

Stratford Landing Citizens' Association Newsletter

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

Last Chance to Pay Your Dues

Mary Lou Hoffman reported that there are still approximately 100 members who have not paid their membership dues. This is your last chance to pay the \$10 dues if you have not already done so.

If you are a member or block captain, please pay or collect the dues and turn them in as soon as possible to Mary Lou Hoffman. This edition of the newsletter will be the final edition delivered to any member not in good standing.

If you are unsure of who your block captain is or whether or not you paid your dues, please call Mary Lou Hoffman at (703) 360-7267. We appreciate those members who have already paid.

Annual Holiday Decorating Contest

Last year we thought having the community vote on-line for their favorite houses would be a fun twist to the holiday decorating contest. Unfortunately some people voted multiple times making the totals a little skewed.

Since the contest isn't suppose to be set up like American Idol voting, we won't be doing web voting this year. Our judges, who were appointed by Mary Lou Hoffman, will be scouting the neighborhood the weekend of December 15 to cast their votes.

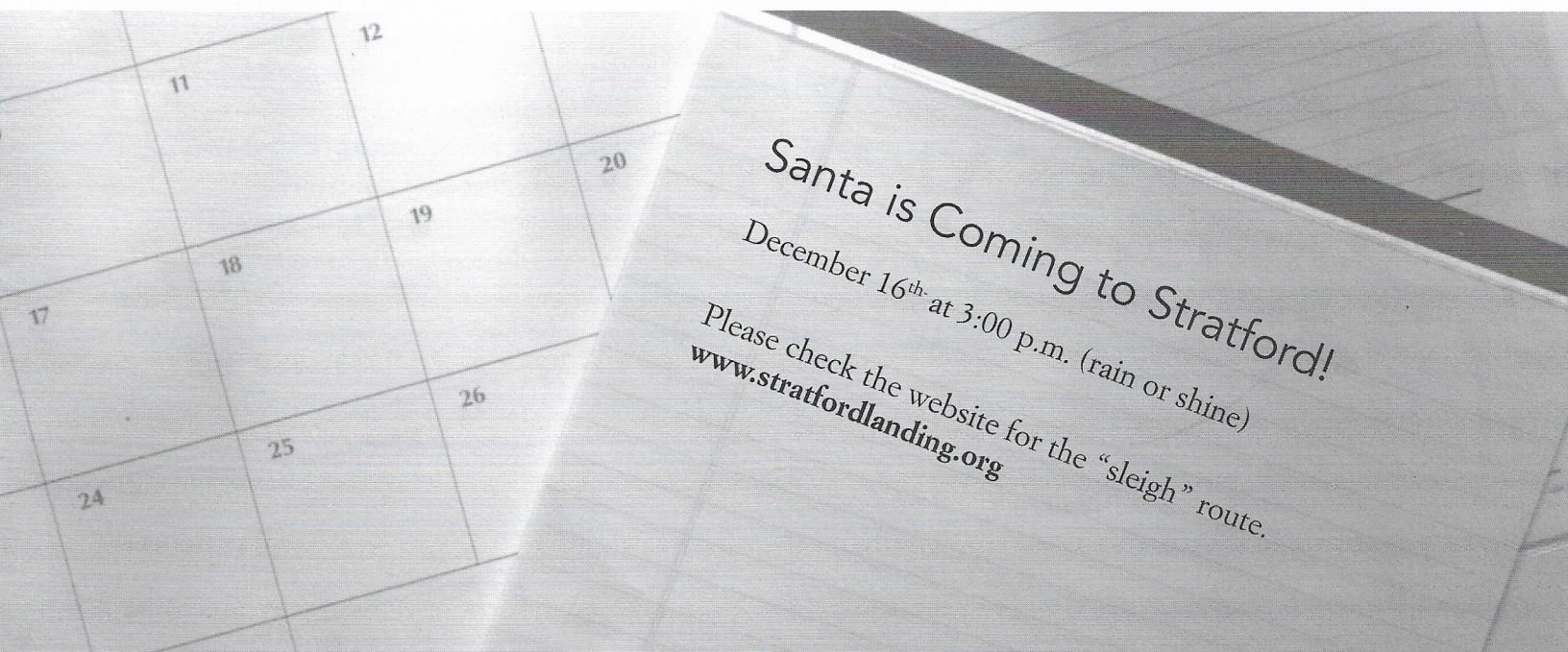
The five categories for judging are: Best Overall, Most Original, Prettiest in the Daytime, Prettiest at Night, and Most Kid-Friendly. One winner from each category will win a \$50 gift certificate. So don't forget to decorate!

2007 Annual Meeting

Thank you to all of you who attended or sent proxy votes to the 2007 annual meeting on Saturday, October 27, and the meeting's extension on Tuesday, November 13. It is wonderful to see that there are people who truly love living in this neighborhood and are passionate about their views no matter what side of the vote they are on.

Due to the special circumstances of having two meetings, voting is complete but the totals need to be approved by the board. In accordance with our by-laws, the board will meet on Tuesday, December 11, at their regularly scheduled time of 7:30 to approve the minutes from the annual meeting before moving on to new business.

After December 11, all minutes and vote totals will be available on the website. Vote totals will also be listed in the next newsletter. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact any of the board members. (See the updated list of board members and contacts on page 4).



Leah Chapla

703.929.4875 (cell phone & voice mail)

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MVAH Helps Seniors Stay at Home

Mount Vernon at Home (MVAH) is a newly formed organization that will assist seniors who wish to remain in their homes as long as possible. It will mirror the efforts of other groups such as www.beaconhillvillage.org and www.cambridgeathome.org.

MVAH is tailored to our local population's needs and desires. Similar groups are also being formed in the city of Alexandria and on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C.

MVAH will cover an approximate 16 square mile area, which is roughly from the Alexandria City line south to Ft. Belvoir, and from the Potomac River west to (and including) Richmond Highway.

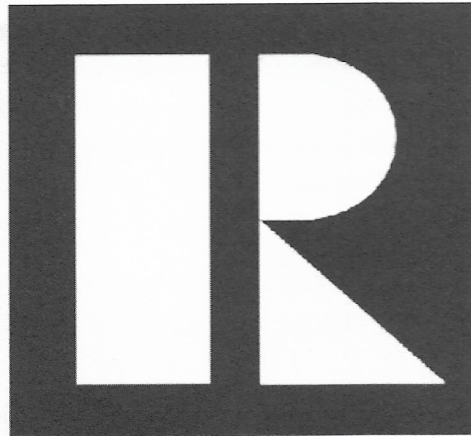
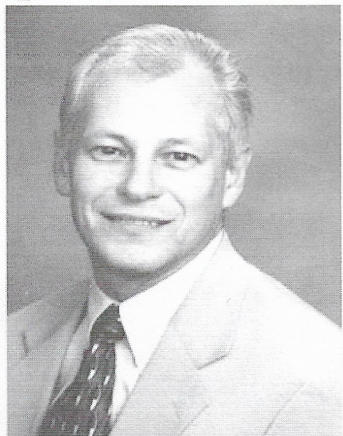
MVAH is a non-profit organization and all donations will be tax deductible. Services will include immediate access to homeowner repair experts, medical assistance personnel/groups, and cultural and social activities.

MVAH will be getting more information to area subdivisions through small focus groups. If you wish to learn more, or would like to be included in a focus group, please contact Kae Wells at (703) 360-6159 or by email at wells2600@verizon.net. You can also contact the MVAH president Mary-Carroll Potter at (703) 768-6590 or by email at marycarrollpotter@verizon.net.

Stratford Landing Website Updates

The SLCA has added a "Community Postings" page on its web site where events and fundraisers not directly sponsored by the SLCA can be posted. Community members may send posting requests to webmaster@stratfordlanding.org. The SLCA reserves the right to determine which activities to post. We hope this helps inform the community about additional activities in the area.

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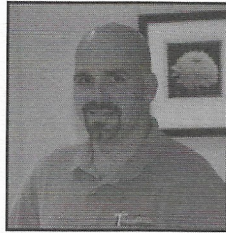
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MVH Seeks Additional Volunteers

The Mount Vernon Hospital (MVH) is still looking for volunteers in many departments. Even if you can only work four hours a week they want to hear from you! Please call Shelia Barnes to discuss further at (703) 664-7260. Volunteers make a difference!

Volunteers Needed to Help the Homeless

Ventures in Community (VIC) needs volunteers to help the homeless during the winter months. The shelter will be hosted by the Rising Hope Mission Church at 8220 Russell Road.

If you can help in the evenings or weekends it would be greatly appreciated by the VIC and the homeless.

Volunteers are needed for December 18, 22, 23, 29, and 30. Volunteers are also needed for January 1, 8, 12, 19, 22, 26, 27, and 29.

Please contact Joan McLellan, our Stratford Landing representative for the special committee on Affordable and Workforce Housing at (703) 360-5034. You may also call Sherry Edelkamp, VIC-HOP coordinator, at (703) 799-1255 or email her at outreachaumc@yahoo.com.

Mark Your Calendars for the Next Blood Drive

The next community blood drive will be held on Saturday, February 2, at Mount Vernon Hospital from 7:30 am-12:30 pm. Please Contact Jack Shawn at (703) 780-4752 or by email at wendell.shawn@cox.net with questions or if you plan to donate.



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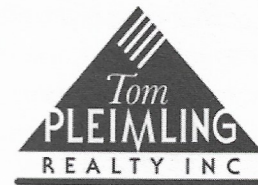
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Meet The New SLCA Executive Board

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Charles Hermann:
Stratford Landing Webmaster

Tom Burgess: Newsletter Advertising

The Stratford Landing Executive Board holds regular meetings at Walt Whitman Middle School on the first double digit Tuesday of each month. Special meetings, including the October annual meeting, are held at Stratford Landing Elementary School. Dates and times will be publicized in advance. Members are encouraged to attend.

Safety Tips for the Holiday Season

- Stay alert to your surroundings.
- Shop during daylight hours whenever possible. If you must shop at night, go with a friend or family member, always park in a well-lit area, and have your keys out prior to heading to your car.
- Avoid overloading yourself with packages to have clear visibility and freedom of motion. Trust your instincts. If you feel uncomfortable, return to the store and ask security to escort you.
- Beware of strangers approaching you for any reason. Con artists may try to distract you with the intention of taking your money or belongings.
- Avoid carrying lots of cash. Keep cash in your front pocket. Be extra careful if you carry a wallet or purse.
- Keep all credit card numbers in a safe place at home. Notify the credit card issuer immediately if your credit card is lost, stolen, or misused.
- Do not open your door to strangers.
- Report any suspicious activity. Program the police non-emergency number into your cell phone and have it near your home phone. The number is: (703) 360-8400.



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