



# NEWSLETTER

VOL IX

FEB 77

NO. 2

Stratford Landing • Mt. Vernon District • Fairfax County

## NEW DOG LAW

Well, the county government did it! New laws affecting our pets. Let's leave off exotic pets and cats and let's concentrate on dogs. We guess that perhaps 30-40% of our residents have dogs. We would say that there are absolutely no problems with 95% of the dogs and their owners. So let's address the remaining 5%. Those who simply believe that they are good law abiding citizens but refuse to believe that leash laws pertain to them are going to have to start paying. \$8 for each time that their pet is apprehended by a warden and taken to the pound, and \$3 per day that the dog is incarcerated, and that does not include the time and bother to confirm that he is not lost but in captivity, or the long long trip to get him/her and bring them back home. The law is quite specific--the dog must not now simply be under the control of the owner--he must be on a leash when off his or her property. Now we have folks who got their pet when the kids were home and they took Fido for walks. Now the kids are gone and the older folks have neither the time or the energy or the strength to take Fido for a walk on the leash three, four, or five times a day--Fido is let out to roam. Then there's the family that simply doesn't give a damn. Mother works, Dad is gone, and the kids are all wrapped up in school. Fido roams. He relieves himself on everyone else's lawn. He chases kids. He connects with other dogs and they pack it. He overturns garbage, ruins shrubbery, sits and yowls on other people's property and so ad nauseum. If these types of people can afford \$8 a throw plus the other charges and inconveniences, fine. If they can't, and consider themselves law abiding and considerate members of society, then we suggest that they get themselves some responsible young citizens from the neighborhood to let them assume responsibility and pay a small weekly or monthly salary. We'll bet you it'll come out cheaper in the end. For us, we intend to start a program with the County in March whereby the warden will come in on a regular basis to conduct sweeps. Why? Simply because we are both terribly weary of all the complaint calls we get and because we know that for each frustrated resident who calls there are three who suffer in silence or get into a hassle with their neighbor when they call and complain themselves.

## HELP REPLACE A BAD LOSS

Of all the people who have been serving on our board of directors for these many years doing yeoman work week after week and month after month, none has been more effective, and none has received as much county-wide respect and acclaim as Dr. Bruce Collette, our man on the Council's Environment and Parks Committee. A member of the county-wide Environmental Quality Control Council, Bruce's contributions relevant to our creek, our parks, our environment simply have been singular and universally recognized as moderate, professional, and competent. Now Bruce and his family will be moving away from Fairfax County. This will create a very serious void in our ability to meaningfully concentrate



and address our environmental and park considerations when dealing with the myriad of issues which arise and with which we deal each month. Hence, first our very sincere and heartfelt thanks to Bruce for work well done and sincerely appreciated. And then, what now? We need a replacement for Bruce. Some gal or guy who may not, at the outset, have all of the tickets which Bruce brought and developed through the years, but someone who has the concern and the interest and the dedication to grab hold and is willing to get involved. This is an area where we must have a representative on the Council, and more important right here for Stratford, to advise and participate as we consider the future of our creek, our parks, and so many other issues which have a direct relationship to our environment. Do please call 780-9388 and join us. Get involved--it's your life--it's your community--it's your kids and it's your investment.

## CALL FRAN

Pretty soon it'll be time to gather up the leaves--clean out the garages and attics and to move outdoors once again. That brings up the fact that we continue to have special garbage pick-up service. Don't just leave the stuff which the regular garbage men don't pick up standing out on the curb week after week. Don't burn your leaves and the rest. It saves the County money, it helps to keep our area good looking if you call us to get your special pick-ups arranged and scheduled. Call Fran Schrantz on 780-2765.

## SLEDDING ON STREETS

During the snow last month, one of our streets really became a community playground. Not only it, but a number of other streets lent themselves to sledding, and the youngsters had a ball, joined by some of the not so young. Too bad that we had a lot of near misses and one accident which really and truly could have cost a lot of people their lives or at least maimed them. Next time that there's enough snow, let's, as a community, approach the right authority and see whether we can't get the street or streets in question blocked off from all except on street traffic to make it a bit more safe. Not a kill joy but a sensible person will have to agree that an hour or so of fun just isn't worth the heartache of some nut barreling through and creating one heck of a mess. Please have the sense of responsibility to contact us so that we can work quickly to make it possible for all to have some fun and be safe too.

## SIDEWALKS ARE FOR WALKING

We sure hope there isn't any more snow of the same proportions as in January. Here's a note, though, for the remainder of this year and the next. The cleaning of the sidewalks is the responsibility of each home owner. That part of the property on which the sidewalks are located are rights of way, and the owner, in exchange for being able to use them as part of his property for which he is not taxed is to ascertain that reasonable care is taken to preclude a clear and present danger to life and limb. So, the next time we go through something like what we just went through, don't get a heart attack, but do the very reasonable best you can to make it possible for people to use "your" sidewalks.



## WE MUST KNOW TO HELP

Stop signs, speed limit signs, and street lights--folks, they serve a useful purpose and they ought to be there, and they ought to be operational, and they must be visible to do what they are supposed to do. Won't you please give us a call when they are down or out so that we can get the right people to do repairs? We're willing to spare you the time and trouble of doing it yourselves but you simply have to let us know, huh? - 780-9388 - About the visibility of signs, though. If your trees and shrubs, especially in the summer, make it impossible or even difficult to see the signs, then not the signs, but your trees and shrubs have got to go--NOW. Otherwise your liability exists in case of an accident!!!!!!

## NEWSLETTER DELIVERIES

We have a problem with the newsletters. Each resident in Stratford is entitled to this newsletter by virtue of the dues which were paid. This newsletter certainly doesn't match the TV, the radio, the daily or weekly newspaper in bringing you news. It is, however, tailored for this community and it does contain notices and personal items which are of interest to recipients. We now know that this newsletter simply does not, on a limited number of blocks, get delivered the same day, weekend, week, and even month in which it is received by the block captain or his agent. This really gets some people up tight, and we mean up tight. Now, it should not take one young man or woman, between 10 and up more than 15 minutes to deliver this newsletter once each month, and it simply isn't being done. So, if you don't get this newsletter as an example around the 26th of February, please do call Jane Bush or Peggy Buss on 780-2857 or 780-1005 when you do get it, and tell ~~them~~ how late it was, and we'll see what we can do. It must be understood that everything we do around this community is volunteer work all the way. On the one hand, we are deeply appreciative when someone volunteers to deliver this newsletter, but on the other hand, once having volunteered, there is an attending responsibility to get the job done on a timely basis.

## WE GOT SHORT CHANGED

We've been through some sort of a month of January. We've learned some lessons. First of all, the State Dept. of Highways and Transportation simply didn't do its job as far as Stratford is concerned. We were stuck, practically for weeks with roads which were totally iced, never sanded and/or plowed. Further, we had Stop signs knocked down which took forever to put back up. Now don't think we were not on the job. We sure were. We can't tell you how many calls were made on how many issues for days and days on end. As a result, through Warren Cikins, our supervisor, we are now submitting a list of all of our streets which require priority sanding and/or plowing because they are thoroughfares of varying degrees of importance. We have written strong letters to the State through channels all the way up, bitterly complaining about the accidents and the basic inconveniences which were caused by the state authorities not doing their job despite the accidents and the dangers which were apparent. We have asked for a supply of sanding materials to be centrally stored by the association so that we can get the job done ourselves when and if the need arises, and we are working with Warren Cikins to get a basic resolution as to what streets should automatically be taken care of as soon as the main roads on the county have been taken care of. An awful lot of people were involved in all types of worrisome situations because of the condition of our roads, and Lord knows we pay enough taxes to get some relief of this type of correctable condition. One thing though. Don't blame the County--they have no rights or obligations in this arena--it's strictly up to the State.



## WE ARE CONCERNED

We are concerned about the future of our creek. We have mentioned many times before that this beautiful natural preserve must be protected and must be maintained. We're sure if you live close to the creek, or you have taken time in your busy lives to look at it, that there has been a marked increase in the sedimentation, and that there appears to be less navigational room, and there obviously seems to be some danger that despite the tide which still affects it, some day sooner, rather than later, we will see less and less water and more of the sort of stuff which makes it terribly unattractive and also fosters mosquitoes and the like. Despite Bruce Collette's departure, he and John Milligan from the Board and two members from the association are now starting to talk with the Stream Valley Board, the Public Works people, and the Office of Environmental Affairs of the County in determining what can be done, to scope the problem, and to come up with the ways and means, if necessary, to try to correct and at least maintain the status quo. If this falls within any of your areas of expertise, do please give us a call and let's have you join this small group for all of our good.

## DON'T FORGET

We wish to remind you that your association exists to assist, inform, and represent your interests. That we can do best when you keep us informed. Traffic problems, public safety concerns, water charges, sewer billings, real property taxes, and all things which concern us all and within which your association plays a role. The voice of the citizens in this County is very definitely heard. It is heard through the vehicle of the citizens associations and their umbrella groups--for Mt. Vernon, the Council of Citizens Associations. Our Board of Directors meets on the first double digit Monday each month. Do listen in if you're interested. The names of the Board members are listed in each copy of the newsletter. Call the members or the president on 780-9388 and let's communicate. Let's keep this a beautiful, clean and attractive place to live. If you have sloppy, slovenly neighbors, if you have those who simply don't have the couth or the sensitivity to realize that what they are doing or not doing has a detrimental affect on us as a community, write them a letter or tell us and we'll see if we can help. We've been at it for many years now, and we're willing to help, and we have, without infringing on personal rights and privileges and without going to extremes. Be sure you call or write Shirley Faulkner should you wish to avail yourself of the Personal Items column or the Other Orgs' News in the Newsletter. Her number is 780-1968. If you have jobs for youngsters or for adults, let's know about it so that we can help employ both the youths and adults. Don't forget our Teen Club which does great work. Call Sharon Cannon on 780-1077 for details, and all in all, let's work together, talk to each other, and when spring comes, spruce up Stratford--after all, it is the place where we live.

## HELP THE FHYAA

The other week we received a letter from Charley Gupton, that great Stratford, who leads the Ft. Hunt Youth Athletic Association--what youngster is there in Stratford who hasn't benefited from the work of the FHYAA and Charley. They and he now need support in building their annual program. They need sponsors for their teams. They need volunteers for all sorts of jobs that have to be done to move ahead with ever bigger and better programs for the youngsters. If ever there was a good thing in which to become involved and especially to sponsor, it's offered by the FHYAA. Call Charley--780-3907.



## PLANNED LAND USE

Planned land use--in Fairfax County that means the PLUS program. Right now the County is going through the first annual update of the comprehensive plan. Its effect on Stratford is limited. Its effect on Mt. Vernon is also limited. There are a number of items, though, which you probably don't hear about through any other media. There are specific provisions in the PLUS Plan for sidewalks, curbs, and gutter at Riverside Road and Elkin Street for their entire lengths. This means that at least when the money is found, the expenditure is justified and can be made based on the fact that this improvement is on the master plan. The plan calls for the improvement of Ft. Hunt Road, a connector between Ft. Hunt Road and the Huntington Metro Station; it calls for a connector road between the old Harrelson Tract now containing the Hospital, the Mental Health Center, Fire Station, and later to contain many town houses, a doctor office complex, other governmental office buildings, etc.--Sherwood Hall Lane and Gum Springs' residential character has been seriously and negatively affected and a connector road and new traffic pattern in that area diverting traffic away from Sherwood Hall Lane and Collingwood extended into Parkers Lane, is a priority item.

Back to the Metro Station at Huntington. Major parking facilities and direct non stop metro bus service between Huntington and National Airport will be fully operational when the Metro goes as far as National Airport a bit later this summer. Hence for us to find an easy and less cumbersome way to get to Huntington is of some consequence. There'll be plenty of room for free and or at least very cheap parking, for bikes, motorcycles, and for those who want to have their wives and others drop them off to catch the non stop busses to National and thence via Metro to D. C. A connector road, Lockheed extended to facilitate driving between Route 1 and Lee District via Telegraph Road is another item of potential interest. This, then, is a wrap-up of items. If you wish more details, either call 780-9388 or 360-4736.

## CREEK CAN BE DANGEROUS

One of the few advantages of the recent cold weather might seem to be the opportunity to ice skate on Little Hunting Creek. However, you should be aware of the possible danger involved. The creek is tidal, so the water level goes up and down daily. Sometimes the water freezes at the surface at high tide. Then the water level falls leaving a space under the ice through which it is easy to fall. One child has already fallen through a weak portion of the ice this winter but, fortunately, with no adverse after-effects. It could be much worse if someone goes through the ice over the channel...so be cautious, only skate, or allow your children to skate over areas where you know the water level is very shallow.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance December 31, 1976		\$ 1,797.42
Revenue		
Dues	537.00	
Sale of Donuts	22.75	
Cancelled check #523 dated 5/5/75	<u>1.80</u>	<u>561.55</u>
Subtotal		2,358.97
Expenditures		
Cards and envelopes		<u>3.32</u>
Balance January 28, 1977		2,355.65
Savings		<u>1,000.00</u>
Total Assets		\$ 3,355.65



This Newsletter is published each month by the Little Hunting Creek Citizens Assn., 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 Newsletter Chmn. in writing by the 20th 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, President	780-9388	Lou Denit, Vice-President	780-1052	Shirley Faulkner, Secretary	780-1968
Mel Richmond, Treasurer	780-3947	Peggy Buss, Membership	780-1005	Fred Morley, Civic Improvements	360-4736
John Milligan, Rules	780-1599	Koz Kosciuszko, Recreation	780-2349	Jane Bush, Exec. Coord.-Lost & Found	780-2857
Dr. Bruce Collette, MVCCA, Env. & Parks	360-5188	David Von Seggern, MVCCA, Transportation	780-4914	Fred Morley, MVCCA, Planning-Zoning	360-4736
Bob Grassi, MVCCA, Health & Welfare	780-2487	Lowell Shearer, MVCCA, Budget & Finance	360-6944	John Milligan, MVCCA, Public Safety	780-1599
Shirley Faulkner, Newsletter	780-1968	Len Stevens, MVCCA, Education	780-3864	Nancy Miltenberger, MVCCA Consumer Affairs	360-8480

## OTHER ORG'S NEWS

FORT HUNT HIGH SCHOOL: Annual Spaghetti Dinner sponsored by the Band Parents Organization will take place Saturday evening, Feb. 26 from 5:00 to 7:30 PM in the Cafeteria. Band students will host and serve the dinner as guests are seated at tables covered with checkered cloths in an atmosphere of soft lights and background music by the Stage Band. Featured on the menu will be home-made spaghetti, tossed salad, buttered french bread, choice of cake for dessert, and iced tea, coke and coffee to drink. Same rates as last year--\$2.50 for adults, \$1.50 for children 12 years old and under. Tickets may be purchased in advance from any band student, or at the door. For further information call Dave and Claudia Debus at 360-6927.

STRATFORD WOMAN'S CLUB: The club will hold a white elephant sale at their regular February meeting on the 23rd at 9:30, at St. Aidan's Church, Riverside Road. For information call Edith Dukas, 780-8437.

## PERSONAL ITEMS

FOUND: At Stratford Landing School, large frame glasses, pink beige plastic frames, in rust colored case stamped Telekamp Opticians. Call school, 360-4260.

FOUND: Watch, call 780-2499.

AVON: Avon representatives in the area: Judy Grimm, 780-6694, Jeanette Chappell, 360-6963.

SPRING DOG OBEDIENCE CLASSES: Starting Wed. evening, Feb. 23rd, and Sat. Feb. 26th at Stratford Landing School and St. Aidan's Church. Solve your dog problems and be able to enjoy living with your pet. For further information call 780-8909.

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

FOR SALE: Twin bookcase headboard with bed frame, maple finish. \$10. Men's ice skates, black, size 11, like new \$10. Toastmaster waffle iron, new, never out of box, \$19. Proctor-Silex 4 slice toaster, \$7. Call 360-2470.

FOR SALE: 1971 CT 70 Honda Trail Bike, includes tools and crash helmet, excellent condition, asking \$250. 360-2470.

FOR SALE: Ski boots, Kastinger, size 7-8, exc. cond. \$15, skis, 4 ft. length for child, plus poles, \$10. Boy Scout shirt, neck 13, pants waist 28-29, almost new, \$4 each. Karate uniform for youngster, almost new, \$12. 780-8686.

FOR SALE: Kitchen dinette set, round table with leaf, plus five chairs, \$20. Headboard for standard or queen size bed, like new. \$20. Child's bookcase, \$5. Call 780-6694 after 5:00 P.M.

WANTED: Wooden desk. 780-8686.