

TIMMONS

Stratford Landing Newsletter

Stratford Landing Mount Vernon District Fairfax County December 2008

Bi-Monthly Newsletter



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SLCA Membership

The SLCA Membership drive has ended and we are compiling a list of paid members with our Block Captains. The Stratford Landing Executive Board would like to thank all of our block captains for their work this past year. If you have not paid your \$10.00 dues, you will not receive the 2009 newsletters. Block Captains, if you have any collected dues not yet turned in or changes you need to make, please contact Mary Lou Hoffman. If you have not paid your dues and would like to continue receiving newsletters, please contact Mary Lou Hoffman at (703) 360-7267. Thank you to everyone who has already paid. We have plans to start working on the SLCA directory after the New Year.

SLCA Annual Meeting and Candidates Forum

The 2009 Stratford Landing Annual Meeting Agenda was held in the cafeteria at the Stratford Landing Elementary School on the evening of Tuesday October 28. The Political Candidates from Virginia's 11th Congressional District spoke to the attendees. The annual budget and SLCA Board was voted on and approved for 2009. Thank you to everyone who came out and supported our community and our volunteers.

Annual Holiday Decorating Contest

It's that time of year again! The carved pumpkins are gone, and many of us have eaten more

turkey than we care to admit. So let's bring out the holiday decorations and light up the neighborhood! As we did last year, Mary Lou Hoffman and her appointed judges will be scouting the neighborhood the weekend of December 13th to cast their votes. The four categories for judging are: 1. Prettiest 2. Kid's Favorite 3. Most Original 4. Best Looking (Daylight). One winner from each category will win a \$50 gift certificate. So don't forget to decorate!

We are still looking for volunteers to fill the following positions: Secretary, Public Safety, and Consumer Affairs. If you are interested in volunteering or need more information please contact Melissa Cramer at (703) 360-1687.

Tutor for Grades K-6

Now that the 1st quarter report card grades are out and parent-teacher conferences are over, could your child use extra help and a confidence boost in Reading or Math? Call Sue Massey - Tutor for Grades K-6 in Reading, Writing, Math, and all other subjects. Sue and her family have lived in Stratford for 20+ years. Sue has 18+ years of teaching experience in grades K, 1,2,3,4, and 5. Sue has taught in Arlington County Public Schools, St. Mary's School in Old Town, and is currently a full-time teacher with Fairfax County teaching a multi-age class at Waynewood Elementary School. Sue can be reached at 703-360-8576 or by email at skmassey@aol.com. Call today to select a tutoring time that best fits your child's schedule and needs.

Conversation and Coffee!

Stratford Landing Neighbors had a wonderful time at the first annual fall coffee held on Saturday, November 8 at the Stratford Landing Elementary School cafeteria. Community members brought delicious food to share, enjoyed coffee and great conversations with their neighbors, and took home colorful notepads. Thank you to everyone who attended and to those who helped with set up and clean up! Don't forget to mark your calendars now for our next coffee on Saturday, February 21, 2009. Remember all event information and updates can be found by visiting our website: www.stratfordlanding.org



Santa coming to
Stratford Landing!

Sunday December 14th.
starting at 3:00 p.m..

please visit
www.stratfordlanding.org

to see the route he will
be taking.



Tom Pleimling

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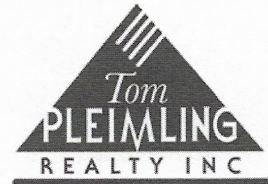
Alexandria, VA 22307

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:

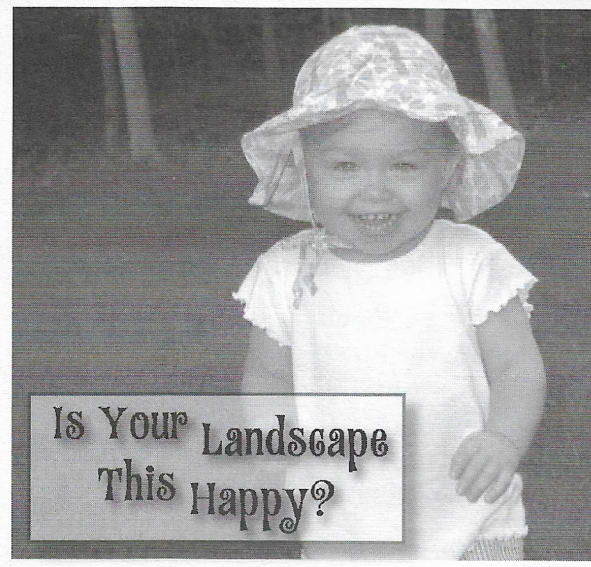
- ◆ Tom sells more Fort Hunt homes than any other individual real estate agent.
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- ◆ Use of Tom's moving truck.
- ◆ You benefit from Tom's 23-years' experience and more than 1,400 homes sold.
- ◆ For more information, call Tom at 703-360-6300



Paving the Future of the SRA Pool

When the new pool opens it's doors this summer the entrance way will be paved with bricks purchased by our friends and neighbors.

Residents and pool members have a unique opportunity to commemorate your child's or family name for all time by purchasing an SRA Brick. There are two options available and information can be found by visiting www.stratfordrec.org or by emailing Khrysti Uhrin at stratfordrec@gmail.com. This perfect gift for the holidays is only being sold for a limited time.



If not, give us a call and we can make your landscape the envy of the neighborhood at a great price.

We specialize in residential Landscape Maintenance and Landscape Design and Installation projects.

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703-339-2044
www.b-rushing.com

Summer Lifeguard Positions

Interested in becoming or working as a lifeguard this summer? Contact Barry Hutchison, with Stratford Landing Recreation Association, by email at jbhutchison@hotmail.com for more information today.

Would you like to receive email updates when new items are posted or there are new changes to the website?

Would you like to receive your monthly newsletter by email?

If your answer is yes, please email melissa.cramer@cox.net

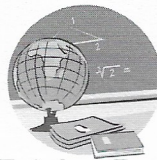
with SLCA in the subject line.

We will email you with notifications to all changes and updates to the website, as well as your monthly newsletter.

Your email address will not be shared or posted for others to copy.

This is for the sole purpose of updating the community quicker and it will not take the place of your paper newsletter, which will still be delivered by your block captain.

**If you sent an email prior to 10/31 please resend.*



Miriam's Education Update

Fairfax County has been and will continue to experience major budget deficits due primarily to the economic downturn. These deficits will impact schools throughout the county. How the deficits specifically impact our community will be through an increase in class size to a maximum of 30 students per class (possibly to 35 students per class), and a smaller raise for our teachers. Currently the FY2009 budget will not be able to support the proposal for Stratford Landing Elementary to offer full day kindergarten in the 2009/2010 School year as planned. If you have specific questions regarding the FY2009 budget, please visit the website: <http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2009.htm> or you may contact Miriam Snedecor our Stratford Landing Civic Association Education Representative to the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations (MVCCA) at mdsnedecor@gmail.com.

Leah Chapla

703.929.4875 (cell phone & voice mail)
 Stratford Homeowner Since 1985
 "The Door Knocking Lady"
 Retired Military Spouse
 Senior Housing Specialist



In our rapidly changing world it is a difficult decision choosing a real estate agent whom you like & trust to represent and market your most valuable possession. I take a personal interest in you and your home! I've been providing real estate information to every home in Stratford & Riverside since 1993.

Please call me for all of your real estate needs.

My marketing plan is designed to get your home sold, even in a challenging market. If you are purchasing a home, my efforts on your behalf, as a "buyer agent" will enable you to obtain a home, for which you qualify, with the best terms possible.

Interested in you & in marketing your home with Knowledge, Care & Integrity!



Old Town Historic District
 400 King Street * Alexandria, VA 22314



To see photos taken from the Halloween Festival and parade, visit our halloween link on the SLCA website.

Stratford Landing Halloween Parade & Festival - A Scary Good Time!

The Stratford Landing Civic Association sponsored a Halloween Parade and Fall Festival on October 26, 2008 that attracted more than 300 neighbors participating in the events of the day. The beautiful Sunday afternoon event started with the Fairfax County Fire Department leading the parade down Camden Street to Stratford Landing Park. Parade participants marched to the sounds of classic monster

music like Monster Mash, the Adams Family Theme Song and Ghostbusters. At the park, the participants found a wide variety of games and activities including an inflatable obstacle course and basketball hoop, jack-o-lantern bean bag toss, pumpkin hula hoop throw, ghost ball throw, spider ring toss and Halloween tattoos. Children could make a variety of crafts including a glitter spider web, chalk drawings, a kaleidoscope and rainbow art of Halloween shapes. A big thanks goes out to the McDonalds on Cooper Road for donating drinks and cups and the Kingstowne Regal Theatre for donating

our popcorn. We would especially like to thank the Fairfax County Fire Department and Police Department for all their help to make this a successful event. A special thanks goes to Officer Billeb for coordinating the officers who blocked the streets for our parade and Captain Shaw and his crew for staying with the fire truck after the parade, so the children could explore it. Finally, thanks to our teen volunteers who worked so hard: Colleen O'Hara, Jack Wilson, Allie & Tess Mackey, Patrick and Brendan Murphy, Christina Hancock, and Sarah Gonsalves.

Holiday Safety Tips

Avoid shopping alone.

Carry keys, cash and credit cards separate from each other and constantly pay attention to your surroundings.

Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. If possible avoid carrying a purse or carry it close to your body and always zipped or snapped.

Be aware of strangers "accidentally" bumping into you.

Leave the mall/store well before closing time. There is safety in numbers.

Home Safety Tips

Do not leave the boxes from your expensive holiday gifts on the curb as this advertises the contents of your home to potential thieves.

Ensure someone is home to accept packages or have a trusted neighbor keep a lookout for packages delivered to you.

Going out of town? Have a friend or a neighbor check the house at least once a day and pick up mail and newspapers.

Keep garage doors closed and be sure the door from the garage into the home is secured.

Make sure your home address is not showing on your luggage while traveling.

Thinking about renting your home or a room for Inauguration?

Follow up with the county to find out if there are any restrictions before you post your ad. You are entering into a lease, treat it that way. Spend the money to buy a legal lease. If something goes

wrong, you won't regret having a legally enforceable agreement.

Remember you are bound by fair housings laws when you advertise and choose a tenant.

If you post your property on line, do not disclose the exact address. Your telling the whole world that you won't happen to be home on January 18-21.

Protect your property with a security deposit, move in exam and exit exam. Take photos prior to them moving in, and take photos of anything that was damaged. Have your tenants complete an application and consider running a credit report.

Charge a non-refundable deposit for damages, get your payment upfront, and make sure the check clears.

Keep in mind the potential tax consequences.

Follow up with your homeowners insurance and make sure you understand the terms.

Be explicit about restrictions and amenities, your expectations about smoking, pets, additional guests and trash removal.

Lock up your valuables and personal items such as bank and credit card statements.

Notify your neighbors of who will be in your house.

This is a business transaction so treat it like such. BE SAFE!

**Information was take from The Washington Post Article on 11/15 titled: Want to be an Inauguration Day Landlord? Good. Just Be Careful.*

Visit Spill the Beans

Stop by Spill the Beans Organic Coffee & Chat House located on ELkin, and see what all the neighborhood buzz is about! Check out their website, www.spillthebeansva.com, for hours of operation and upcoming events like weekly story times, sing along with Mr. Skip, homework happy hour, and family game night.

Mount Vernon AT Home Update

Some of you may have already received or will be receiving the Mount Vernon At Home (MVAH) fundraising letter which is circulating. MVAH plans to launch operations in late spring 2009. To meet this goal they are going to need help. As you might know, MVAH is a nonprofit organization formed to enable the area's older residents to stay in their homes. With a long-term business plan and budget in place, MVAH has been raising start-up operation funds.

Fundraising has begun for the additional funds needed to move ahead with plans for the spring opening. Mount Vernon At Home, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) corporation organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. Contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent of the the law.

After MVAH opens, members will be able to make one phone call to professional staff and they will receive services or referrals as needed. These may include a ride to the doctor or store, a referral for in-home care after a disability, recommendation of an MVAH approved

plumber or electrician, assistance with computer problems, providing a volunteer to change a light bulb- all the things that make staying in one's own home feasible.

MVAH exists to provide people, our neighbors, with services and support they need to live at home and to participate fully in the life our our community.

MVAH committees are hard at work. The MVAH Transportation Committee is examining several transportation options using both volunteer and professional services. the MVAH Home Services Committee is "vetting" and seeking discounts from contractors in 60 Categories of service providers. Other active committees are Home Services Support, Publicity, Outreach, Fundraising and Development Program, Finance, Volunteer, and Intergenerational.

If you are interested in making a contribution or to find our more information about MVAH contact: Mary-Carroll Potter, President Mount Vernon At Home (703) 768-6590 marycarrollpotter@verizon.net or Stratford Landing Resident Kay Wells at (703) 360-6159 or wells2600@cox.net.

SLCA Executive Board

President: Melissa Cramer, (703) 360-1687, melissa.cramer@cox.net

Vice President: Charles Herrmann, (703) 799-0511, charles.herrmann@cox.net

Parliamentarian: Ed Gonsalves, (703) 619-5152, gonsalves@adclawfirm.com

Treasurer: Celia Boertlein, (703) 360-3735, cboertlein@aol.com

Recreation Co-Chairs: Nancy Fondriest, (703) 780-3625, nancy.fondriest@cox.net, Dana Deighton, (703) 799-0664, DDeighton@ngs.org, Heather Westphal, (703) 360-5258, hlw1421@yahoo.com

Secretary: Vacant

Transportation: Ken Pribyla, (703)610-1385, kprib@verizon.net

Education: Miriam Snedecor, (703) 799-2278, mdsnedecor@gmail.com

Membership: Mary Lou Hoffman, (703) 360-7267

Planning & Zoning: Chad Coneway, (703) 201-0603,

chad.coneway@cox.net

Health & Human Services: Jack Shawn, (703) 780-4752, jwshawn@verizon.net

Environment: Betsy Martin, (703) 360, 0691

HHS-Work Force housing: Joan McLellan, (703) 360-5034, ajoanmclellan@aol.com

Public Safety: Vacant

Consumer Affairs: Vacant