bedroom Colonial, 2-1/2 baths, family room, den, rec room, walk-out basement, fireplace, central air, w/w carpet, aluminium siding, garage, very private yard on cul-de-sac. Phone: 780-6253.

FOR SALE: Boy's 20" wheel Schwinn bike - best offer - ; Camera - Mamiya/Sekor 528 T.L. automatic SLR telephoto, wide angle, close up lens - ; Blender Osterizer 3 speed. Call: 360-7493.

FOR SALE: 1971 Nova 4 dr Sedan auto, a/c, PB, PS, steel radials, mounted snow tires, 307 cu eng. Call: 780-9160.

FOR SALE: In groups as priced OR the entire lot for \$10.00. 34 ft. of track - \$1.50; 7 dual lane 180-degree turns and 5-degree additions - \$1.00; 1 dual lane rod runner - 75¢; 1 dual lane speedometer - 50¢; 1 single lane speedometer - 25¢; 28 joiners - 50¢; 3 superchargers - \$1.50; booster - \$1.00; 2 bridges - 50¢; 8 trestles - 50¢; 1 dual lane finish gate - 25¢; 1 dual lane lap counter - 50¢; 2 jumps - 25¢; 2 clamps - 50¢; 2 single lane lap counter - 50¢; 6 90-degree single lane turns - 75¢; 6 180-degree single lane turns - 75¢; 2 sets of lane changers - 75¢. Phone: 780-2361.

FOR SALE: "Best Line" products. Plan for a demonstration in your home. Invite 5 to 10 of your friends. For further information call: 360-3535.

FOR SALE: One Drum practice pad, excellent condition, brand new in Sept. - \$12.50. Call: 780-2361.

FOR RENT: Ocean City, Maryland - 2 bedroom condominium with w/w carpeting, dishwasher, a/c, Ca T.V. - 2 baths - sleeps 7. One-half block from Ocean. Call: 780-0230.

FOR RENT: Kent model in Stratford Landing - 5 bedrooms, 3 full baths, w/w carpeting up & down, electronic air cleaner, storm windows, fenced back yard. Pool membership. Available after June 17th for 1 year lease. Call: 780-8492.

FOR RENT: Exquisitely furnished 1 bedroom, 1-1/2 baths apartment, sleeps 5, a/c & heat, w/w carpet, dishwasher, washer/dryer/ 6th floor ocean front at Sea Colony, Bethany Beach, year-round availability. Call: 780-9181.

BABYSITTER: Help with parties. Well-experienced - 6 years. Call SUE: 780-1588.

BABYSITTER: Experienced baby sitter. Call Patricia Powell: 780-1929.

LESSONS: Instructions in making French mints, cookies and marzipan candies available. These make nice gifts for birthdays, teachers, hostess gifts, showers or special parties. Call Mon-Sat only: Mrs. Jean Powell 780-1929.

NOTARY PUBLIC: Mr. A. R. Powell, 2405 Cavendish Dr., Mon-Sat only. Call: 780-1929.

UPHOLSTERY WORK: Evenings and weekends. Call: 780-2489.

CLASSES: Now being offered in knitting, crocheting, crewel, and needlepoint. For information call: Jeanne Hollick 780-6408.

WANTED: Have paint, need labor for exterior trim painting of posts, railings, carport roof, doors, window moldings of Colonial home. Call: 360-5165.