

Stratford Landing Citizens' Association Newsletter

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

Annual Meeting and Halloween Parade— Side by Side!

This year's Stratford Landing annual meeting will follow the Halloween parade and festival on Saturday, October 27. The Halloween parade and festival will start at 2 p.m. and continue at Stratford Landing Park until 4 p.m. The annual meeting will kick off right next door at 4 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.

Following the Halloween celebration, SLCA festival goers can simply walk from the park to the auditorium at Stratford Landing Elementary School for the annual meeting. Parents who need to take kids home should do so, but please leave one parent behind to attend the annual meeting. There are not many votes this year, so we will try to have everyone out by 6:30 p.m., or thereabouts.

Four candidates, representing the state Senate, delegate, county supervisor and school board, will address members at the meeting. They will speak for four minutes each, plus three to four minutes for questions and answers. In the interest of time, other candidates running for county-wide or at-large seats will be invited to attend the Halloween festival from 2-4 p.m. They will meet with our members there. As of Sept. 30, two candidates running for Chairman of the Board of Supervisors have RSVP'd for the festival.

Please see page 5 for the annual meeting agenda, as well as a proxy form for the meeting. See page 6 for candidate mini-biographies. The proposed 2008 budget has been inserted in this newsletter, and mini-bios of the incumbent-candidates and those interested in becoming delegates are on the back of the budget page insert.

SLCA Membership Drive Deadline is September 30!

If you haven't paid your \$10 dues to your block captain, please do so. Payment of dues is a requirement for all members, and only those who have paid may vote in our annual meeting on Saturday, October 27. If you don't know who your block captain is, please check your Directory or call Mary Lou Hoffman (703-360-7267) for that information. We would love to have as many eligible voters as possible, so please pay promptly.

In addition, if you need a new directory or a new "SL" bumper sticker, please see your block captain. Please display these stickers on your cars. The preferred placement for the stickers is the left rear bumper. Mary Lou has extra directories and stickers.

Block Captains: Would you please return your updated household lists, noting who has paid their dues, to Mary Lou Hoffman by September 30?

Mark your calendars:
Halloween parade and
festival (2-4 p.m.)
followed by annual
meeting (4-7 p.m.)
on October 27, 2007.
(Parade forms at
Cavendish Drive
and Camden Street.)

Please turn in your Stratford Surveys!

The deadline for turning in Stratford Landing surveys has been extended until October 31. In August, we circulated the questionnaire, which asks for your views on a number of issues such as recreation, safety and community events. Please take some time and fill this out. Our dedicated block captains have been hard at work this year delivering a number of items to your doorsteps. For this reasons, we ask that members please take completed questionnaires to block captains' homes. If it is more convenient, you can drop your completed questionnaire with Jane Earley at 2331 Creek Drive.

Leah Chapla

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Celia Boertlein's Balance Sheet

The current balance (as of Sept 11, 2007) is \$10,707.07, which is \$1,152.56 more than the balance at this time last year. The advertising program in the newsletter continues to bring in more income, with the 2007 current projected total of \$7,005.00. Our 2006 advertising total was \$4,905.00.

If this advertising projection stays on course through the end of the February 2008 annual advertising cycle, this would mark the first time that the total proceeds from advertising (\$7,005.00) have exceeded total proceeds for dues payments (approx. \$6,890.00). This additional income enables the board to operate on a financially sound and professional basis.

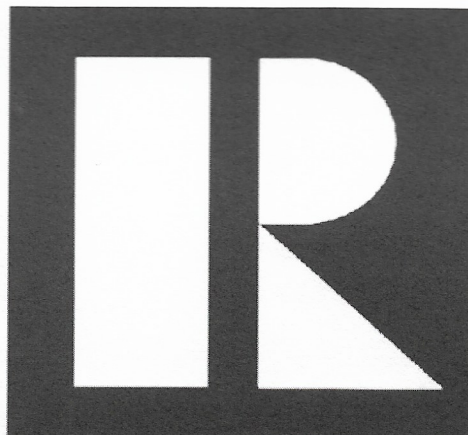
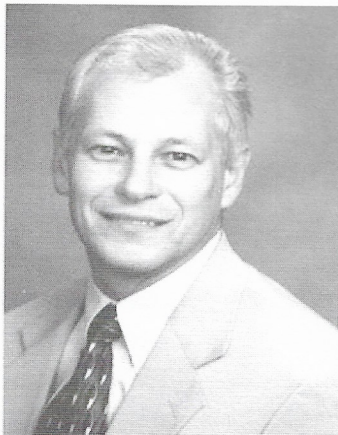
Another Great Movie Under the Stars Night

Big thanks to Beth Bates and Tara Quaadman, who organized the second annual "Movie Under the Stars Night" on August 4. More than 230 people attended this popular mid-summer event. Thanks so much to Danny Normyle and his wonderful lifeguards and to our patient neighbors, who live near the pool. Also, thanks to our friend Liz Lucchesi (www.lizluke.com) for sponsoring three door prizes! New community events like this are possible due to the SLCA's increasingly strong financial condition.

Your Accomplishments in 2006-2007

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

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Alan Rubenstein's Police Blotter

The Mount Vernon District station's Crime Prevention Unit has been striving to improve its periodic newsletter, the *Mount Vernon Police Ledger*. Subscribing or unsubscribing to the *Ledger* can now be done electronically, and you will no longer get a bulky file attachment in your

email. To obtain a copy of the *Ledger*, please follow these instructions: Go to the newsletter subscription page at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/newsletter/> After selecting the "start" subscription option and entering your email address, you will be prompted to answer one ques-

tion. Once complete, you will receive a confirmation email to which you need to reply "OK." After completing these steps, you will receive new newsletters. You can visit the above website to view past editions. Please call Alan at 703-360-2141 with any questions.

Park Informational Meeting Held

An informational meeting was held on September 19 featuring a representative of the Fairfax County Park Authority. The representative spoke about how the FCPA designs and develops both large and small parks and outlined the Mt. Vernon District's long-term plan for parks in this area.

The meeting had originally

included an agenda item to discuss the pumping station lands, but after the August newsletter was distributed, the FPCA called President Burgess and stated that they only would present and respond to the issues noted above and would not address the pumping station. Gerry Hyland attended the meeting as well as about

40 members.

It is important to note that the activities related to the pumping station will involve a long process of evaluation, information gathering and member agreement. The overall goal is to ensure that the stewardship of the land at the pumping station is improved by the county.

Dangerous Bike Games

Alan would like all members to be aware that three male teenagers on bikes have been running into cars around Stratford Lane. They "dive" and have hit some cars. Then, they take off on their bikes.

Please contact Alan Rubenstein if anything like this happens to you. The police are aware of this, and the SLCA executive committee has asked that legal action be taken against those boys who have been identified.

Vandalism Reported

On September 25, police responded to spraypainting to fences and an automobile near the corner of Triumph Court and Wittington Boulevard. The writings were powerwashed off and included a gang phrase "MS-XX" and several misspelled expletives.



Tom Pleimling

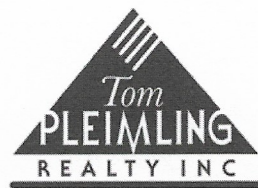
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BOO! It's Time for the Halloween Parade and Festival!

Calling all goblins and ghouls, Power Rangers and princesses—the Stratford Landing Citizens' Association is sponsoring a Halloween parade and festival to be held on October 27, 2007, at Stratford Landing Park. There will be a moon bounce, arts and craft projects, free popcorn, free orange drink, face painting and games galore!

This 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. that day for our parade. So get your costumes ready or dress up your stroller or wagon, cat or dog and head down to Cavendish and Camden at 1:30 p.m. for all to see. If you don't want to dress up, please come on down and cheer for our residents!

The festival will be held at Stratford Landing Park, which is where the parade ends. It will last until 4 p.m. Immediately following the festival, the SLCA annual meeting will be held in the Stratford Landing Elementary School auditorium. We have contacted the Fairfax County Fire Department, and they are willing to send a truck if available for the festival as well.

Parents with young ones: when the festival is over at 4 p.m., you may want to make plans so that one parent can stay and attend the annual meeting right next door.

We are still looking for a few good volunteers. This is an excellent opportunity for high school students to fulfill community service requirements. If you want to help out, please contact Tara Quaadman at tntquaad@aol.com or Beth Bates at rbbates4@aol.com. Hope you can join us!



Volunteer Camille DiFolco helped sister Beatrice, right, and another Halloween fan make crafts at the 2006 SLCA Halloween festival.



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Annual Meeting Agenda

- Political candidates forum (approximately ½ hour)
- Update on the Stratford Landing survey
- Vote 1—Please see page 7 for information on this vote.
- Vote 2—2008 annual budget
- Vote 3—Candidates for SLCA executive committee (See page 6 to read candidates' bios.)

Of the eight elected positions on the executive committee, four vacancies exit, and four incumbents are running for re-election. One member, President Tom Burgess, is departing the executive committee. Mr. Burgess has volunteered his continued support to manage the newsletter advertising program. Jane Early departs as vice president and will become a candidate for Environment co-delegate. Melissa Cramer departs as Rules chair

to run for president (elected position). Don Griffin departs Transportation to run for the position of Education delegate. Charles Herrmann departs as Planning & Zoning delegate to run for vice president (elected position). And Ed Gonsalves departs as Education delegate to run for the Rules position (elected position).

Candidates from the membership, who notified the secretary of their interest in joining the executive committee before the September 15 deadline include: Ken Pribyla for Transportation/Community Improvements (elected position); Marjy Jones for Consumer Affairs delegate; and Chad Coneway for Planning and Zoning delegate. Note that delegate positions are appointed and not elected. The nominating committee met on September 17 and forwarded the names to the secretary.

Upon his departure from the executive committee, President Burgess said, "It's been a privilege to serve as your president since 2005. A number of initiatives are underway, and you all will decide how each will serve the community, or not. Mary and I need to refocus our efforts on our business, and so I leave with the same advice I began with. Every two to three years, the two top positions might want to step down and let someone else have a chance to continue the progress. Also, after doing a wonderful volunteer job producing the new look and design of the SLCA newsletter, Sarah Hill of Camden Street is turning over this volunteer job to Libby Romero, who lives on Cavendish Drive. Sarah's design and hard work were key to the success of the new advertising program. Thank you so very much, Sarah!"

Proxy Form for Absentee Voters on October 27 SLCA Annual Meeting

I _____, residing at _____

hereby grant my proxy to _____, for the sole

purpose of casting votes during the Stratford Landing Citizens' Association annual meeting on Saturday, October 27, 2007.

Signed _____

NOTE: A member may carry in no more than three proxies and may cast their single vote and up to three proxy votes. Remember, only one vote per household!

Meet the New Candidates for Election

President*

Melissa Cramer, Candidate: An Alexandria, Virginia, native, Melissa and her husband have been Stratford Landing residents since 2002. Currently Melissa is full-time mom to her two sons. Presently, she is serving her second term as Stratford Landing Citizens' Association parliamentarian and her third term on the MVCCA Consumer Affairs Committee. Melissa is responsible for maintaining the "Sweet List." In addition to her activities with the SLSCA, Melissa volunteers for the Washington, DC, chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society and is the treasurer for the Good Sheppard Mothers' Support Group. (See note below.)

Vice President

Charles Herrmann, Candidate: My family moved to Stratford Landing in the Spring of 2005. My wife and I have two boys ages 3^{3/4} and almost 2. I joined the SLCA executive committee as the Planning and Zoning representative in the Fall of 2005. I have come to know many of my neighbors from this work and from frequent strolls through the neighborhood with my boys and our dog.

If elected, I would like to analyze the results of the current community survey and respond to the issues and ideas described by our members. I am particularly interested in addressing safety issues which impact children and long-time residents of the community. In my professional life, I am the vice president of an environmental consulting firm, which specializes in regulatory development, remediation and engineering support. I look forward to working with everyone in Stratford Landing to make our community safe and vibrant.

Transportation/Community Improvements

Ken Pribyla, Candidate: I am an independent defense consultant and have lived in Stratford Landing since November 1998 with Carolyn, my lovely wife who is the Turbridge Lane block captain. I am a member of Good Shepherd Catholic Church, as well as a number of military and defense industry associations. Carolyn and I are the proud parents of two sons. Our son Eric, is a captain in the U.S. Army Infantry and lives in Ft Riley, Kan., with his wife, Chrissy. Our son David lives in Brandon, Miss., with his wife, Kristin. The real joys in our lives are our grandchildren: Nathan, Anna and Sean.

Rules

Ed Gonsalves, Candidate: My family has lived here in Stratford Landing for seven years. I am a trial attorney, specializing in medical malpractice litigation. I graduated from George Mason Law School in 1987 and completed my undergraduate work cum laude at Washington and Lee University. I see the role of the chair of the Rules Committee and serving as parliamentarian as a very important part of a hard-working executive committee. It allows us to maintain and establish public confidence in the operations of the SLCA.

** Note: Don Griffin, a member of the executive committee, had announced that he was running for president in mid-August. On September 17, two days after the deadline for candidates to seek office, he told the committee that he would not be able to run. That same day, Melissa Cramer announced her intention to run for president. The committee voted on September 18 to allow her mini-bio to be published above with the caveat that under the by-laws she must be nominated from the floor at the annual meeting.*

Candidates for SLCA Executive Board, October 27, 2007

President*

Vice President

Secretary

Treasurer

Transportation/Community Improvements

Membership

Recreation (co-chairs)

Rules

Melissa Cramer

Charles Herrmann

Linda Sweeney

Celia Boertlein

Ken Pribyla

Mary Lou Hoffman

Beth Bates and Tara Quaadman

Ed Gonsalves

Vote Set Again for Camden and Cavendish Four-Way Stop

This summer, SLCA members voted on the issue of placing stop signs at the intersection of Camden Street and Cavendish Drive. After the ballots were tallied and turned into Supervisor Hyland's office in mid-August, two SLCA members, Jay Spiegel and Rick Edgerton, wrote to Hyland suggesting that the poll did not follow SLCA bylaws on referendum.

The SLCA argued that the summer vote was not responding to the need for a referendum, but following Fairfax County R-TAP procedures. The process and written materials used for the summer vote were reviewed by and coordinated with Supervisor Hyland and his staff before the vote was taken.

In June, the executive committee asked all members to participate in this vote. Members were given nine weeks, from June 8 through August 15, to cast their votes. All 74 block captains were asked to collect and countersign the ballots, which were also signed by each participating member.

The executive committee abided by Supervisor Hyland's general guidance, as outlined in a May 2007 letter, in an attempt to achieve a large turnout in the summer vote. A previous vote, taken in 2001, had achieved only a 21% turnout within the community.

However, Pamela K. Pelto, assistant county attorney, agreed with the two complainants. As a result, the vote taken this summer has been invalidated because the June SLCA newsletter did not contain arguments against this initiative. Therefore, pro and con arguments are now being presented in detail. Members should take all positions into consideration when voting on this matter at the annual meeting on October 27.

Question: Do you support a four-way stop, to replace a two-way stop, at the intersection of Camden Street and Cavendish Drive?

Arguments Against:

1. A member suggested that instead of adding the two stop signs, a sign on Camden could be posted and would read: "Yield to cross traffic" or "Cross Traffic Does Not Stop"

Note: *The Federal Highway Administration publishes the "Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices" (MUCTD). The MUCTD states that signs such as the ones suggested are classified as "warning signs" which "call attention to unexpected conditions or adjacent to a highway or street and to situations that might not be readily apparent to road users." Id., §2C.02*

Also, "The use of warning signs should be kept to a minimum as the unnecessary use of warning signs tends to breed disrespect for all signs." Id.

If the sign is placed on a stop sign, it must be rectangular in shape with a black legend and border and white background. It must contain the words "Cross Traffic Does Not Stop" and include an arrow pointing to the left, right or in both directions. Id., §2C.27

The MUCTD does not contain a standard sign advising motorists to "Yield to Cross Traffic."

2. A member pointed out that there was no need for a four-way stop at the intersection 30 years ago. At that time Cavendish was the only paved road into that part of the neighborhood. Camden came later.

3. Stop signs can be inconvenient to drivers.

Arguments in Favor:

1. In a March 22, 2007, email, Fairfax County police advised the executive committee that a four-way

stop at the intersection of Cavendish and Camden is a "good idea." Also, Master Police Officer Greg Kottemann, Mt. Vernon District substation, said in a May, 2, 2007, phone conversation that the current two-way stop "is designed backwards" and can confuse drivers. He explained the larger or wider street, Camden, has the two current stop signs, while the smaller or narrower street, Cavendish, has no stop signs. Inexperienced drivers on Camden, when approaching the intersection, may assume that the narrower street, Cavendish, would also have stop signs. It does not.

2. On March 4, 2007, VDOT and the Fairfax County DOT consented to this four-way stop following their assessment of traffic flow and intersection design, subject to R-TAP.

3. There has been an increasing number of accidents in this intersection, including a side-impact car crash in March 2007. One of the cars in this accident was totaled. This is at least the fourth accident at this intersection in the past 18 months. The March incident and two other wrecks were "right-of-way" accidents caused by the stop sign confusion. A few years ago, there was also a hit and run involving a bicycle at this intersection. These are only the reported crashes.

4. There have been repeated complaints from nearby families with small children.

5. The executive committee voted unanimously for this change in December 2006.

6. The use of an alternative sign that reads "Cross Traffic Does Not Stop" does not solve the issue of very young school children crossing Cavendish Drive to catch their school bus during morning rush hour.

7. The sign "Yield to Cross Traffic" is not a FHWA standard sign.

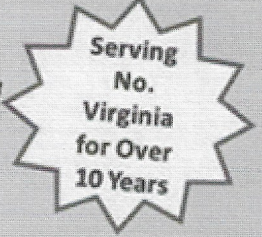


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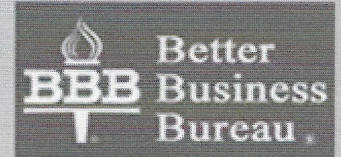
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Update on Litigation

This statement was prepared by the attorneys for the SLCA President.

"A hearing on the demurrer (i.e. motion to dismiss) brought by Mr. Tom Burgess, SLCA President, regarding Mr. Spiegel's lawsuit was held on Friday, September 21, before the Honorable Kathleen MacKay of the Fairfax Circuit Court.

At the conclusion of the hearing, Judge MacKay dismissed Mr.

Spiegel's claims that he was defamed by Mr. Burgess in a June 2006 newsletter of the SLCA newsletter. Judge MacKay ruled that the newsletter accurately characterized a May 30, 2007, email from Mr. Spiegel as threatening to add the SLCA or its Executive Committee members as defendants in the current lawsuit.

Judge MacKay allowed Mr. Spiegel's separate claim relating to

a February 21, 2007 email that Mr. Burgess sent to the co-chairs of the Mt. Vernon Council of Citizens Associations (MVCCA).

This was a procedural ruling and not a decision on the merits. Mr. Burgess vigorously denies that the email was in any way defamatory, and we are confident that Mr. Spiegel's remaining claims will be dismissed at the appropriate time."

Next Stratford Blood Drive Set for December 1

Stratford Landing is the only member of the MVCCA with a blood donor program. Thanks to Jack Shawn, over the past 14 years, our members have made more than 1,400 donations at the Mount Vernon Hospital Blood Donor Center.

The next Stratford Landing blood drive will be held on December 1 from 7:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Jack Shawn (703-780-4752) will be scheduling donors for these dates. If you wish to give but find these dates inconvenient, you may arrange another time by calling the hospital's Blood Donor Center at 703-664-7229. Watch upcoming newsletters or visit our web site for donation days in 2008. If you've never donated, give it try!

Mt. Vernon Genealogical Society Meeting

The Society will meet in Room 112 in the Hollin Hall Senior Center on October 16 at the Hollin Hall Senior Center. The presentation will be "The History of National Archives Library information." Additional information can be found at <http://www.MVGenealogy.org/>.

Sanjay's Pet Sitting Service

Sanjay Hawn, 8, has announced he is starting a pet sitting service to accommodate a day, a week or more! Contact Sanjay at (703) 622-4783.

New Lost and Found!

Don't forget: If you've lost or found something, please contact Maureen Sinn at 8703 Camden Street or call her at (703) 360-4219.

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