

Stratford Landing Citizens' Association Newsletter

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

New Stratford Survey Inside

With so many households turning over in the last 4-5 years, we want to get to know you better, so that your community association can serve you better. With this newsletter, you will find a questionnaire about your views on a number of issues like recreation, safety, community events, among others. Please take some time and fill this out and, since our block captains have been wearing out shoe leather on the stop sign ballots this summer, we're asking all members to please walk your completed questionnaire to you block captain's house and drop it off. If you're unsure, you can drop off your completed questionnaire with Jane Earley, 2331 Creek Drive. Deadlines for returning questionnaires: September 22, 2007.

SLCA Membership Drive is Underway: Deadline is September 30

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 (703-360-7267) to get your block captain's name.

Block Captains: Could you please update and verify your membership (household) list information provided, also noting who has paid their dues, and return the updated list (keep one copy is for your records) and the dues to Mary Lou Hoffman by September 30.

Eligibility to vote at the SLCA annual meeting on October 27 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, please see your block captain. Please display them on your cars. The preferred place for the sticker is the left rear bumper. Mary Lou has extra directories and stickers.

Annual Meeting and Halloween Parade Coincide

The Stratford Landing annual meeting this year will happen on the same day as the Halloween Parade and Festival, on Saturday, October 27. The Halloween Parade will start at 2:00 p.m. and continues at Stratford Landing Park until 4:30 p.m. Like last year, we have obtained a permit to close Camden Street between Londonderry Road and Stirrup Lane from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. for the parade.

At 4:30 p.m., members who need to take the kids home should do so, but please leave one parent behind to attend the Annual Meeting, only a short walk from the Park to the auditorium in Stratford Landing Elementary School. From 4:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., the annual meeting will be held. We do not expect many votes this year, so we will try to have everyone out by 6:15 p.m.–6:30 p.m.

This year, even though all of the political candidates will be running unopposed, we will invite them to our festival. These 4 candidates, (State Senate, Delegate, County Supervisor, School Board), who wish to stay for the annual meeting, will be invited to address the meeting for 5 minutes each, with some time for Qs and As.

Your Accomplishments in 2006-2007

Several SLCA members have asked us to keep track of our work and activities and to update them from time to time. So, as the first of a number of occasional reports, please check the Web site (www.stratfordlanding.org) to see a list of your community's accomplishments since early 2006.

Leah Chapla

703.929.4875 (cell phone & voice mail)

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Celia Boertlein's Balance Sheet

The current balance (as of July 10, 2007) is \$12,090.82, which is \$2,073.30 more than the balance at this time last year in 2006. The advertising program in the newsletter continues to bring in more income with the 2007 current projected total of \$6,255.00 for 2007, compared to our 2006 advertising total of \$4,905.00. This additional income enables the board to operate on a financially sound and professional basis.

Movie Under the Stars Night

Back by popular demand, Beth Bates and Tara Quadman organized the second annual "Movie Under the Stars Night" on August 4 with from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. Thanks so much to those patient neighbors who live near the pool and to Liz Lucchesi, (www.lizluke.com) for sponsoring two \$100 gift certificates as our door prizes!

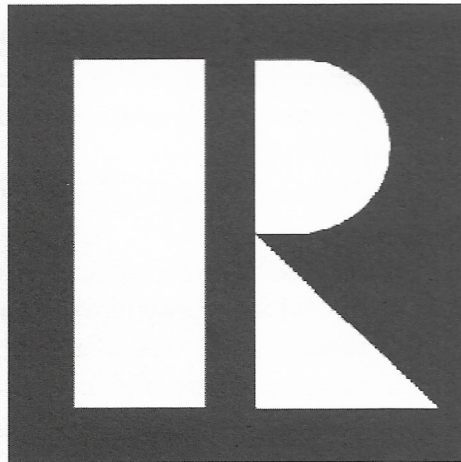
New Lost and Found

Thanks to Maureen Sinn who has volunteered to continue Stratford Landing's lost and found, as a volunteer service. If you've lost or found something, please drop it by Maureen's house at 8703 Camden Street.

Alan Rubenstein's Police Blotter

Police were called when 3 male teens on bikes, 2 wearing West Potomac shirts, played chicken with cars on Stratford Lane at 8:40 p.m., July 21. They were blocking and darting out in front of the cars. They also were hitting cars that attempted to pass them. Two of the teens were Caucasian and approximately 13. One was African-American, taller and probably older. Also, we have heard that a mailbox was pulled out of the ground on TS Parkway and somebody knocked over the "pagoda" type statue at Waterford and Stockton. Alan notified police but reminds everyone to report these events to the police right away.

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EC Working Group to Hold Meeting on Pumping Station Land

There will be a public information meeting regarding park designs and land utilization in the 9-acre Stratford Landing pumping station area. The meeting will be held from 7 p.m. – 8:45 p.m. on Thursday, September 19 at the Sherwood Hall Library on

the first floor in the large meeting room located to the right when you enter the building. Fairfax County Park Authority planners will be there to answer questions about the park planning process, designs and land use. All SLCA Members are welcome.

Stratford Blood Drives

The next Stratford Landing Blood Drive will be held on October 6 from 7:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., with the final drive of the year being on December 1. Jack Shawn (on 703-780-4752) will be scheduling persons for these dates.

New Advance Medical Directive Form Available

Carroll Hauptle on Camden reports that the Virginia General Assembly and the Virginia State Bar have approved an Advance Medical Directive form for use by the general public. It is straightforward and useful, and can be downloaded from his web site, www.legal-write.com, which also contains general information about this form to ensure that your medical care is according to your wishes. As a public service to our community, Carroll will gladly answer questions about this new form. He can be reached at (571) 331-8778.




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Sidewalks – A Good Question

There are 8.5 miles of roads in Stratford Landing, of which exactly 2.5 miles have no sidewalks. A number of Members have asked the Executive Committee to explore options at the county to determine whether the county might have funding to support completion of sidewalks in the neighborhood.

As a civic association, the SLCA may not assess any fees or additional costs to the Membership for infrastructure improvements, such as sidewalks. Much like the additional street lights, the county would fund sidewalks as a matter of public safety. But, they've been reluctant about this in the past.

As a matter of fact, we are informed that if those living without sidewalks were willing to have only one sidewalk on their street, the cost of 2.5 miles of sidewalks with approximately 100 new concrete driveway aprons would be approximately \$120,000. The number of members without any sidewalk on either side of the street is 205 out of 724 households.

Dog Waste Alert

Mary Lou Hoffman would like to remind all dog owners to please carry a plastic bag to remove dog waste during your walk with man's best friend.

New Pet Sitting Service

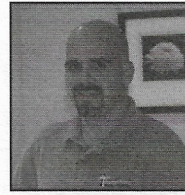
Connor Marley has started a dog walking/sitting service at 8707 Triumph Court. Give Connor a call at (703) 799-4882. Woof! Woof!

New Time Limits on PODS

For residents of Stratford Landing, Charlie Herrmann reports that the proposed amendment would limit the time temporary portable storage containers (PODS) could be on lots to 30 consecutive days within a six-month period. The time period can be extended with temporary special permit in case of casualty or if an active building permit exists. Details on the amendment may be found at www.fairfax-county.gov/dpz/zonin-gordinance/proposed/restemporablestorage.pdf. The county board will hold a public hearing on the proposed amendment on September 10, 2007 at 4:30 p.m..

There's a new telephone hotline to handle complaints about commercial dumpsters or PODS in neighborhoods. The hotline number, 703-280-0583, is available 24 / 7. Citizens should provide the location of a commercial dumpster or POD on the street. This hotline should not be used to report dumpsters or PODS on private property (i.e. in a neighbor's driveway). The police will determine whether the container creates a traffic hazard, and, if so, it will be removed immediately. The container will be emptied and stored by the police. If the container is not a traffic hazard, but is still in violation, the container owner, not the homeowner, will be notified and have four working days to remove it or the police will remove it. The cost for

TIME TO UPDATE YOUR BATHROOM?



Many of the houses in our neighborhood still have the original bathrooms. Some are still working, many are not. We specialize in bathroom renovating and have worked in most Stratford Landing house models; we know what to expect. And, as our name says; we do "Only Bathrooms". Call today to experience professional design and construction the Only Bathrooms way.

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removal and storage will be paid by the container owner.

Update on Litigation

There will be a hearing on the lawsuit filed by an SLCA Member against SLCA President Burgess on September 21 in Fairfax Circuit Court. This hearing resulted from a motion to dismiss the suit filed in mid-August by Burgess' attorney.

New Virginia Laws

As of July 1: 1) Children ages 8 years old and younger must wear a child safety device and infants must be in a rear-facing device in the back seat of a car from birth to one year old. 2) Children with a provisional driver's license may no longer use a cell phone while driving. 3) Red light cameras are coming back to Virginia intersections! Don't scoot through on yellow!

10. Do you or other members of your household participate in the SLCA-organized blood donation program at INOVA Mount Vernon Hospital? Yes No

10a. If No, why not?

11. Do you have suggestions for improvement to health care facilities at nearby Mount Vernon Hospital?

12. Do you have suggestions for emergency preparedness activities that our community should be doing? (Examples might include preparing for disaster planning, home safety, child fingerprinting, etc.)

Neighborhood Recreational Facilities

13. Do you or your family use public neighborhood facilities in or near the Stratford Landing community (streets, parks, waterways, etc.) for the following activities – (Mark all that apply)

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Picnic or sit outside | <input type="checkbox"/> Use soccer fields |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Birdwatch or enjoy nature | <input type="checkbox"/> Use baseball / softball fields |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Tot lots | <input type="checkbox"/> Bicycling |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Playground for elementary ages | <input type="checkbox"/> Roller skate or roller blade |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walk, run, or jog for exercise | <input type="checkbox"/> Canoe or kayak |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Walk your dog | <input type="checkbox"/> Motor boat or sail |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Use tennis courts | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Use basketball courts | |

14. Do you feel that present facilities adequately support these activities?

- Yes No

14a. Which activities would you suggest be improved and how?

15. Does your household belong to the Stratford Recreation Association (SRA)?

- Yes No

Public Safety

Please mark the box that best describes your opinion for each of the following statements:

[1=Strongly agree, 2= Agree 3= neither agree nor disagree 4= Disagree 5=Strongly disagree]

16. I believe that the Stratford Landing community is a safe place to live.

- 1 strongly agree 2 3 4 5 strongly disagree

17. I believe that the Stratford Landing community is a safe place to raise children.

- 1 strongly agree 2 3 4 5 strongly disagree

18. I believe that the local police department is responsive to my needs and concerns.

- 1 strongly agree 2 3 4 5 strongly disagree

19. I believe that most community members understand and obey speed limits and stop signs.

- 1 strongly agree 2 3 4 5 strongly disagree

20. I believe that warning signs (speed limits, pedestrian/school crossings) are adequately placed.
 1 strongly agree 2 3 4 5 strongly disagree

21. I believe that street names and house numbers are easily identifiable by safety personnel.
 1 strongly agree 2 3 4 5 strongly disagree

22. Are sidewalks provided in front of your house? Yes No

23. Has your home been vandalized in the past year? Yes No

24. Have you had items stolen from your car in the past year (while parked in the neighborhood)?
 Yes No

25. Do you have suggestions for public safety activities that our community should be doing?

Transportation

26. Are you satisfied with current commuting bus routes and other transportation options?
 Yes No

27. If "No", how would you suggest that they be improved? **Mark all that apply --**

- Bus routes closer to neighborhood
- Additional parking near bus stops
- Bicycle storage facilities near bus routes
- Carpools facilitated by internet connections or designated pick-up locations for riders
- Community-facilitated carpooling
- Other ideas – please specify [text box here or underscored line for suggestions]

Community Activities

28. Do you or other members of your household participate in the following community activities?

Mark all that apply --

- "Spring Fling" (aka Easter Egg Hunt)
- "Movie Night" (aka Neighborhood Picnic/Gathering)
- Halloween Parade (aka October Fest)
- Annual Meeting and Candidate's Night
- Holiday Home Decorating Contest
- "Santa on a Fire Truck"

28a. Do you have suggestions on these or any other community activities?

Communications

29. Does your family have high-speed internet service? Yes No

30. Do you or your family use mobile telephone services? Yes No

31. Do you feel that these services work well in the neighborhood? Yes No

31a. If "No", are there ways in which the SLCA should work to facilitate better services?

32. Have you visited the SLCA website at <http://www.stratfordlanding.org>?

Yes No

33. Is the information posted on this website helpful?

Yes No

33a. Why or why not?

34. Would you use a more interactive version of this community website (examples might include a notice board for lost & found pets; wild animal sightings, etc.)?

Yes No

34a. Do you have suggestions for improving this web site?

35. Do you read the SLCA's Newsletter? Yes No

35a. What do you like MOST/LEAST about the newsletter? Suggestions?

Most:

Least:

36. Other Questions? Concerns? Comments?

Thank you for completing this survey. Please return your completed questionnaire to your Block Captain or Jane Earley, SLCA Vice President, 2331 Creek Drive (phone 703-780-8476) on or before September 22, 2007.