

TIMMONS

Stratford Landing Citizens' Association Newsletter

Stratford Landing • Mount Vernon District • Fairfax County • April 2006

Special April 27 Meeting to Decide Bylaw Changes

Also Establishes Preferences on Leaf Removal, Crew Building

A Special Meeting has been called for 7 p.m. Thursday, April 27 at Stratford Landing Elementary School to decide on five Bylaw changes that have been recommended by the Executive Board, and to ask SLCA Members their preference on two issues before the Board.

On March 31, 2006, a special bulletin was circulated that contained voter information on all seven (7) votes to be taken at the April 27 special meeting.

If you can't attend the April 27 meeting, you may vote by proxy by marking your 7 votes (Yes or No) directly on the bulletin on each section where the issue is discussed, sign the proxy authorization box on the front of the bulletin and give the whole bulletin to your proxy. Don't detach the proxy section on Page 1. If you lost your bulletin and want to vote, call Tom Burgess at 703-799-1218.

NOTE: In the bulletin circulated in late March, there was a typo that said the April 27 meeting is scheduled for Stratford Landing Middle School. It is scheduled to take place at Stratford Landing Elementary School. Sorry for the error on the bulletin.

The bulletin also contains a proxy form for those of you who can't make it Thursday evening. Remember, the limit is three proxies can be carried per household. Besides an update from Gerry Hyland, here's a synopsis on the voting:

Vote 1: The first vote will be to express your preference on whether to support the West Potomac Crew team's request to locate a storage building on the pumping station land. While it would take the team several years to raise the funds and obtain all of the permits to build on county land, this vote is considered a necessary first step since they

introduced the concept to SLCA members at our October 2005 meeting. The largest contingent of crew team members live in Stratford Landing. The Board vote on this issue was 11 in favor, 1 against and 2 abstentions.

Vote 2: The County finally sent the SLCA the petition package on county-provided leaf collection. Stratford Landing is one of a few neighborhoods eligible for this service and the cost is based a property's total assessed value. In the March meeting, the Board decided to hold a preference vote at the Special Meeting to determine how much interest there is in having the county vacuum our leaves in the fall with their trucks. If the preference vote indicates a majority approval, then a petition process, which requires 55 percent approval for success, would be undertaken by the Board with help from the block captains. The Board vote on this issue was 7 in favor, 6 against and 1 abstention.

Vote 3 – 7: Information on these proposed five bylaw changes can be found in the SLCA Special Meeting Bulletin circulated in late March. The Board voted unanimously to bring these votes before the Members. The Board Members votes on the substance of the bylaw changes varied with each proposed change. These amendments included changes to a new Board's structure with more elected members (Board vote:10 yes, 2 no 2 abstentions); a new board member removal process (10 yes, 2 no, 2 abstentions); a return to one-member, one-vote voting procedures (12 yes, 2 no, no abstentions); a provision to require Director's and Officer's insurance for those who serve on board (13 yes, 1 no, 1 abstention); and an increase to the limit to emergent need expenditures up to 7% of the annual budget (11 yes, 3 no, 0 abstentions).

Newsletter NEW LOOK!

Do you like the look of the new SLCA Newsletter? We have included advertising for the first time and the newsletter is now financially self-sustaining, which means that this could help us avoid future dues increases. We'd like your feedback on the newsletter's new look. Please email us at tburgess@aol.com and our designer, Sarah Hill at shd@cox.net. Speaking of Sarah Hill, I would like to thank Sarah for her design work, which she does at no cost to the SLCA. Sarah runs Sarah Hill Design here in Alexandria and we all say "Thank you very much!" Anyone interested in advertising should email Tom Burgess, SLCA President, at tburgess@aol.com to obtain the ad rate sheet.

New Ideas Always Welcome!

All members of the Civic Association are encouraged to submit their ideas on improving our neighborhood. Just look at the April Special Meeting agenda. The first two votes came from ideas supplied by individual SLCA Members. 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 or any Board Member.

Celia Boertlein's Bottom Line

Our treasurer reports that the SLCA balance on hand as of March 29, 2006 is \$11,049.65. Receipts to date from yearly dues is \$6,865.00, accounting for 686 members.

Steve Chaconas' Scholarship Reminder

Steve called just in time for this newsletter to remind parents and high school seniors in Stratford Landing that five \$1500 scholarships will be awarded by the Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce and that applications must be received (not just postmarked) by the Chamber by Friday, April 28 at noon. For more information, check out http://mtvernon-leechamber.org/Application_form.pdf or call the Chamber at (703) 360-6925. Scholarship recipients will be notified by May 12. Thanks, Steve!

Alan Rubinstein's Detective Bureau

In 2005, residents of the Stratford Landing area reported over 300 issues or incidents to the Fairfax County Police Department. The most common police reports were:

- Tampering: 7.1% (22 reports)
- Noise Ordinance Violation/Loud Party: 6.5% (20 reports)
- Residential Burglary Alarms: 6.5% (20 reports)
- Suspicious Person: 6.2% (19 reports)
- Suspicious Event: 6.2% (19 reports)
- Rabid/Injured Animal: 5.8% (18 reports)
- Lost or Missing Juvenile: 3.2% (10 reports)

Special thanks to Master Police Officer Greg Kottemann for providing the incident data for our neighborhood.

Here are some more recent reports from Officer Kottemann's Crimesolver files:

Malicious Wounding in Greater Huntington Area

On Sunday, March 26 around 12:05 a.m., police were called to a malicious wounding in the 5800 block of Lebanon Road. Three men were drinking at a residence on Lebanon Road when they began to argue. Francisco Turcios, 49, allegedly used a machete to strike a 44-year-old man in the upper body and a 27-year-old man in the arm. The victims fled the residence and summoned police. Turcios fled the

(continued on page 3)



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Avery Hess
REALTORS

Hunting for Eggs on Easter Saturday

Leah Gunter gathered our youngsters together on Saturday for our Easter Egg Hunt at 3 p.m. at Stratford Landing Park. As this newsletter distribution coincides with these April 8 events, please note that Leah says the rain date for the Easter Egg Hunt is Saturday, April 15 at 3 p.m. at the Park. Thanks, Leah!

Charles Herrmann's Planning Zone

The MVCCA voted 11 to 8 to keep the 33-acre North Hill site as a public park for passive recreational use and not allow the proposed 100 pads for manufactured homes. This is contrary to the original use for the land, which was affordable housing, when the land was acquired by the county using a \$5 million Housing and Urban Development grant 15 years ago. The MVCCA's planning and zoning committee felt that developed sections of the Route 1 should have green space separating them and the MVCCA's affordable housing committee believed that with recent losses of affordable housing in the Mt. Vernon District that more such housing is needed.

If the county keeps North Hills as a park, it was not known whether or not the federal government would require that their original grant should be returned to them by the county. In today's dollars, that could amount to a \$40 - \$50 million transfer back to HUD which county taxpayers might have to shoulder. SLCA voted for the affordable house option.

The P&Z committee voted not to oppose the siting of a Walgreen's Pharmacy with 24 hour drive-thru window at the intersection of Richmond Highway and Boswell Avenue. The pharmacy is a by-right use, but a special exception is required for a drive-thru window adjacent to residential property. Gerry Hyland has expressed concern that Walgreen would operate a drive-thru that could complicate an already congested area on Boswell. He suggested that the drug chain consider not having a drive-thru option. The SLCA has indicated its support for Mr. Hyland's compromise. Across the street from the former Dunkin Donuts location, a bank had applied for that corner location, but pulled out recently.

In 2002, the School Board entered into a contract with Milestone Communications to propose and manage requests for cell towers on school property. That contract requires community support before filing a 2232 appli-

cation and before a lease could be signed. Recently, the provision for community review has not been included, specifically, in regards to an antenna at Mount Vernon High School. Riverside Estates presented a resolution opposing this practice, which was passed by the Committee.

Discover Your Ancestors

The Mount Vernon Genealogical Society will meet on April 18 in Room 112 of the Hollin Hall Senior Center at 1500 Shenandoah Road, SLCA Secretary Linda Sweeney reports. For more information on this interesting group, check out <http://www.mindspring.com/~mvgs>. The April 18 program will feature a panel of expert genealogists. All genealogists at some point in their research hit a "brick wall." As they research an ancestor, the ancestor seems to disappear. They are missing from the census, death, land, and church records. You have tried everything you can think of to find the ancestor, and you want to know where to look next. Come to the next meeting and stump the experts!

Blood Drive Success

On April 8, Jack Shawn organized another successful Blood Drive at Mount Vernon Hospital. Thanks Jack and keep up the good work.

Leah Chapla

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Joan McLellan's Workforce Housing

A resolution to add a 2nd Penny from the property tax for development of needed additional workforce or affordable housing was passed by the Mt. Vernon Council of Citizens' Association (MVCCA) in their March meeting. One penny out of the two-penny increase will be dedicated to the preservation of this kind of house, while the other penny increase is designed for the creation of this affordable housing.

Members of our community are invited to get some exercise (a wonderful family opportunity) and raise needed funds for those in great need in the Mt. Vernon area and globally by joining the Mt. Vernon CROP Walk for the Hungry on Sunday April 23. Registration is at 1:15 p.m. at Heritage Presbyterian Church, 8503 Ft. Hunt Rd. Sponsor envelopes may be obtained by calling Joan McLellan at (703)360-5034. Thanks, Joan!

Thanks, Mr. Stork

Recently the SLCA received a series of questions from a Member who home schools their children about Fairfax School system policies. The questions were sent to Dan Stork by email one night, and less than 10 minutes later, we had a lengthy, informative response. Thanks Dan. That's got to be a new school board record for response time!

Wow! A Party Yard Sale

The SLCA and Stratford Women's' Club are holding a community yard sale on Saturday, April 22 from 8 a.m. – Noon at 8603 Camden Street at Norma Claire Goeser's yard, according to Mary Lou Hoffman. "It's a lot of fun. Kind of a party," she said. If you like to bring an item for sale and stay, you retain 100% of the proceeds for the sale of your item. Or you drop an item by and then leave and 20% of the proceeds, if it sells, will go to the sponsors. For more information call Mary Lou at (703) 360-7367 or Grace DiFerdianado at (703) 780-5426.

Quilters UNITE for Kids

Our neighbor Kim Zuber is leading an effort to have children's quilts produced for the Kidney Foundation's annual 2-week camp near Charlottesville for children with illnesses. Kim has been at this for awhile and is a perfect example of how wonderful a Stratford neighbor can be – devoted, kind and helpful. Kim can provide you all the details you need to make the quilts. They are 45 x 70 in size and can be quilted, crocheted or knitted, as long as they are handmade.

KIDney Quilts is a joint project of the National Kidney Foundation, the American Academy of Physician Assistants, and local quilters to supply every child with kidney disease with a reminder of their time at camp. This year over 125 quilts will be taken to Camp Holiday Trails in Charlottesville, VA. If you are interested in finding out more about the KIDney Quilt project, or think you can help, check out the website www.kidney-quilts.aanpa.org, contact Kim Zuber at (703) 799-9524, or send her an email at KimZuber@yahoo.com.



Lisa Cohen, Elizabeth Dexter, and Sam Zuber with KIDney Quilts

Paul and Betsy's Healthy Waters

As we reported in February, our neighbor Betsy Martin organized the April 8 clean-up this weekend for Little Hunting Creek. Next time you see her, please tell her "Thanks!" Now, here's an excerpt from Paul Siegel's February 2006 report on the health of our watershed:

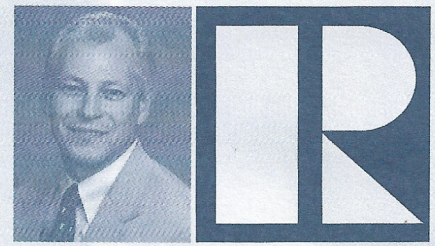
The state of the Little Hunting Creek watershed is . . . improving.

The LHC Watershed Management Plan was delivered to the Board of Supervisors on February 7, 2005. In the year since then, a team of county employees led by engineer Steve Aitcheson has made a good start on the 99 specific projects recommended by the Plan. Road crews have swept up the sand and road salt from parking lots at schools, libraries and other public facilities. Contractors have cleaned up all 24 of the dumpsites identified by the plan, including the "trashiest stream in Fairfax" a stretch behind Wal-Mart that was filled with an impressive array of furniture, appliances, shopping carts, and other debris. You can read the entire report at this website: <http://www.friendsoflittlehuntingcreek.org/envirodata/2005report.htm>. You can contact our neighbor Paul, who chairs the Little Hunting Creek Watershed Committee at 703-360-0691 or LHC-WC@zzap.org. He can always use new ideas and helpers.

No Hunting Sign Donors Reach Goal

As of March 10, 2006, SLCA members have reached their \$700 goal for private donations to help defray expenses for a private No-Wake, No-Hunting sign at the mouth of Little Hunting Creek. No further donations are requested and contributions made were appreciated by the SLCA Board and Mr. Spiegel.

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Detective Bureau *(continued from page 2)*

scene upon police arrival. Police obtained two warrants charging Turcios with malicious wounding.

Turcios is described as a white male, 5 feet 7 inches, 180 pounds, short black hair, brown eyes and clean shaven with a date of birth of 08/21/1956 (49). Please call the Fairfax County Police if you know the whereabouts of this person. 911 if observed or anyone with information is asked to call Crime Solvers at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477 or Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

Attempted Abduction and Robbery

Police responded to the 7500 block of Snowpea Court in the Hybla Valley Area on Saturday, March 11 around 10:30 p.m. A 23-year-old woman had been talking to a friend in the parking area of her apartment complex when her ex-boyfriend showed up, a 24-year-old Silver Spring man. He attempted to drag the victim into his vehicle, but she struggled with him and was able to break free. He grabbed her purse and fled on foot south on Fordson Road. Arrest warrants were obtained for the boyfriend for robbery and attempted abduction for: Hector Luis Betancourt-Rivera, W/M, 10/15/1982 5'5" 200lbs Black hair and black eyes. Please call the Fairfax County police if you know the whereabouts of this person. Call 911 if observed, or anyone with information please call Crime Solvers at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477 or Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

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Resident of Stratford Landing for 22 Years

Mike Avila's Planes, Trains and Streetlights

Spring is here and the landscape work is just beginning. The SLCA has a landscape maintenance contract for the three SLCA signs and public strip of grass along Camden Street just past the SLCA sign. If there are any other public areas in the SLCA neighborhood that are not maintained properly, please let Mike know, so we can try to include it in our contract. We're looking for public land, so don't send in coordinates for your back yard! Mike can be reached at (703) 619-5220.

Progress is being made with street light installation. Eight years ago, the county received our street light petitions, and now the county has three street light projects underway in our neighborhood. The 9 lights on Stirrup (6) and Childs Lane (3) have been approved and easements submitted. This project should begin this summer.

The 6 lights for Pennsylvania (3) and Monticello Ave (3) has progressed somewhat. Pennsylvania Blvd. residents have petitioned to have their 3 lights moved across the street on the park side. County engineers recently indicated that they doubt this will happen. Meanwhile residents on Monticello Blvd. have almost finalized their easements and their 3 street lights appear to be on track for completion this summer or fall.

Lastly, the 3-light installation on Cotswold Court is in the midst of a possible re-design by residents themselves to reduce the number of easements required to light the court. Street lights are made available on a petition basis by the county.

Stratford Landing Executive Board

We hold our regular meetings monthly at Walt Whitman Middle School on the 1st (double-digit) Tuesday of the month. Any special meetings, including the October meeting, are held at Stratford Landing Elementary School. Those dates will be publicized in advance. No meeting is held in August. **Members are encouraged to attend!**

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