

Stratford Landing Citizens' Association Newsletter

Stratford Landing • Mount Vernon District • Fairfax County • February 2007

Holiday Decorating Winners Revealed!

This year we tried something different for the Annual Stratford Landing Holiday House Decorating contest and invited members to vote online for the winners. Paper ballots were also distributed to those who requested them. While the contest was successful, next year Tara Quaadman and Beth Bates say the contest will be even better as we work out this year's glitches in the new system. We thank everyone who decorated and voted and encourage everyone to decorate and vote in the 2007 contest.

The winners this year were:

- Prettiest at Night – Sanchez, 2311 Childs Lane
- Most Kid Friendly – Werner, 8432 Porter
- Most Original – Belanger, 8400 Camden
- Prettiest in Daylight – Wallace, 2100 Wittington

Special thanks to Kassie Baker of Children Naturally and Baker and Bernard Photography (Her web link is Children Naturally.com) Kassie was kind enough to take our pictures for our online voters.

Beth and Tara also helped Santa find his way into Stratford Landing last month! He took his annual Holiday ride on our streets where he waved and threw out holiday candy for all to enjoy.

Santa was chauffeured by Captain Macamear and his crew from the local fire station on Sherwood Hall Lane. A special thanks go out to those helpful firefighters and a special thanks to Santa, too, for bringing us some extra Christmas cheer.

Mark Your Calendars for Spring Festival

We are really excited about this year's Spring Festival and the Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 31. We have some new ideas we hope to implement. If anyone is interested in volunteering or helping out, please contact Beth Bates rbbates4@aol.com or Tara Quaadman at Tntquaad@aol.com. Also keep your eyes out for details about our first "Curb Appeal" contest to take place this spring. And we congratulate Tara for earning her new position as a Notary Public.

Stratford Going Green Creek Cleanup Set for March 31 Weekend

Join Friends of Little Hunting Creek to help clean up trash and remove invasive exotic plants from Little Hunting Creek! We'll be working in the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust site (on Stockton Parkway and Londonderry, adjacent to the pumping station) as well as other sites.

The cleanup will be held Saturday March 31 and Sunday April 1 as part of the Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup sponsored by the Alice Ferguson Foundation. Details will be posted at www.friendsoflittlehuntingcreek.org, or call 703.360.0691. Our thanks again to Betsy Martin and Paul Siegel.

Come on Stratford Blood Donors!

SLCA Health and Human Services Chair Jack Shawn is asking that more Stratford blood donors come out and donate during the next blood drive at Mt. Vernon Hospital. If you can donate blood (and most of us can), put March 31 and June 2 on your calendars and please call Jack Shawn at 703.780.4752. Should you wish to donate to our program at another time, you may contact Inova Mt. Vernon blood bank at 703.664.7229 for an appointment. If you have any questions regarding the blood drives, please call Jack.

New MVCCA Leadership Details

The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations, a group that serves the 68 neighborhood associations in the Mount Vernon District, elected new Co-Chairs over the holidays.

Daniel M. Fisher-Burrier of Mt. Zephyr, Jerry Ireland of Alexandria and Dan Rinzel of Mount Vernon were elected. Overall, the new leadership has indicated it will be as responsive as possible to the 68 associations.

In the January meeting, Mr. Ireland presented the MVCCA with a report from his committee on work force housing which proposes approaches to keep affordable housing in the Mt. Vernon District available for those who need such housing, such as police and firemen, teachers and service industry workers. Links for the housing report can be found on the MVCCA website at www.mvcca.org/mv/home.mv.

Also, the MVCCA approved a non-binding resolution calling on the county to slow development in the wake of traffic congestion problems thought be coming with the influx of 20,000 employees at Fort Belvoir as a result of the Pentagon's latest base realignment decisions. Another resolution approved in January called on the County to support a delay in the implementation of BRAC for two years to deal with future traffic congestion.

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Free Rabies Shots

Free rabies clinics will be held at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter from 12 – 2 p.m. at 4500 West Ox Road, Fairfax, VA 703.830.1100 on March 11, May 20, July 15, September 16 and November 18. Dogs must be on leashes and cats and ferrets in carriers.

Important Dates

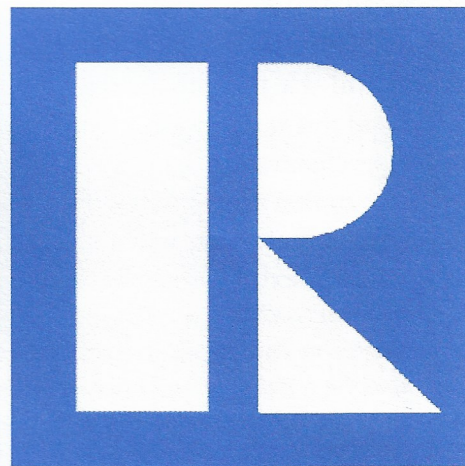
March 31 – Spring Festival and Easter Egg Hunt

March 31 and April 1 – Friends of Little Hunting Creek Cleanup

March 31 and June 2 – Blood Drive; contact Jack Shawn at 703.780.4752.

March 11, May 20, July 15, September 16 and November 18 – Rabies shots for your pet at Fairfax County Animal Shelter

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Little Known Local Recycling Exchanges Found

Did you know that there are a couple of great local solutions to getting rid of unwanted furniture, construction materials and just about anything else? In addition to the local charities, some of which will pick up donations, the Re Store, located behind Gold's Gym on Route 1 is a resale business that sells new and used building materials and home improvement items to the public. These materials are donated by local retail businesses, contractors, suppliers and individuals, and are sold at 50% to 90% below retail prices. The store, which is operated by Habitat for Humanity, uses the proceeds to build affordable homes for needy families. They will pick up donations, which are also tax-deductible. Their telephone number is 703.360.6700, and the description of the business is at www.habitat-nova.org/restore/.

Another painless option to get rid of your old couch and save landfill space is to use the services of the Freecycle network. This is an internet service that links people with stuff to unload with others who want it, using Yahoo groups run by volunteer moderators (who screen messages). Its e-mail address is www.MtVernonfreecycle@yahoo.com. The way it works is that the donor sends an e-mail message to the group describing the item and giving a general sense of the location for pick-up. Then the donor selects a recipient from the responses received and, after arranging pickup with the responder, notifies the group that the item has been taken. There are a few rules for this, but the most important is that the transaction must be free – you cannot charge money for the items. Happy recycling!



Tom Pleimling

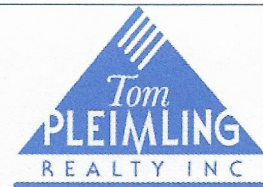
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Police Respond and Report

Two complaints were processed through the SLCA involving a boat parked on Camden St and a POD parked on Riverside. One of the two issues was resolved. The rule is boat can be parked on the street for 10 days only. Also, police have arrested seven juveniles in relation to the robberies which have spawned other charges including felony hate crimes and malicious wounding. The hate crimes involve the victim of a robbery where 15 to 20 teens assaulted a man based on his racial and ethnic background. A 12-year-old boy allegedly made untrue allegations to several of his friends that he was assaulted by a person of a certain race. It is believed that this untrue allegation motivated

the suspects to commit the attempted robbery on December 19.

One of the suspects, arrested on Wednesday, January 10, is 13-year-old Hybla Valley girl charged with malicious wounding and robbery. She was arrested at Carl Sandburg Middle School. A 14-year-old Hybla Valley boy was charged with a hate crime and making false statements during investigation. He was arrested at Carl Sandburg Middle School. Two other teenage suspects were arrested at Hammond Middle School. Three other teens were arrested in their homes. The seven juveniles are being detained at the Fairfax County Juvenile Detention Center.

STRATFORD'S OWN



Now that the holidays are over, it's time to start thinking about your house again and bathrooms are probably at the top of the list. We can help. We specialize in renovating bathrooms throughout the neighborhood. And, as our name says; we do "Only Bathrooms." We offer your project a singular focus and professional design. Call Larry Newman today to experience construction the Only Bathrooms way.

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Bigger and Better!

Celia Boertlein reports the SLCA balance on hand on January 27 is \$12,948.32 and Mary Lou Hoffman reports that the membership stands at 688 paid members, which is a new high-water mark since October 2005. Thanks, Mary Lou and Celia!

Stratford Park Needs Work

Lowell Shearer reports that there are fallen limbs and branches accumulating near the tennis courts and that county staff are mowing around the wood piles, creating a home for critters. Not good. This will be addressed at the February board meeting. Also the Board is applying for grants to improve the park's drainage issues and other items there.

Don Griffin's Transportation News

- **How to report missing street signs.**
Call the Fairfax County Sign Shop at 703.934.2840. Tell them if it's the post, the sign, or both.
- **How to report missing traffic signs (such as Deer Crossing, Curve, etc).**
Call Fairfax County Traffic Engineering at 703.383.2395
- **How to report potholes.**
Call the VDOT 703.383.8368. Staff will need to know the exact location of the pothole.
- **How to report abandoned cars.**
Call the Fairfax County Police on their non emergency number 703.691.2131 or Virginia State Police on non-emergency number 703.323.4500.
- **How to report poorly-timed traffic signals.**
Call the Fairfax County Signal Shop at 703.383.2776
- **How to report malfunctioning street lights.**
Call Virginia Power at 888.667.3000.

Leah Chapla

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