

Stratford Landing Citizens' Association Newsletter

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

Movie Night Out of This World!

Stratford Landing residents were treated to a Movie Night Under the Stars on Saturday evening, July 8 for a first-ever event in the neighborhood. More than 220 Stratford residents and children watched *ET – The Extraterrestrial* and enjoyed popsicles, soda and popcorn.

“We are so grateful to Danny Normyle, the pool association president, the pool managers, Daniel Dickert and Danielle Belanger for their help; to Liz Lucchesi, one of our area real estate agents who helped sponsor the event and sponsored the DVD player raffle and to our recreation co-chairs, Beth Bates and Tara Quaadman,” said Tom Burgess, SLCA President.

“What a great night!” said one 30-year resident. “Way cool,” said another. “We would also like to thank the members of the Movie Planning Committee for all their hard work before and during the event,” said Ms. Quaadman. “We could not have done it without them — thanks to Jeneanne and Troy Cahill, Ron Bates, Renata Middleton and Cindy Diaz,” she said.

Also, thanks to the 30 or so neighbors who live near the pool, who received a notice about the event, which ended promptly at 10:45 p.m., as promised. The winner of the DVD player, sponsored by realtor Liz Lucchesi, was Emily Hauptle, daughter of Carroll and Beth Hauptle. “We’ve had a great number of requests to do more events like this, and we hope to continue to hold fun events like this,” said Ms. Quaadman.

A couple of lessons for this first-time event were learned. “We want to re-position the screen next time we do this to keep the sound pointed more toward the pool and we will again reduce the volume at the beginning and again at 10 p.m.,” Ms. Bates added.

SLCA Membership Drive Underway

Our membership drive begins now and runs to September 30. Members are asked to please help your block captain, and deliver your \$10 dues to him or her. If you don’t know who they are, they are listed in your community Directory. If yours has changed, and some have, please call Mary Lou Hoffman to find out who your block captain is. Block captains, could you please verify the membership list information, deleting anything that is incorrect, adding anything we left out, noting who has paid their dues, and return the marked up lists (one copy is for your records) and the dues to Mary Lou Hoffman by September.

Eligibility to vote at the SLCA Annual Meeting on October 26 is limited to those households with dues paid — so please pay promptly, and keep your receipts. If you need a new directory or a new “SL” bumper sticker, see your block captain. Please display them on your cars. Block captains, if you need more of them, call Mary Lou Hoffman or Celia Boertlein. The preferred place for the sticker is the left rear bumper.

Make These Your Two Favorite Web Sites!

Several people called to ask how to get information on crimes in our neighborhood. We have two recently opened Web sites to keep us current. Plus, you can see important Stratford Landing news that won’t wait for the Newsletter. Just log on to www.stratfordlanding.org and check out Neighborhood Notices. That’s where Webmaster Charles Herrmann has had crime and other updates running for the last couple of months. For crime prevention information, our main Web site refers you to our neighborhood watch Web site, which is: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/StratfordLandingWatch>

For all neighborhood issues, go to: www.stratfordlanding.org

Two Daylight Burglaries Hit Stratford Landing

On Friday, July 7, there were two burglaries in Stratford Landing. The burglaries occurred in the 2200 block of Londonderry Road and the 2600 block of Ryegate Lane. The burglaries, which the police believe to be related, occurred between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. and involved forced entry into unoccupied homes.

"I just loaded all of the software on my new laptop," said one of the victims. "I was amazed they would just walk into my backyard during the day and go in," said another victim. Taken were computers, electronic gear, jewelry and other valuables.

Police are working on one description of three African-American males in a 1990's model black Honda Civic who walked into the back yards of the two homes and entered the homes in similar ways.

The police do not believe that the two July 7 burglaries are related to seven (7) burglaries along the Fort Hunt Road corridor that occurred that same week.

These break-ins happened at night between midnight and 4 a.m., according to Officer Kotteman. "In 6 of the 7 cases, the homes were unlocked and the homes were occupied. "They clearly were looking in windows. Once they could spot something like a purse, they broke in," said Officer Kotteman. The communities hit were Potomac Valley/Riverbend, Stratford on the Potomac, Wellington & Belle Haven.


Meanwhile, we heard of an interesting way to secure your home. It involves using your car alarm as a home security system. Get in the habit of leaving your keys at your bedside at night. Test it by hitting the "panic" button on your car keys. It works if you park in your driveway or garage. If your car alarm goes off when someone is trying to break in your house, odds are the intruder won't stick around. Anyone witnessing suspicious activity in the neighborhood should call the police at 703-691-2131 while it is happening.

Crime Prevention Tips

- Make sure your doors (home and car) are always locked. Double and triple check!
- Always remove valuables from your vehicles and from near first floor windows, and drawing blinds or shades when possible.
- Use exterior lights all night long.
- Keep your car keys near your bedside, if you car is equipped with a car alarm and your key chain has a "panic" button. If you hear disturbances at night, use your car alarm to frighten anyone away and call 911.

Pumping Station Walk-Through

We are scheduling a two-hour walking tour of the Pumping Station land in September. We hope to have a naturalist accompany us on the tour. This is being done at the request of several members who have never seen the land. Please watch our web site, (www.stratfordlanding.org) where we will post the time and date as soon as we get it.



HOME SELLERS!
Selling a home in the Northern Virginia area? Call Elizabeth for her free special report, *29 Essential Tips That Get Homes Sold Fast (And For Top Dollar)*. It's critical reading if you want to get the highest return on your home sale. Call or e-mail Elizabeth to request your copy now!


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ELIZABETH LUCCHESI
A Winning Finish



Candidate Call — Want to Run for Office in the SLCA or Chair a Committee?

Any SLCA members who'd like run for any of eight SLCA elected offices should submit a narrative, no more than 175 words in length, explaining your experience and what you would like to accomplish in the office you seek. Please send this narrative by September 15 by email to Tom Burgess, SLCA President at tfburgess@aol.com and copy SLCA Secretary Linda Sweeney at llsweeney@aol.com. Each year, eight positions are up for election during the October annual meeting, to be held on October 26, Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at Stratford Landing Elementary School. These positions are: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Community Improvements and Transportation (vacant), Membership, Recreation and Rules.

Also, if there are others who wish to join the board as appointed members to represent Stratford Landing to other government organizations, please send an email to Tom Burgess, SLCA President at tfburgess@aol.com and copy SLCA Secretary Linda Sweeney at llsweeney@aol.com. There is currently one vacancy projected among the Representative Members in the area of education.

Celia Boertlein's Bottom Line

Our treasurer reports that the SLCA balance on hand as of June 30, 2006, is \$10,017.52. Credits for the April – June quarter amounted to \$2,790.00, 92 percent of which was newsletter advertising revenue. There are now 686 SLCA members.



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Leah Chapla

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Dominion Power Fuse Flies into Stratford Rooftop

A 10-pound fuse was propelled from a Dominion Power transformer across the street from 2605 Stirrup Lane on June 26 at 8:30 p.m. The fuse went airborne after residents Martin and Jane Abel heard a “pop pop pop” noise. It sailed 150-200 feet into the air and landed in Martin and Jane’s roof. With help from Brett Kenney, chief aide to Supervisor Hyland, the Abels were reimbursed for their roof damage.

Wetlands Violation

A nearby resident has been cited with possible violations by the County recently for filling in and disturbing a wetland area without a permit. Residents with flood plain within your property are reminded that there are serious rules regarding wetlands, and permits must be obtained before work commences. This includes construction of retaining walls, dumping of fill dirt or building impermeable objects like concrete structures, in wetland areas. For more about wetlands permitting, log onto: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/environment/wetlandspermit.pdf>

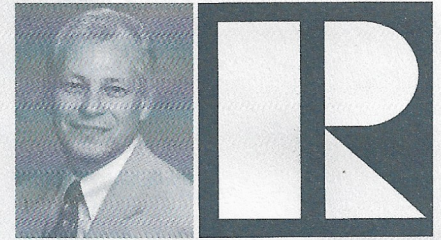
Water Mains Giving Out

Seven houses on Culpeper Road (between Childs and Wendell) had their water mains give out this summer. The homes affected all had copper lines running from the county connection to their homes. Homeowners heard water running or hissing and called plumbers, according to Lester Dove of L.V. Dove and Son plumbing. “It must have been a bad run of copper pipe used by the developer years ago. The pipe had lots of pin holes in it,” he said.

Community Emergency Alert Network and Make-A-Plan

With this newsletter, you also received a Community Emergency Alert Network (CEAN) pamphlet. This system can alert to you important emergency alerts, such as major traffic or weather developments. The alert goes directly to your cell phone, text pager, PDA, or any email account. This system, while helpful can send multiple messages regarding one incident. Also with this edition, you received the pocket-sized “Make-a-Plan” personal preparedness plan with many emergency office numbers.

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Mark Your Calendar!

Annual Meeting – October 26, 2006 – The SLCA will have its Annual Meeting on October 26 at 6:30 p.m. – 10 p.m. at the Stratford Landing Elementary School for the purpose of the election of officers and chairs, any other ballot issues that may arise and, if the candidates for office respond to our six invitations, we will have a Candidates Night.

Scary Halloween Parade – October 21, 2006 – rain date is October 28. Another first for Stratford Landing!

Blood Drive – The next Stratford Landing blood drive is scheduled for Saturday, October 7 from 7:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. at Mount Vernon Inova Hospital. Make an appointment by calling 866.256.6372.

Stratford Community Yard Sale – Residents are encouraged to bring out your sale items and sell them on your own driveway on September 30 from 8 a.m. – noon, Saturday (rain date: October 7). This sale is sponsored by the Stratford Womens Club and the SLCA. For more information, call Grace DiFerdinando at (703) 780-5426 or Mary Lou Hoffman at (703) 360-7267

Housing Meeting – Saturday, September 16, 10 a.m. – Community Dialogue on Housing: Theme – *Organizing for Action* at the new South County Government Center. For more information, call Joan McClellan at 703-360-5034.