

TIMMONS (14JUN06)

Stratford Landing Citizens' Association Newsletter

Stratford Landing • Mount Vernon District • Fairfax County • June 2006 0

All Bylaw Changes Receive Majority Vote; Only One of Five Approved Crew Building Approved; Leaf Removal Rejected

A special meeting held Thursday, April 27 at Stratford Landing Elementary School resulted in a majority vote for all of the proposed bylaw changes, as well as a positive preference vote to support a West Potomac Crew Team storage building on the pumping station land. However, the majority vote for the bylaw changes was not enough to approve them. Only one in five earned the two-thirds majority vote required. The bylaw change that was approved alters the amount of funds that can be spent by the executive board for an unbudgeted emergent need from \$200 to a percentage (7%) of the SLCA's annual budget. This year, that amount would be \$445.

"It is always invigorating for any group to hear and consider proposals directly from the membership and then put them to a vote," said Tom Burgess, SLCA President. "I am pleased that a majority of our members voted to approve these bylaw changes. But, for now, those bylaw changes that didn't reach 67% will have to wait. And the leaf removal? Boy, that one died on the vine!"

On the leaf removal, no vote count was recorded, as the chair ruled it failed to pass after only approximately 10 people appeared to vote for this measure. This provision would have resulted in county-provided leaf removal service for the neighborhood in exchange for a property tax increase of approximately \$90 per year for a household with an assessment of \$600,000.

While it varied from vote to vote, approximately 220 votes were cast for each of the seven issues, except for the last issue on leaf removal. We were told that was a record turnout for a SLCA special meeting.

Prior to the vote, a number of members objected to the special meeting and the proposed changes. Those objections were heard several times and the meeting proceeded in accordance with the bylaws and a verified quorum.

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Following are the results of the seven votes:

- 55%
1. **Bylaw 1, Creates more elected members—55%;** Did not achieve two-thirds vote
- 55%
2. **Bylaw 2, EB member removal process—55%;** Did not achieve two-thirds vote
- 55%
3. **Bylaw 3, One Person, One Vote rule—55%;** Did not achieve two-thirds vote
- 58%
4. **Bylaw 4, D&O insurance for EB—58%;** Did not achieve two-thirds vote
- 72%
5. **Bylaw 5, Increase emergent \$ limit to 7%—72% (approved)**
- 59%
6. **Crew Building Preference Poll 59% (approved)**
- N/A
7. **Leaf collection Preference Poll —N/A;** Did not achieve majority vote

News Ideas Always Welcome!

All members of the Citizen's 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.

The vote on support for the West Potomac Crew team's request to locate a storage building on the pumping station land was approved at nearly 60%.

"We are very grateful and pleased that the year-long interaction with the SLCA resulted in this positive outcome," said Alex Echols, a West Potomac Crew Boosters Board Member. While it may 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 in the process. The largest contingent of WePo crew team members live in Stratford Landing. The executive board's vote on this issue was 11 in favor, 1 against and 2 abstentions.

Before the voting, Gerry Hyland spoke about a new Fairfax County Attorney's written opinion that would permit limited public access to parts of the Pumping

Station land. "We were very impressed and grateful to Gerry Hyland for his responsiveness and guidance," Mr. Burgess said. This fall, the executive board will be setting aside time in the regular monthly meeting to plan public awareness events related to the pumping station operations and land.

In one helpful update, Mr. Hyland reported that county had dumped non-sewage soil from a sewage system clearing job, near the gravel pile on the pumping station land about two months ago. Vice President Jane Earley will continue to track that issue and determine whether improvements to land management might be recommended to the county to prevent this from happening again. These soils are not considered to be a health hazard, currently and the county has committed to move this soil to the landfill.

Yard Sale Rescheduled

The SLCA and Stratford Women's' Club Yard sale at Norma Goeser's house was rained out and will be rescheduled for September. More on this in the August issue or you can call Mary Lou at (703) 360-7367 or Grace DiFerdianado at (703) 780-5426.

Celia Boertlein's Bottom Line

Our treasurer reports that the SLCA balance on hand as of May 30, 2006, is \$11,336.25. This is an increase of \$286.63 over the closing balance two months ago. Credits for the period amounted to \$2,190.00, \$40 of which were new memberships and \$2,150.00 of which was advertising revenue received during the two-month period. Debits for the period amounted to \$1,903.40. There are now 686 SLCA members. In a nutshell, we are in a very sound financial position. One contributor to this success has been the new advertising revenue stream, which after only half the year gone, has resulted in \$2,569 in new net revenue for the Association. Great work, Celia!



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Movie Under the Stars Night

In a combined effort with the Stratford Recreation Association, SLCA will sponsor a movie night at the pool on Saturday, July 8, 2006 in the evening. Plans are still being made for refreshments, popcorn and a large screen classic motion picture showing down at the pool. We want thank Dan Normyle with the Recreation Board for inviting Tara Quadman, our Recreation Co-Chair to his board meeting to discuss these and other fun events during 2006 and beyond. We look forward to working with our neighbors at the pool!

Neighbor to Neighbor Resolution

During the last two months, the SLCA Board was successful in mediating two disputes in our neighborhood. In both cases, the SLCA Board Member heard each side of the story (in some cases, several times) and the neighbors were then encouraged to work out differences without resorting to court action. And, in both cases, the disputes were resolved. Both cases involved fences. In case you might be wondering, the county code height for fencing is 7 feet in back and side yards and 4 feet in front yards. Call us. As long as one of your goals is to avoid legal action, we can help.

Mike Avila's Planes, Trains and Streetlights

Progress continues being made with street light installation. The nine lights on Stirrup and Childs Lane have been approved and easements submitted. This project should begin this summer.

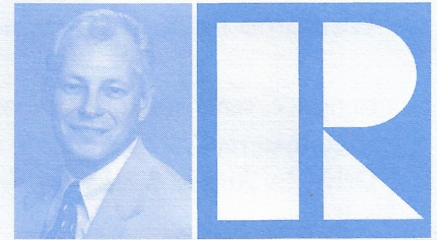
The four lights for Pennsylvania and three for Monticello Ave has progressed somewhat. Monticello Blvd. residents have finished their easements and their three street lights appear to be on track for completion this summer or fall. Pennsylvania Blvd. residents have petitioned to have their four lights moved across the street on the park side.

Lastly, the location of three lights for Cotswold Court was re-designed 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.

Big Thanks to Leah Gunter

We want to profusely thank Leah Gunter, our recreation chair on the executive board, for all of her hard work to keep our Christmas Fire Truck moving, our Easter Eggs hidden and our children happy here in Stratford Landing.

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Tara Quadman and Beth Bates, the executive board's new recreation co-chairs, both said it'll take two to replace Leah. "I very much want to thank Leah for her sensitivity and common sense support during some trying times for the Executive Board recently," said SLCA President Tom Burgess.

Affordable Housing Report

The Affordable/Workforce Housing Committee of MVCCA invites members of Stratford Landing to participate in a Community Dialogue on Housing on Saturday, July 15th at 10 AM at the South County Gov't Center on Richmond Hwy, Rm 217 (703-704-6000). This is a wonderful opportunity to share concerns, ideas, dreams with our neighbors. What kind of community would you like developed? Questions? contact Joan McLellan 703-360-5034 or ajjoanmclellan@aol.com.

Stratford to Launch New Welcome Packets!

New Stratford landing residents will soon be getting out welcome packets containing information about local public and private services, schools, restaurants, etc. If you have a service or business that you would like newcomers

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Welcome Packets *(continued from page 3)*

to notice, send or drop off about 60 copies of packet-sized materials or information to Jane Earley, 2331 Creek Drive, by August 1. If you have ideas about the packets, call Jane.

Alan Rubinstein's Detective Bureau

A neighbor recently emailed with her concerns about unsafe driving on Camden Street. Drivers are exceeding the posted 25 MPH speed limit on Camden. In addition, folks are rolling through the two-way stop sign on Camden at the intersection of Cavendish Drive.

As Stratford Landing residents, we all want to live in a safe place. Children play outdoors here all day long. The golden rule applies to driving, too: drive as you wish others would drive. Since most of the folks that drive on our neighborhood streets also live on those streets, we all can make our streets less dangerous. Please help keep our neighborhood and our neighbors safe: slow down and drive respectfully. A complaint was registered this week with the Fairfax Police about a silver car speeding on Camden.

From Officer Greg Kottemann's Logbook

Virginia Sex Offender Registry. The Virginia State Police have updated the Virginia Sex Offender Registry site. It is more user friendly and is formatted better for viewing. This is the link to the site below: <http://sex-offender.vsp.virginia.gov/> Remember the registry site is for information purposes only. Virginia State Code Section 9.1-918 listed below explains prohibited acts. A class one misdemeanor is punishable by up to a year in jail and up to a \$2500.00 fine.

§ 9.1-918. Misuse of registry information; penalty. Use of registry information for purposes not authorized by this chapter is prohibited, the unlawful use of the information contained in or derived from the Registry for purposes of intimidating or harassing another is prohibited, and a willful violation of this chapter is a Class 1 misdemeanor.

Blood Drive Set on June 10 and August 5

Neighbor Jack Shawn is now busily making time appointments for our Community Blood Drive for Saturday, June 10 at the INOVA Mount Vernon Blood Center. If you would like to give and haven't given before with the community, come any time between 7:30 and 12:30 and we'll work you in! Or call Jack at 703-780-4752. Can't make

Leah Chapla

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June 10? Then mark your calendar for the NEXT Blood Drive on August 5.

Charles Herrmann's Planning Zone

Hospital Expansion. Mt. Vernon Hospital has plans to add two small additions totaling about 5,500 square feet, rearrange some of the parking, and relocate the volleyball court. If approved, it is expected to improve the imaging department and make the parking more convenient to patients and visitors. Since there will be a net increase in impervious surface, they have agreed to investigate using environmentally low impact development (LID). Also, they have agreed to not file for a storm water waiver even if the existing storm water system is inadequate, but find a solution that will not harm the watershed. The P&Z Committee voted to not oppose.

Update on the Route 1 Costco. JPI presented their revised plan for the proposed Kings Crossing development. The major design changes include removing the hi-rise residential towers, adding office space, and including a 150 room hotel. There were discussions about the retail development partner, the proposed proffers, and some lingering concerns about the ratio of commercial to residential space. Since JPI is still resolving issues with the staff and further modifications are expected, no vote was taken by the P&Z Committee.

Stratford Landing Website Launched by Charlie Herrmann

Stratford residents can now post their upcoming events, check important documents and review previous newsletters on the SLCA's new Web site. This effort by Executive Board member Charles Herrmann is very much appreciated by his fellow Board Members and the neighborhood.

Last December, the Executive Board voted to launch a Web site that is exclusively for the Members of the SLCA. Please have a look at our new Web site. It can be found at www.stratfordlanding.org. Please send any feedback to tfburgess@aol.com and webmaster@stratfordlanding.org. Thanks very much, Charlie!



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Stratford Landing Girl Scouts Take on Major Environment Project

Trish Higbee, daughter of John and Carol Higbee, will be leading a group of Girl Scouts in pursuit of their Silver Project here in our neighborhood. They have applied to the Executive Board and the County to fix our faded No Dumping Warnings on all 206 storm water drains in Stratford Landing.

This is no small effort. As recommended by the county, the troop is proposing to use the new 15-year shelf life sticker instead of the paint stenciling label method, which lasts about 2-3 years. Each sticker application will take about 20-25 minutes. These super-resilient stickers are provided by the county and the Girl Scouts will be adding the elbow grease! Executive Board member Carol Horn will be coordinating this environmental project with the Girl Scouts. Okay, Eagle Scouts, let's see you top this one!

Storm drains are located throughout the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay watersheds. A watershed is an area of land that drains into a common body of water. Fairfax County is situated in the center of the Bay

watershed. What we do in our yards and communities affect the Bay through the storm drainage system.

When it rains, the water running along the gutters in the street vanishes down storm drains. Where does the water go?

The water in a storm drain does not go to a wastewater treatment plant like many people assume. This water drains into a local stream, which feeds into a river, and eventually empties into the Bay. Nothing is removed from the water. That means pet wastes, yard debris, fertilizer, motor oil, pesticides and trash all flow into the Bay.

Pollution that enters our water resources through the storm drains is called nonpoint source pollution because it comes from all our homes and communities. Nonpoint source pollution is the leading cause of water quality deterioration in the Chesapeake Bay. The buzz is that we have Neighbor Betsy Martin to thank for planting the seed for this great idea. Thanks again, Betsy!



Seth and Ryan Romero



Sib Sadlier



An Unidentified John Travolta Wannabe...



William Pendergraph, James Scott, Victor Hoyos, Alyssa Hoyos, Brian Wernecke, and Patrick Bowdring



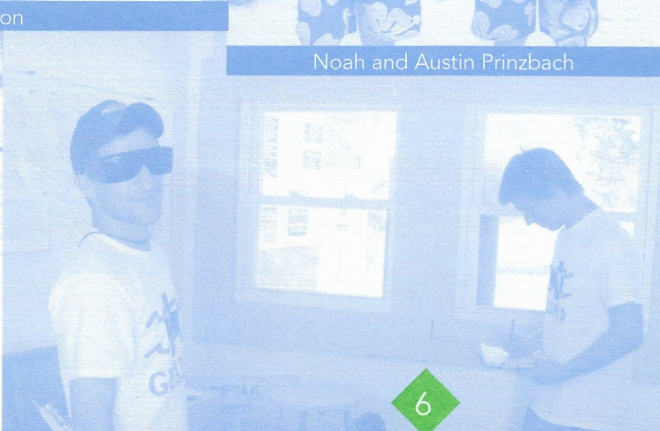
Julie and Willa Denton



Noah and Austin Prinzbach



Robbie Sadlier



Daniel Dickert and Erik Wernecke

Stratford Landing Executive Board

We hold our regular meetings monthly at Walt Whitman Middle School on the 2nd (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!**

Tom Burgess, President

703.799.1218 • tfburgess@aol.com

Jane Earley, Vice President

703.780.8476 • jane_earley@yahoo.com

Celia Boertlein, Treasurer / Budget & Finance

703.360.3735 • cboertlein@yahoo.com

Linda Sweeney, Secretary

703.360.8470 • llsweeney@aol.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Mike Avila, Transportation

703.619.5220 • EagleDO36@aol.com

Beth Bates, Recreation Co-Chair

703.704.9119 • Rbbates4@aol.com

Melissa Cramer, Rules / Parliamentarian Consumer Affairs

703.360.1687 • Melissa.Cramer@cox.net

Charles Herrmann, Planning & Zoning

703.799.0511 • charles.herrmann@cox.net

Mary Lou Hoffman, Membership

703.360.7267 • mlnhoffman@aol.com

Carol Horn, Environmental Affairs

703.360.9015

Joan McLellan, HHS – Work Force Housing

703.360.5034

Tara Quaadman, Recreation Co-Chair

703.619-3072 • Tntquaad@aol.com

Alan Rubinstein, Public Safety

703.360.2141 • asrubinstein@yahoo.com

Jack Shawn, Health & Human Services

703.780.4752

Craig Short, Education

703.799.3148

NEWSLETTER DESIGN

Sarah Hill Design

703.799.4065 • shd@cox.net

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