



TIMMONS

STRATFORD LANDING CITIZENS' ASSOCIATION

Newsletter

STRATFORD LANDING • MT. VERNON DISTRICT • FAIRFAX COUNTY

Vol. XXXVII No. 3

April 2005

EASTER EGG HUNT

We held our Annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 19, at 10am in Stratford Landing Park. The event was well attended by many of our children, their parents, and grandparents. It was a beautiful day, and it was great to see so many of our neighbors and their youngsters enjoying themselves. It is reassuring to be reminded occasionally that we don't all have grey hair! Our thanks to Leah Gunter and her helpers, Terri O'Connor, Germaine Dexter, and the Girl Scouts, for putting this together. Leah was just warming up; she had another Easter Egg Hunt to run the next day for Aldersgate United Methodist Church!

STRATFORD LANDING NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH REBORN

After a hiatus of many years, we have restarted Stratford Landing's Neighborhood Watch. On March 16th, 22 of our neighbors attended the first Watch meeting at the Mount Vernon Government Center. Our local crime prevention officer, MPO Greg Kottemann, explained how a Neighborhood Watch program can help Stratford Landing and how to restart Neighborhood Watch here.

So what is Neighborhood Watch? Let's first describe what it is not. A Neighborhood Watch is not about vigilantism, midnight patrols, or chasing down criminals. Its primary purpose is to reestablish communications between neighbors, neighborhoods, and local law enforcement.

At the March 16th meeting, several residents lamented the loss of community connectedness that existed in previous decades. This connectedness made our neighborhood both feel safe and be safe. Neighborhood Watch is one important way to bring back this sense of community.

So what can we do to help?

- * Join Stratford Landing's Neighborhood Watch
- * Attend our planning meeting on Wednesday, April 20, at 7:30 pm at the Mount Vernon Government Center and help design the best Neighborhood Watch for Stratford Landing
- * Join the Stratford Landing Watch email group by sending an email to: StratfordLandingWatch-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. By joining this group, you will automatically receive SL Watch emails. You may also read email by visiting the following website: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/StratfordLandingWatch>.

- (Circled stamp: COMMIT)
- STRAFORD LANDING CITIZENS ASSOCIATION
- * Report incidents by calling Rick Edgerton or Alan Rubinstein, or by sending email to StratfordLandingWatch@yahoo.com. (If the incident is on-going, you should also call the police at 703-691-2131 or call 911 if there is a crime or an event (such as an accident, a medical emergency, a fire, or a gas leak) which threatens life or immediate property damage in progress).
 - * Attend our Neighborhood Watch training session on Tuesday, May 24, at 7:30 pm at the Mount Vernon Government Center.

If you have any questions, call Alan Rubinstein at 703-360-2141 or email him at StratfordLandingWatchowner@yahoo.com. We hope to see and hear from you soon. (Alan Rubinstein)

SCHELHORN ROAD UPDATE

We have nothing further to report on this issue at this time. The meeting with VDOT to scope out the locations of potential "traffic calming" devices (e.g. speed humps, speed tables, and/or chokers) which was to have occurred in February was not held.

COMMUNITY DIRECTORY

We last collected information on people willing to do jobs -- such as baby sitting, snow shoveling, and lawn care -- in the Fall of 2003. If your name, or your children's names, are on that list, and you or they are still interested in doing that kind of work, you don't have to do anything: we will reprint your name and add two years to the age you gave us. If there are any changes, such as different jobs you would like to do, please give us that information. If you are no longer available (I believe several of those listed have, or will be, going off to college, or moving away), please let us know that too. If you were not on that list, now is your opportunity to sign up and be listed in the Community Directory for the next four years. We need your name, address, phone number, age (if you are less than 18), and the kinds of jobs you would like to be called to do. Please mail or hand deliver this information to Rick Edgerton, 2605 Stirrup Lane, or e-mail rickedg@aol.com. You can also give the information to your block captain. We are collecting other information, such as your e-mail addresses, and whether or not you would be comfortable posting the directory data on the Internet. I stress that information that we have not traditionally collected and published (names, addresses, and phone numbers; and we will withhold that information from publication on request) would be voluntary only; please advise your block captain if you would like any of your personal information withheld from publication. We do this job to meet the needs of our members, not telemarketers or scam-artists. Please call Rick Edgerton at 703-360-2813 if you are willing to volunteer to help with these efforts. It is our current plan to distribute the new directories concurrently with our membership

drive next September. You don't have to be a member of the SLCA to be listed; you do have to be a member to receive copies.

TROUBLE NEAR THE PUMPING STATION

We have recently received several reports that cars filled with teenagers have been observed parking in the vicinity of the Sewage Pumping Station near the intersection of Londonderry Road and Stockton Parkway on weekend evenings, and leaving behind large amounts of empty beer cans and other trash when they leave. We have asked the Police to increase their patrols in this area. If you live near this location, or happen to be passing by, and observe these types of activities, IMMEDIATELY CALL THE FAIRFAX COUNTY POLICE AT 703-691-2131, and write down and report the license plate numbers and descriptions of the vehicles you saw. The Police can't stop these kinds of activities unless they are told about them while they are still going on. We need your help. This is what Neighborhood Watch is about.

WOODROW WILSON BRIDGE PROJECT UPDATE

The project is currently 1/3 complete, on time, and on budget. The Washington Street overpass will be completed within the next 30 days, and 4-lane traffic will become permanent once more. This fall, the Church Street ramp will be closed, and will remain closed for the next 18 months. Traffic crossing the bridge and heading for the GW Memorial Parkway will have to exit at Route 1 North and turn right on Franklin Street to reach the Parkway. In the fall, a traffic light will be erected on Route 1 which will control access from Beltway exit ramps. The ramp traffic from Route 1 has already been slowee, and it sometimes may be advantageous to access the Beltway via the Telegraph Road ramps. Although ramp access is slowed, the traffic on the Beltway should now flow better. (Mike Avila)

HELP WANTED

We would very much like to recruit a new representative to the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Association Education Committee to relieve Leah Dymek, who has provided us with very effective and dedicated representation for about the last ten years. Leah's busy schedule is impacting on her ability to maintain her participation, and she has asked to be relieved of her duties. The Education Committee seat is an outstanding opportunity to learn about, and affect, county policies affecting our local schools. The time commitment is basically two evening meetings per month: the Education Committee meets at Walt Whitman Middle School at 8 pm on the first Wednesday each month; our representative is also a member of the Executive Committee of the SLCA, which meets at 8 pm on the first double-digit Tuesday each month. Both committees are in recess during August. If you would like to be considered for this position, please call Rick Edgerton at 703-360-2813. Our ideal candidate would have one or more children enrolled in the Fairfax County Public Schools.

NEW COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENTS CHAIRMAN

We would like you to welcome Mike Avila as our Acting Chairman, Community Improvements and our representative to the MVCCA Transportation Committee, replacing Bob De Caprio, who resigned. Mike is a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army assigned to the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. After dealing with National Security issues all day, he has agreed to help us deal with more local issues, such as fixing potholes and street signs. Some change of pace! Mike's phone number and e-mail is listed below with our other officers. Welcome, Mike!

OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

STRATFORD WOMAN'S CLUB

The Stratford Woman's Club was formed in 1972 by a small group of local ladies, and it became federated with the General Federation of Woman's Clubs, located in Washington, DC.

The Club is no longer federated, but its goals remain the same: to promote the civic, cultural, social, educational, and physical environment of the community. It is completely non-political and non-partisan. WE ALSO HAVE A LOT OF FUN IN MANY WAYS, such as an annual bus trip.

Qualifications for membership are a willingness to promote the objectives of the club by regular attendance and enthusiastic acceptance of duties.

The Club has participated in every Mt. Vernon Hospital Bazaar, to which it donates the proceeds of sales (in excess of \$35,000 to date); we also donate to several worthy causes, including the local school libraries, Hospice of Northern Virginia, and the needs of the local homeless community, to name a few.

We enthusiastically welcome all new members, and the annual dues are \$25. We meet at the Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Fort Hunt Road, on the 2nd Thursday of each month. To learn more, please contact our Membership Chairman, Mrs. Marylou Hoffman, at 703-360-7267. Do come and see how you like us; we look forward to meeting you. (Mary Lou Hoffman)

LITTLE HUNTING CREEK CLEANUP -- NOW BICOASTAL!

Sunday, May 3 -- (Rain date April 10)

Join your neighbors in Stratford Landing and Wessynton to clean up trash from the creek and pull invasive and exotic plants. Meet other Friends of Little Hunting Creek at any of the following three sites:

INVASIVE PLANT PULL -- 9 am to 1 pm. Meet at the intersection of Londonderry Road and Stockton Parkway (adjacent to the sewage

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pumping station) where neighbors will be pulling ivy, honeysuckle, etc, from the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust site. (Contact: Kim Larkin, 703-619-0191, email klarkin@dewberry.com)

CREEK CLEANUP, WESSYNTON DOCK, 10 am to 1 pm. Bring your canoe or boat to launch from the Wessynton dock to collect trash along the southwestern shore of the creek. (Contact Alex Echols, days 202-464-0108, email echols@conrod.com.) To get to the dock from Mt Vernon, go north on 235 toward Mt Vernon High School. Take the second right -- Wessynton Way. Stay on Wessynton Way to the bottom of the hill. Look for the small private road on left to Wessynton Pool. Park in lot adjacent to the pool and walk 50 yards to the dock.

CREEK CLEANUP, 8707 Stockton Parkway: (April 3 - 11 am to 2pm, or ONLY IF April 3 is rained out, April 10 - 9 am to 2 pm) Bring your boat or canoe to 8706 Stockton Parkway to collect trash along the northeastern shore of the creek. (Contact: Paul Siegel, 703-360-0691, email paulnbets@zzapp.org.) (On April 3rd, low tide is at 9 am, and launching from this site before noon will be difficult. On April 10th, the tide is HIGH at 9:36 am.)

Be sure to wear long pants and sleeves, sturdy (rubber?) boots, and a hat. Be prepared to get muddy. Bring water. Gloves and trash bags will be provided. If you are going to pull invasives, loppers will be helpful. Return all trash to the site you launched from.

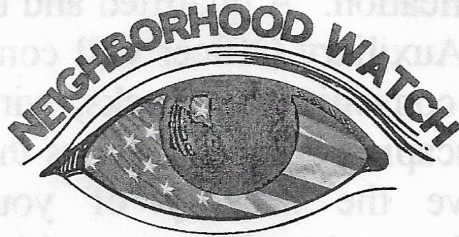
Do come and join us, and bring the kids. It's fun, believe it or not. (Paul Siegel and Betsy Martin)

This newsletter is published bi-monthly (normally February, April, June, September, October, and December) by the Stratford Landing Citizens Association, Inc. for the benefit and information of its member residents. All members may submit items for inclusion in the "Other News" and "Personal Items" sections by submitting them to the President or Secretary in writing by the 20th of the month preceding publication. The next issue will be circulated about June 4th. Other contributions to this publication are welcome, subject to editing. Unless otherwise attributed, the President is responsible for the content of this Newsletter. The following are the members of the Executive Committee, which meets the first 2-digit Tuesday of each month but August in open session.

Rick Edgerton (703) 360-2813 President*(rickedg@aol.com)	Annie McNeff (703) 780-7756 Vice President*
Linda Sweeney (703) 360-8470 Secretary*(llsweeney@aol.com)	Celia Boertlein (703) 360-3735 Treasurer*/MVCCA Budget & Finance
Mary Lou Hoffman (703) 360-7267 Membership*(mlnhoffman@aol.com)	Jay Spiegel (703) 619-0101 Rules/Parliamentarian*/MVCCA Environment and Recreation (jayspiegel@aol.com)
Mike Avila (703) 619-0522 Community Improvements*/ MVCCA Transportation (Acting) (eagle36@aol.com)	Leah Gunter (703) 799-1631 Recreation*
Jack Shawn (703) 780-4752 MVCCA Health & Human Services	Leah Dymek (703) 360-0849 MVCCA Education
Alan Rubinstein(703) 360-2141 MVCCA Public Safety	Jane & Tom Earley (703) 780-8476 MVCCA Planning & Zoning
Melissa Cramer (703) 360-1687 MVCCA Consumer Affairs/Sweetlist (melissa.cramer@cox.net)	Nancy Knoblauch (703) 799-6705 Newsletter Circulation Manager

* Indicates elected officers; all other positions are appointed.

Stratford Landing Neighborhood Watch



by
neighbors who care

What is it?

Neighborhood watch is a cooperative effort between the police department and your community. It is conducted by volunteers who want to create closer and safer communities. Neighborhood watch training is designed to foster communication and partnerships with the police officers who patrol your community and your police department. Other advantages of Neighborhood Watch include reducing the opportunity for crime in your community, greater feeling of ownership, active participation in preventing and solving crime, and getting to know your neighbors.

Types of Patrols:

1. **Mobile Patrols** - Active patrolling in marked mobile patrols while wearing distinctive clothing. Active patrolling is recommended in large communities or during high crime periods.
2. **Passive Observation** - Passive observation should be practiced by all residents in an effort to lookout for suspicious or unusual activity.
3. **Window Watch** - Window watchers should set a routine to follow. This watch is ideal for primary care givers, persons advanced in age, or residents housebound for reasons of health.
4. **Walking Patrols** - Walking patrols are designated in pairs to walk within a several block area actively looking for suspicious activity.

Other programs offered by your police department in conjunction with neighborhood watch are free home inspections and guidance on property identification. A qualified and trained Fairfax County Police Officer or Auxiliary Officer will conduct a free inspection with you at your convenience. Locks, windows, doors, exterior lighting, and landscaping are a few things that will be looked at to help you improve the security of your home. Property identification can be used to discourage thieves and make fencing of stolen property more difficult. It will also help the police identify your property if you become the victim of a crime.

It has been proven that in neighborhoods where citizens have joined together to look out for each other's safety, the incidence of burglaries and other crimes against property has been significantly reduced. Knowing who your neighbors are is the first step in the program. The next step is to be involved with the Neighborhood Watch in your community.

If interested joining your Neighborhood Watch, please contact coordinator Alan Rubinstein at 703-360-2141.

To join the Stratford Landing N.W. e-mail alerts group, please send an e-mail to this link:

StratfordLandingWatch-subscribe@yahoo.com

Thank you,
MPO Greg Kottemann
PFC Rick Cook
Crime Prevention Officers
Fairfax County Police Department
Mount Vernon Station
703-360-8928

gregory.kottemann@fairfaxcounty.gov / richard.cook@fairfaxcounty.gov



WE NEED YOU
for
NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH