

Stratford Landing Citizens' Association Newsletter

Stratford Landing • Mount Vernon District • Fairfax County • December 2005

New Team Assumes Office in Stratford Landing

On Tuesday, November 15, 2005, the newly elected Board of Officers held their first meeting at Walt Whitman Middle School. The board is trying to recruit a new board member to manage environmental issues for the SLCA. Following are the new slate of officers:

Tom Burgess, President

703.799.1218 • tburgess@aol.com

Jane Earley, Vice President

703.780.8476 • jane_earley@yahoo.com

Linda Sweeney, Secretary

703.360.8470 • llsweeney@aol.com

Celia Boertlein, Treasurer /

MVCCA Budget & Finance

703.360.3735

Mary Lou Hoffman, Membership

703.360.7267 • mlnhoffman@aol.com

Melissa Cramer, Rules / Parliamentarian

Consumer Affairs / MVCCA

703.360.1687 • Melissa.Cramer@cox.net

Leah Gunter, Recreation

703.799.1631

Appointed Members

Mike Avila, Community Improvements

Transportation MVCCA

703.619.5220 • EagleDO36@aol.com

Charles Herrmann, Planning & Zoning

703.799.0511 • charles.herrmann@verizon.net

Sarah Hill, Newsletter Designer

703.799.4065 • shd@cox.net

Alan Rubinstein, MVCCA Public Safety

703.360.2141 • asrubinstein@yahoo.com

Jack Shawn, MVCCA Health & Human Services

703.780.4752

Craig Short, Education

703.799.3148

First SLCA Meeting for 2006 Offers Several New Ideas

WEPO CREW TEAM REQUEST ADDRESSED – NO HUNTING SIGN DISCUSSED

The SLCA's first board meeting of the new term featured a number of new ideas, some of which were communicated and some of which were discussed with action taken. "We really needed 5 or 6 hours the way people were engaged," Tom Burgess, SLCA president remarked.

Storage Building. Early in the meeting, the board voted unanimously to pose no objection to West Potomac Crew Boosters, Inc inquiring with Supervisor Jerry Hyland and Fairfax County authorities regarding the permitting and construction of a storage building on the 9.5 acres of county-owned property where the water treatment pumping facility is located. This action was taken with the understanding that SLCA would be required to vote on final plans and that the crew team would not operate or train on this site, only store their crew shells there. The WPCB proposal was first made to SLCA in April 2005 and was discussed with the membership at the October meeting.

Hunting Sign. Also, a motion to reconsider payment of part of the expenses (\$700) expended by Mr. Jay Spiegel for installation of a "No Hunting" and No Wake" sign piling in Little Hunting Creek was ruled out of order based on the results of the October vote, in which the membership voted down the request. Mr. Burgess, who supported the reimbursement, moved to include a short announcement in this newsletter for members who wish to directly donate money to Mr. Spiegel. (See other article)

Bylaws and EC Membership. Ms. Earley, Vice President, offered a proposal to revise the bylaws in several respects, including to allow all EC members to be elected, and to give each EC member one vote, rather than giving elected EC members two votes. Ms. Cramer, Parliamentarian, offered to chair an EC committee to undertake this work and Ms. Earley and Mr. Burgess volunteered to participate.

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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. Other contributions to this publication are welcome, subject to editing.

Newsletter. The EC also voted to approve inclusion of paid advertising in the newsletter (display advertising rather than classified advertising) to underwrite costs. EC members were asked to provide one-paragraph summaries of their SLCA activities for inclusion in the newsletter.

Also, The EC discussed multiple newsletter costs and issues involved and agreed to:

- Use volunteers to coordinate and edit it
- Explore two-color printing and related costs
- Distribute the newsletter to people who are not paid members of the SLCA in order to boost membership, and
- Post the newsletter on a community website

New Ideas

Leaf Removal for Stratford Landing – This is being researched with the county with regards to cost impact, along with commercial options. This service, which could be county-provided, would eliminate the need for bagging leaves, though raking to the street would still be the home owner's responsibility. It currently is being performed in Waynewood and Old Town. Action Taken: Assigned to a board member for research.

Affordable Housing Report – A report from Joan McLellan was provided to the Board from the Mt. Vernon Citizens Council special meeting on the subject held on November 8. Four teams were formed, including Information, Public Support, Developers and Community Partnership and Policy. Action Taken: Ms. McLellan was voted unanimously as the SLCA representative to this subcommittee.

Welcome Basket – An initiative was discussed regarding Welcome Baskets for new Stratford Landing residents by Vice President Jane Earley. Action Taken: Ms. Earley will report in December some options for this worthy idea along with estimated costs.

Watershed Board – The President announced that a new watershed board should be created for the SLCA. Board members would constitute an even number (6) of members to force large consensus and that three watershed constituencies would be equally represented. He offered a plan to create this subsidiary body to explore options for limited community access to Little Hunting Creek. The 6 members would be drawn from three areas: land abutting the creek, land abutting the “marsh” and land not connected to the marsh or the creek. This body would recommend to the EC a course of action that they could send to the SLCA membership for approval. Action Taken: The President would draft a proposal for consideration at the next meeting.

Dispute Resolution Board – After the meeting, a proposal by the President was informally discussed regarding creation of a three-member board to resolve or mediate neighbor disputes. Action Taken: No action taken. To be discussed at the next meeting.

All members are encouraged to submit their ideas on improving our neighborhood. Please email your ideas to the appropriate board member, based on the nature of your proposal. If you don't know who to send it to, please send it to the board secretary, Linda Sweeney at llsweeney@aol.com and she will assign it accordingly.

Stratford Women's Club to Launch Winter Clothing Drive on November 29

Please help the Women's Club help the homeless at Mount Vernon Mental Health Center. Needed items include coats and jackets (all sizes), thick knitted caps, warm socks, blue jeans, work pants and shirts, thermal underwear, fatigues and sweat suits. For the months ahead, blankets, boots and sleeping bags are especially welcome items. Please drop off these items on the front porch of the home of Norma Claire Goeser at 8603 Camden Street, on the corner of Camden and Londonderry Streets. Warm your hearts with warm clothes for the less fortunate!

Private Donations to Offset Valued “No Hunting – No Wake” Sign in Little Hunting Creek

Mike Avila's Transportation Corner

Mike Avila brought the SLCA his report of the Mount Vernon Civic Association's Transportation Committee meeting on November 7, 2005 at Whitman.

Mr. Chris Wells, Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) Pedestrian Program Manger briefed the Committee on the results of the Fairfax County Pedestrian Task Force. The Task Force provided a coordinated education effort and funding considerations for a 10-year Capital Improvement Plan. The education effort encompassed staff education, to incorporate pedestrians as a major facet in general traffic planning. Also, a ten-year \$60 million plan is envisioned above and beyond current funding for transit centers, bus stops, sidewalks and trails, bridges and also a sizable portion for “missing links” to support neighborhood requirements, such as completion of an existing sidewalk. The next meeting of the Transportation Committee will be on Monday, December 5, 2005, at 8 PM, in the Library of the Walt Whitman Middle School.

SLCA members who wish to donate funds to help offset the cost of the piling signs in Little Hunting Creek that say “No Hunting” and “No Wake” may do so by sending a donation to Mr. Jay Spiegel, 8778 Stockton Parkway, Alexandria, VA 22308. Mr. Spiegel installed the helpful signage at his own considerable expense (\$3,000) and SLCA President Tom Burgess' goal is to raise \$700 to help offset his costs. Other neighborhoods bordering the creek have already provided him with partial reimbursement. “I am personally grateful and will donate to offset Jay Spiegel's expenses. He seized the opportunity to engage the pile-driving firm when he could, to get the job done and establish this valuable warning in our creek.” SLCA EC members will work with Mr. Spiegel to monitor incoming donations as they are received.

Charles Herrmann's Planning Report

Costco coming? A representative from Costco addressed the MVCCA P&Z committee at the November 7th meeting to gauge local citizens' feelings about the discount retail chain building a store on Route 1 at the corner of Shields Avenue (the current site of Saint Claire Appliances). Costco would like to build an ‘urban design’ store at the Route 1 location. An urban design store would incorporate parking below or above the store and possibly include other retail or residential units. Costco says they want to stay away from the “big and ugly” building that can be found at other locations. If you would like weigh in on the proposed store, please email your comments to charles.herrmann@cox.net.

Interested in how the BRAC Commission will affect Fort Belvoir? The Comprehensive Plan may be found at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz. Stratford Landing is located in Area IV of the county.

Craig Short's Education Outlook

The recently passed bond referendum contained a little more than \$246 million dollars for new construction, renovation, and infrastructure management for the county's schools. Of that, \$2 million is going to Sandburg Middle School for planning of future renovations. The balance is going to other facilities throughout the county but have potential benefit to us here in Stratford Landing as well. If you would like to find out more about the bond referendum, you can go to the FCPS web site at www.fcps.edu or call the FCPS office of Community Relations at (703) 246-3658.

Not an SLCA member?
Call Mary Lou Hoffman to sign up! 703.360.7267

Melissa Cramer's Consumer Cupboard

A recent amendment to the Federal Fair Credit Reporting Act now requires each of the major nationwide consumer reporting companies to provide you with a free copy of your credit reports, at your request, once a year. In order to receive your free annual report from one or all three companies, you can go to www.annualcreditreport.com, or call toll free 1-877-322-8228, or complete the Annual Credit Report Request Form and mail it to: Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA 30348-5281. For additional information or questions, visit www.ftc.gov/bcp/online/pubs/credit/idtheft.htm

Alan Rubinstein's Detective Bureau

We have a neighborhood watch email list. This email list will be used exclusively to inform residents of crime and public safety issues in our neighborhood. If you would like to be added to this list, please contact me at asrubinstein@yahoo.com or call me at 703-360-2141. This email list will not be shared with any other organization.

If you witness suspicious activity, first contact the police by calling 911 for emergencies or 703-691-2131 for non-emergencies. If you would like this information shared with your neighbors via the email list, please call me or send me an email with the information. I will remove sensitive information such as names or addresses, if desired.

Leah Gunter's Party Central:

Thanks to all of the Halloween Parade volunteers! Your help was greatly appreciated.

Thanks to:

Carolyn Strittmatter	Ruby Szilagi	Beth Bates
Ed Perez	Bob Prinzbach	Jennifer Reed
Sheila Gonsalves	John Marley	

Hey Leah! When is Santa Coming to Stratford?

The Elves are saying: **Saturday, December 17, 3 p.m.**

Rain Date: **December 18, 3 p.m.**

For the annual Home Decoration Contest, judging is **December 15, starting at 7 p.m.** There will be 4 winners:

1. Prettiest • 2. Kid's Favorite • 3. Most Original
4. Best Looking (Daylight)

Budget Wrap-Up

With all of the commotion when the 2006 budget was approved by the Membership at the October meeting at Stratford School, SLCA Treasurer Celia Boertlein provided a short report to clarify that the \$1000 contingency fund and the \$700 signage reimbursement line items were removed from the 2006 budget before it was approved by the Membership.

West Potomac Crew Wreath Sales Set from November 26 - December 15

West Potomac Crew Boosters will be selling wreaths, enhanced and plain, pine and fancy garland, hams for the 24th year in our neighborhood starting on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, up until mid-December. Sales locations will be at the Carl Sandburg Middle School ballpark concession stand and at the Belle View Elementary School during this holiday season. The Sandburg location is open 7 days a week, 9 – 5 p.m. on weekends and from 5 – 8 p.m. on the weekend and the Belle View location is open weekends only from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Want a peek at the Sweetlist that is coming out in February? Send an email to Melissa Cramer at melissa.cramer@cox.net for a copy.