

Stratford Landing Citizens' Association Newsletter

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

Annual Meeting and Candidates' Night a Success

Candidates running for the U.S. House of Representatives offered the 76 members of Stratford Landing Citizen's Association an exclusive dialogue during Candidate Night on Thursday, October 26. Thanks go to Rep. Tom Davis, (R-VA) and Mr. Andrew Hurst, the Democratic candidate for attending. Both candidates were candid and open with the SLCA during the moderated discussion.

That night, the SLCA Members also approved the 2007 budget, which featured a current balance of \$9,554.51, as of 9/26/06. After the meeting, the executive board contacted a provider to arrange for the directors and officer's insurance coverage as soon as possible. Eight executive board members were elected to their positions to serve for another year (See page 4). The turnout of the meeting (76) was a little disappointing," said President Tom Burgess, "but we are working on plans right now to increase turnout for the 2007 meeting."

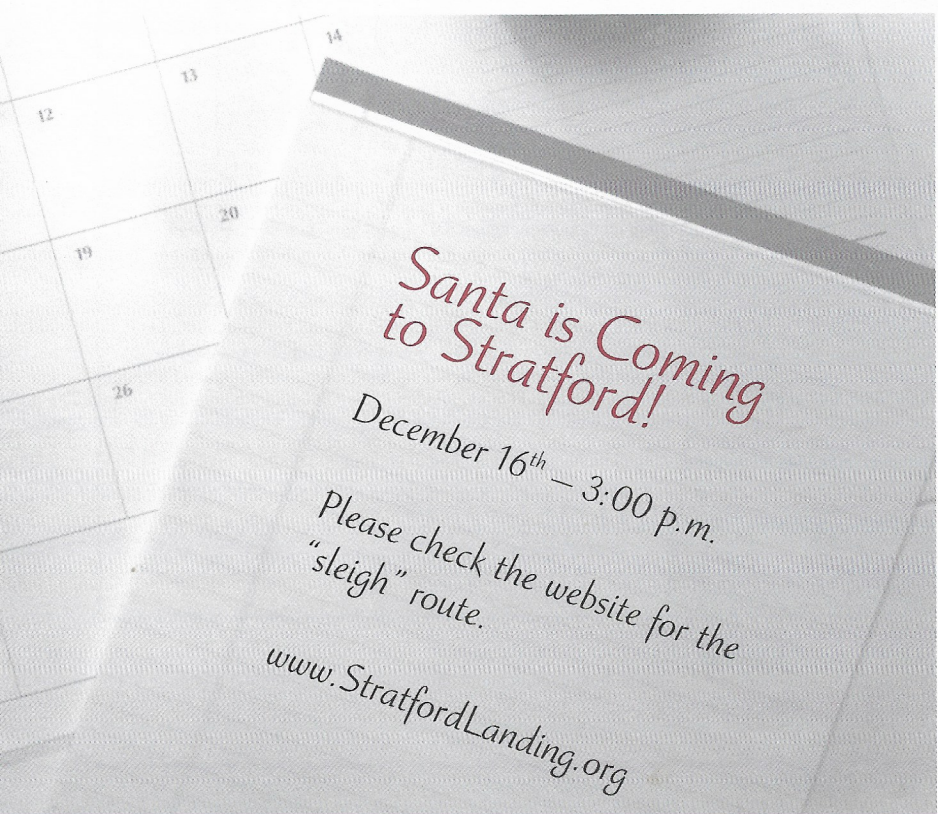
Don Griffin was elected to fill the position left by the departure of Mike Avila, as chair of the Community Improvements and Transportation Committee. More good news came when the one vacancy left among the Representative chairs was filled by Ed Gonsalves, who will head the Education Committee. This year's annual meeting set a new modern era record for adjourning by 8:56 p.m.

Rules Committee Meets

SLCA Parliamentarian Melissa Cramer convened the 2nd meeting of the Rules Committee in 2006 on November 30 to consider two bylaw change proposals. One proposal advocated that if a vote is taken by the Membership, that it would become irrevocable (unchanged) for a period of 5 years, and also increased to two-thirds (67%) the margin required for passage for such votes. After a length discussion, the Rules Committee voted 3-0 against the proposed change with amendments. Another provision would address the issue of double voting by elected versus appointed members of the executive board. This proposed change will be reviewed at the next rules committee meeting.

SLCA Newsletter to End for Those Who Haven't Paid Dues

Mary Lou Hoffman reported that about three dozen members have not paid the \$10 dues. If you are a member or a block captain, please pay or collect the dues and turn them in as soon as possible. This edition of the newsletter will be the final edition delivered to any member not in good standing. If you're unsure who your block captain is or whether or not you paid your \$10 in dues, please call Mary Lou Hoffman at (703) 360-7267. The SLCA charges the least amount for dues among the 64 Mount Vernon District neighborhood associations.



210MMIT

Halloween Parade and Festival— A Scary Good Time!

The SLCA members sponsored a Halloween Parade and Festival that attracted more than 350 neighbors participating in the events of the day. The beautiful Saturday afternoon event started with the Fairfax County Fire Department leading the parade down Camden Street to Stratford Landing Park.

At the park, the participants found games and arts and crafts which included a moon bounce, pumpkin bucket making craft, Halloween beading stations and a face painting station and refreshments.

We would like to thank the Fairfax County Fire Department and the Fairfax County Police Department with all their help to make this a successful event. A special thanks to Lt. Kendall Thompson and his crew for staying the afternoon and Officer Greg Kottemann for coming and helping with the permitting process!

A big thanks goes out the McDonalds on Cooper Road



A frightful visit from a Halloween festival scary princess, Beatrice DiFolco

for donating drinks and cups and the Hoffman Movie Theatre on Eisenhower Ave. for the popcorn.

We also thank all of the volunteers that helped out that day: Jennifer Atanda, Jessica Belt, Tom Burgess, Jenneane Cahill, Roly and Cindy Diaz, Michelle Franey, Ed Gonsalves, Callie Jacobs, Melissa Cramer, Carrie Meyer, Renata Middleton, Christine Nelson, and Katie Savage.

Block Captain Note

Welcome Packets Now Available


Welcome packets for new Stratford neighbors are available for all of our block captains to distribute. Thanks to Sydney Smith, Don Griffin and their daughter Emily for honchoing this effort started by Sydney and Jane Earley some months ago. Block captains may call Emily at (703) 360-9424 and she will deliver the packets to you.

Thanks to Our 2006 Advertisers!

AP Landscaping
Bob Kuletz
Linda Brown
Leah Chapla
Liz Luchessi
Tom Pleimling

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!

(703) 868-5676
www.LizLuke.com

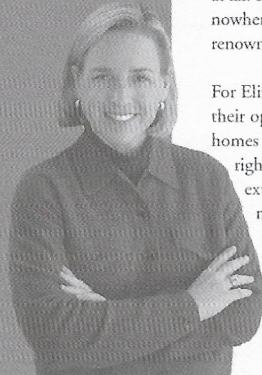



Go Big or Go Home

That's Realtor® Elizabeth Lucchesi's Motto.


No matter what Elizabeth Lucchesi is pursuing, it's her best effort or nothing at all. From life to business, Elizabeth's motto is "go big, or go home," and nowhere is this philosophy making a greater impact than in her career as a renowned real estate professional.

For Elizabeth, "going big" means working hard to ensure her clients maximize their opportunities and get big results. Whether she's helping sellers stage their homes in the most positive light or making sure her buyers find not only the right home, but the perfect neighborhood to fit their needs, she goes the extra mile to see that they achieve their goals. If you're looking to make a move, Elizabeth does what it takes to lead you to success. Call today!





ELIZABETH LUCCHESI
A Winning Finish



SLCA Newsletter Becoming a Trendsetter

New Web Site Usage Taking Off

The editor of the Mount Vernon Council of Civic Association (MVC-CA) has asked the SLCA for copies of plans and templates in order to learn how to accept advertising in their newsletter. The MVCCA is running a budget deficit and the editor hopes this will help put their finances back in the black. The SLCA has accepted advertising for one year and this has generated new revenue of \$4,905.00 and a profit margin (after subtracting add'l printing costs) of \$4,109 on the plus side of the ledger. Also, the October usage numbers are in for the new SLCA Newsletter. The monthly hits for October were 580, compared to 324 in September. Great work, Charlie Herrmann!

Melissa's Consumer Watchwords

If you buy gift cards from a display rack, you may become a victim of theft. Dishonest people are now jotting down the card numbers in the store and then wait a few days and call to see how much of a balance THEY have on the card. Once they find the card is "activated," they go online and start shopping. You may want to purchase your card from a customer service person, where they do not have the gift cards viewable to the public. Also make sure the PIN number is not showing on the card prior to purchasing.

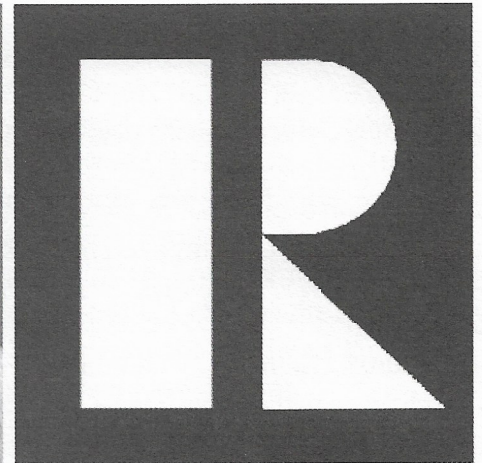
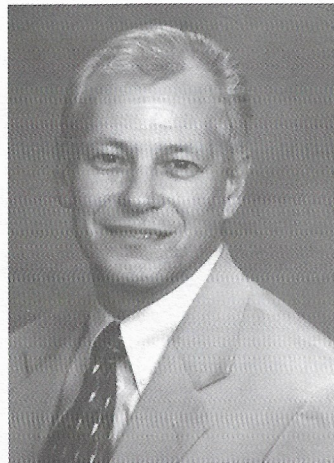
Holiday Decorating Contest Set for Week Before Christmas

Features First Time for Online Voting

There is a new twist on our holiday decorating contest this year. In order to encourage as much participation as possible in this time honored tradition, voting will be open to the community. The house decorating committee will select at least three different houses for each of the five categories listed below. The pictures and addresses of these homes will go online on our website (www.stratfordlanding.org/events/holidaycontest.html) on December 19. Each resident will be able to vote for their favorite house in each of the five categories. Voting will remain open until December 21. Once the votes have been tallied, the winners of the contest will be posted on the website on Friday,

December 22, also signs designating them as winners will go up on the front lawns. We encourage some friendly competition amongst our neighbors. Don't feel that if you have not won before that all is lost -- now the community will decide the best decorated homes. Be innovative. If you do not have access to a computer and would like to vote, call Tara Quaadman or Beth Bates to receive a paper ballot. The 5 categories for judging are: Best Overall -- Most Original -- Prettiest in the Day Time -- Prettiest at Night -- Most Kid Friendly. One winner from each category will win a \$50 gift certificate to Red, Hot and Blue. So, don't forget to decorate, to vote and check the website!

got a REALTOR?



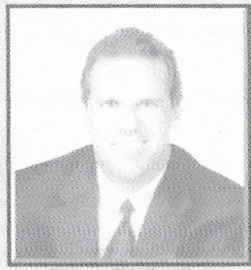
bobkuletz REALTOR[®]
703-615-2626

www.bobkuletzREALTOR.com



Alexandria / Old Town Office
121 N. Pitt Street Alexandria, VA 22314 703-549-8700





Tom Pleimling
Principal Broker
Top 1% Nationally in Sales
Your Neighborhood Realtor

Tom Pleimling Realty, Inc.
1701 Belle View Blvd.
#B-1
Alexandria, VA 22307
www.talk2tom.com
tom.pleimling@talk2tom.com

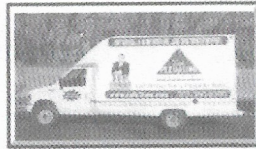
703-360-6300

*"If you are thinking of making a move, contact me at your convenience. I'd be delighted to speak with you."
-Tom*



How You'll Benefit By Hiring Tom Pleimling:

- ◆ Tom sells more Fort Hunt homes than any other individual real estate agent.
- ◆ Your home receives worldwide exposure on Tom's personal web domain at **www.talk2tom.com** and is advertised on Tom's "24-hour hotline" which gives buyers instant information.
- ◆ Use of Tom's moving truck.
- ◆ You benefit from Tom's **23 years' experience** and more than **1400 homes sold**.
- ◆ For more benefits, call Tom at **703-360-6300**.



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
703.360.3735 • cboertlein@aol.com

Linda Sweeney, Secretary
703.360.8470 • llsweeney@aol.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Beth Bates, Recreation Co-Chair
703.704.9119 • Rbbates4@aol.com

Melissa Cramer, Rules / Parliamentarian Consumer Affairs
703.360.1687 • Melissa.Cramer@cox.net

Ed Gonsalves, Education
703.619.5152

Don Griffin, Transportation
703.360.9424 • sydney-don@verizon.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

NEWSLETTER DESIGN

Sarah Hill Design
703.799.4065 • shd@cox.net

WEBMASTER

Charles Herrmann

Community Notes

Blood Drives—Mark your calendar, folks! Jack Shaw advises us to please donate your blood at Mount Vernon Inova Hospital by calling (703) 780-4752. Drives in 2007 are now scheduled for February 3, March 31, June 2, August 4, October 6 and December 1.

Pumpkins and Eggings—Phil Bogdan reports that scofflaws smashed pumpkins on Halloween night up and down Elkin and Londonderry. It's a great band name, but not a nice sight to see on your way into work the next day. This really has got to stop. This follows eggings of cars that occurred in July—something that costs more than \$200 to have removed from car paint jobs.

Use Crime Solvers—A call received through the tip line has led to the arrest of a man wanted for three recent bank robberies. Call Crime Solvers at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477. As always, callers never have to give their name or appear in court.

Kim's Kidney Quilts—Any quilters with some time available to help make quilts for children with serious illness, please contact Kim Zuber at (703) 799-9524. Thanks, Kim!

Work Force Housing – The election of three new co-chairs on the MVC-CA portends a new approach to making housing for low and low-middle income Virginians a priority, according to President Burgess. Thanks to Joan McLellan for her hard work in this area.

Advertiser's Note:

For Sale: 4-person paddle boat. Custom cushions, fringed canopy, green & white—\$350. Call 703.780.4137