

# Stratford Landing Newsletter

TIMMONS

*Stratford Landing Mount Vernon District Fairfax County February 2009*

## Bi-Monthly Newsletter

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## Get Acquainted With More Neighbors at our Next Coffee

Mark your calendars for the morning of Saturday, February 21st. from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m. to join your neighbors at the Stratford Landing Elementary School cafeteria for our next coffee. Local realtor and former Stratford resident, Steve Deleyiannis of Coldwell Banker, has made a generous donation to provide our coffee, paper products and room rental fee. Please bring food to share such as coffee cakes, quick breads, muffins and fruit. In addition, we are also collecting canned goods or other nonperishable food items to donate to United Community Ministries (UCM), which is a community based social service agency assisting families and individuals in our area. A few volunteers will be needed that

morning beginning at 8:00 am to set-up for the coffee. If you would like to help and/or if you are interested in setting up a table with any information for your neighbors, please contact Nancy Fondriest at [nancy.fondriest@cox.net](mailto:nancy.fondriest@cox.net) or 703-780-3625, or Dana Deighton at [ddeighton@live.com](mailto:ddeighton@live.com) or 703-799-0664 or Heather Westphal at [hlw1421@yahoo.com](mailto:hlw1421@yahoo.com) or 703-360-5258

## Free Income Tax Preparation

If you or anyone you know who worked in 2008, and earned less than \$42,000, then you or they may qualify for free income tax preparation. IRS certified volunteers will ensure you receive the maximum tax refund and help determine if you are eligible for the earned income tax credit. Sites opened on January 24th and will

remain open until April 2009. For locations and more information about the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program, please contact the Falls Church SkillSource Center at: 703- 533-5400.

## Fairfax County Offers Digital Transition Assistance

Older adults and adults with disabilities who are having difficulty preparing their analog television for the nationwide digital transition can receive assistance from Fairfax County. Telephone assistance is available from the county's Department of Cable Communications and Consumer Protection. Some residents may also be eligible for free assistance to install the converter box from the county's Volunteer Solutions program. All major TV stations will begin broadcasting exclusively in digital

on February 17, 2009. People with analog TVs that use antennas to pick up broadcast channels must install a converter box, subscribe to cable/satellite, or purchase a new digital set to continue watching TV. Some older adults and adults with disabilities may have difficulty with this, particularly with installing a converter box. Telephone assistance covers questions about the transition process and assistance on how to install a TV converter box. For more information or assistance, contact the Department of Cable Communications and Consumer Protection at (703) 324-5900 or visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cable](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cable). Fairfax County's Volunteer Solutions program will provide volunteers to county residents who meet the following criteria: 1. Fairfax County residency, 2. Age 60 years or older or have a disability and age 18 or older, 3. Unable to install the converter box and can not find help, 4. No television in the home that has a digital tuner or is connected to cable/satellite. To request a volunteer today call (703) 324-7118 or email [DFSAAVOLUNTEER@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:DFSAAVOLUNTEER@fairfaxcounty.gov)

## Fairfax County Leash Laws

Even after multiple articles about this subject, the board is still continuously receiving complaints from neighbors about members of the community who do not walk their pets on a leash or who do not clean up after their pets. Per Officer Daryl G. Davis



### Tom Pleimling

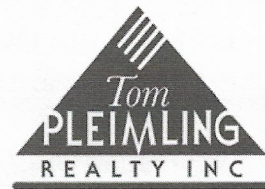
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**703-360-6300**

*"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:

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of the Fairfax County Police Department, Mount Vernon District Station., Stratford Landing Park is not a dog park. Which means that all dogs at the park must remain on a leash. Electronic collars are not, considered by Fairfax County, to be leashes and you are in violation of the law if you are using an electric collar versus a leash. The Police can not issue a warrant unless they witness the violation in person but a citizen can. The Police or Animal Control Officer would still need to make a report and at least make contact with the violator to identify them. The citizen who witnesses the violation can go to the magistrates office at the station and obtain a warrant for whatever violation they have witnessed. If the citizen does not want to press charges, then they may request for the Police to make contact with the violator and further explain what was witnessed and caution them. Information about pets and the law can be found on the Fairfax County website. If you witness a violation you are encouraged to call the non-emergency (703)-691-2131. Please, out of respect for your neighbors and the safety of your pet, put your dog on a leash! After all, it is the law.

## Leah Chapla

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

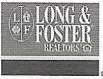


In our rapidly changing world it is a difficult decision choosing a real estate agent whom you like & trust to represent and market your most valuable possession. I take a personal interest in you and your home! I've been providing real estate information to every home in Stratford & Riverside since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

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

## Stratford Landing Prepares for Spring Fling

Put on your walking shoes, get your bike ready, and dig out those baskets. The Stratford Landing Spring Fling is almost here! Once again residents can celebrate the arrival of spring with an egg hunt in the park at our 3rd Annual Parade and Spring Fling. If you don't have a bike, don't worry. Walkers, strollers, wagons, and pets are all welcome. Just don't forget to decorate! The event is scheduled for Saturday, March 28, from 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. in the Stratford Landing Park. Our rain date is Saturday, April 4th. The parade will once again take place on Camden

Street starting at Cavendish and ending at Stirrup Lane. Please meet at intersection of Cavendish and Camden at 2:15 p.m. to line up for the parade. The egg hunt will begin at Stratford Landing Park shortly after the parade participants have arrived, and will be followed by refreshments and activities. We have been talking with other community associations in the area about their egg hunts and have decided to try a new approach for ours this year. To ensure that we have enough eggs for all the children, and to spread the workload, we are asking families to contribute 20 filled eggs per child and to deliver them along with the RSVP form to Heather Westphal at 2417 Stirrup

## Holiday Winners Announced

Congratulations goes out to all of the winners in the 2008 Stratford Landing Holiday Decorating Contest.

Winning homes included:

Category 1, Prettiest: 2506 Duxberry  
 Category 2, Kid's Favorite: 2317 Creek  
 Category 3, Most Original: 8400 Camden  
 Category 4, Best Looking (Daylight): 8608 Cotswold.

A special thanks also to Mary Lou Hoffman and her committee for judging the houses in the contest.

Lane by Sunday, March 22. The eggs can be placed in the tan storage bin on her carport. Eggs can be filled with candy, a sticker or a small prize. If you have any questions, please contact Heather at 703-360-5258 or hlw1421@yahoo.com. Also, please help the less fortunate by bringing a canned good or nonperishable food item with you to the event. They will be donated to United Community Ministries (UCM). We would like to incorporate this act of service into each of our events throughout the year. Finally, we need volunteers. This is a great opportunity for high school students to fulfill community service requirements. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

## Protect Yourself Against Financial Crimes

Most crimes are crimes of opportunity. Only you can eliminate a thief's opportunity to steal your property, identity, and good name. Use the following tips to protect yourself against financial crimes:

- Don't keep your PIN written down and near your credit or debit card
- Sign new credit/debit cards as soon as you get them
- Destroy old cards after expiration
- Diligently review all bank statements every month
- Never give your account information over the phone to someone you don't know

- Never provide your PIN to anyone. Your bank or credit card company will never request it
- Make sure your credit/debit card is returned after each use
- Do not include your Social Security Number on your checks
- Do not write your credit card number on your check
- Get in the habit of inspecting to see whether any checks are missing from your checkbook or your check order
- Immediately notify your bank if a check is missing or if checks you ordered are not received
- Criminals who use scams for financial gain can be great con-artists. If a deal sounds too good to be true, it probably is

- Never allow anyone to work on your home/business until you have a signed contract outlining the specific work to be done and a specific start and finish date

If you become a victim of financial crime, immediately contact your bank, the Fairfax County Police Department, and the three major Credit Reporting Agencies.



**AP**  
**LAWN & LANDSCAPING**  
7924 Grimsley St.  
Alexandria, VA 22309  
**(703) 360-3939**

### STRATFORD LANDING EGG HUNT RSVP FORM

Please return this form along with 20 filled eggs per child to the tan covered bin in the carport at the home of: Heather Westphal, 2417 Stirrup Lane by Sunday, March 22.

FAMILY NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Age of Child 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Age of Child 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Age of Child 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Age of Child 4: \_\_\_\_\_

Age of Child 5: \_\_\_\_\_

Questions? Contact Heather at [hlw1421@yahoo.com](mailto:hlw1421@yahoo.com) or 703-360-5258.

**BE AWARE!**

THERE ARE 2 NEW  
CROSSING SIGNS ON  
RIVERSIDE ROAD WHERE  
PEDESTRIANS CROSS IN  
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## Pet Safety—Winter Preparedness Tips

Pets should be kept indoors during winter months. If a pet is outdoors, by law, it must be provided with shelter. The pet's house should be elevated off the ground to prevent moisture accumulation and have a door of some kind to keep out winter winds, sleet and snow. Shelters should be insulated or heated. In severely cold weather, no pet should be kept outside. Indoor pets should have sleeping quarters in a draft-free, warm area with their bed or mattress elevated slightly off the floor. For bedding, use hay or other non-absorbent materials that will remain dry during inclement weather. Other tips to keep pets safe include: Don't let dogs off their leash or they may get lost and suffer from cold-weather related problems. Snow and salt should be removed from pets' paws immediately to avoid burning the paw pads. Always use a pet-safe de-icing salt. Be aware of frost bitten skin which is red or gray. Apply warm moist towels to thaw out frostbitten areas slowly until the skin appears flushed. Contact your veterinarian as soon as possible for further care. Outdoor pets require extra calories to keep warm so feed your pet a little more during cold winter months. Be sure your pet's water doesn't freeze while outdoors by using a heated water source. Cats, house pets, and wildlife may climb onto vehicle engines for warmth during cold weather. Be sure to check under the hood before starting

your car in the morning, animals might be seeking shelter inside. \*Information taken from the Fairfax County website. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/>

## Save the Date!

### Little Hunting Creek Clean Up Saturday, April 4th.

Join your neighbors from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, April 4th. for cleaning trash and removing invasive exotic plants along Little Hunting Creek. Lead your own site, or join us at the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust site (at the intersection of Londonderry and Stockton Parkway). The cleanup is part of the Alice Ferguson Foundation's Spring Potomac Cleanup. You can work from the water or from the shore. To go out on the creek, volunteers must bring their own canoes or kayaks (and life vests) and have paddling experience. Loppers are helpful for removing invasive plants, such as English ivy and honeysuckle. Volunteers should expect to get muddy. Dress accordingly by wearing sturdy waterproof boots, long pants and sleeves, and a hat. Roadside activities will be available for volunteers concerned about poison ivy. Gloves and trash bags will be provided. Call Betsy Martin at 703-360-0691 or email [betsy@folhc.org](mailto:betsy@folhc.org) with questions, or to identify a new site you'd like to clean up. We can also arrange for supplying bags, gloves, and trash pickup.

*The SLCA would like to recognize The Stratford Woman's Club who sponsored their Annual Homeless Luncheon on December 11th., 2008 at the Mental Health Center. The event was attended by 50 guests, each receiving a new shirt and lunch donated by Kentucky Fried Chicken, Popeye's, and the Safeway of Ft. Hunt Rd. The Walmart donated \$50 in valued merchandise. This event would have not been possible with out the hard work and planning of Mrs. Nancy Truluck and her committee. Thank you for all of your hard work and dedication to the community and the homeless.*

## Mount Vernon Genealogy Society

The Mount Vernon Genealogy Society meets the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 1:00 p.m. in room 112 at the Hollin Hall Senior Center. The research center is located at Hollin Hall Senior Center and is open on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 10-2. The Center is staffed by individuals who can help you with your research. The Center has over 2,000 books, five computers, and internet access to Ancestry.com as well as Footnote.com. The next meeting will be Tuesday February 17th., and will feature a presentation entitled "Understanding and Using the Personal Papers Collection at the Library of Virginia". The program will be presented by Trenton E. Hizer. Mr. Hizer will discuss how using the collections can assist researchers in their work. He will also discuss what genealogical information is hidden in the

various collections. He will also talk about some of the more unusual collection and how the library is adapting to new types of media (sound, video, digital, and the internet). On Tuesday March 17 the program will feature a presentation entitled "Southern Claims Commission" presented by Sharon Hodges. The Souther Claims Commission, on March 3, 1871, was created by Congress in order for Southerners who had "remained loyal to the Union to petition to be reimbursed for losses they had sustained. These overlooked records hold important and interesting genealogical information as told by the individuals who lived through the war.

All meetings are free and open to the public. For more information about these programs and other events please visit their website at: [www.mvgenealogy.org](http://www.mvgenealogy.org).

## Road Concerns and VDOT

Reporting road concerns to VDOT can be done 24/7 at the Traffic Management Center in Arlington. The center accepts calls for any of your concerns about the roads that cover the following four counties: Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun and Prince William. The process to report an issue and get it repaired is this: Ask the persons name and their supervisors name, tell them the issue and be specific. Next, ask them how long they estimate it will take to resolve the issue. Fore example, if the staff estimates three weeks to repair a pothole, then call back at the end of that time period to follow up. When you call about an issue always ask the person you speak with to give you a Mars Number (repair number) so that you can refer to the issue when calling back. Make sure you call back to confirm that the repairs are completed. Follow through until it is completed to your satisfaction. It is always a good idea to document your call for your reference. All VDOT

issues and complaint calls can be made to the following numbers: 703-383-2600, 703-383-VDOT, & 1-888-383-VDOT.

## **Pedestrian Safety:** *Please stop and allow pedestrians to cross our streets*

The SLCA board has been asked many times about pedestrian safety and when you should stop at crosswalks. The following information was taken from the Mount Vernon Police Stations October 2008 Newsletter:

### **Section 82-9-1. Pedestrians crossing highways or streets.**

(a) When crossing highways or streets, pedestrians shall not carelessly or maliciously interfere with the orderly passage of vehicles. They shall cross whenever possible only at intersections or marked crosswalks. Where any intersection of highways or streets contain no marked crosswalks pedestrians shall not be guilty of negligence as a matter of law for crossing at any such intersection or between intersections when crossing by the most direct route. (b) Pedestrians may cross at an intersection diagonally when all traffic entering the intersection has been halted by lights or signals by a peace or police officer.

((3-13-63; 1961 Code, § 16-221.)

### **Section 82-9-2. Right-of-way of pedestrians.**

(a) The driver of any vehicle upon a highway or street shall yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian crossing such highway or street within any clearly marked crosswalk, whether at mid-block or at the end of any block, or at any regular pedestrian crossing included in the prolongation of the lateral boundary lines of the adjacent sidewalk at the end of a block, or at any intersection when the driver is approaching on a highway or street where the legal maximum speed does not exceed thirty-five miles per hour, except at intersections or crosswalks where the movement of traffic is being regulated by law enforcement officers, uniformed school crossing guards, or traffic direction devices where the driver shall yield according to the direction of the law enforcement officer, uniformed school crossing guard, or device. (b) No pedestrian shall enter or cross an intersection in disregard of approaching traffic. (c) The drivers of vehicles entering, crossing, or turning at intersections shall change their course, slow down, or come to a complete stop if necessary to permit pedestrians to cross such intersections safely and expeditiously. (d) Pedestrians crossing highways or streets at

intersections shall at all times have the right-of-way over vehicles making turns into the highways or streets being crossed by the pedestrians. (3-13-63; 1961 Code, § 16-222; 37-76- 82; 35-02-82.)

### **Section 82-9-3. Pedestrians stepping into highway or street where they cannot be seen.**

Pedestrians shall not step into that portion of a highway or street open to moving vehicular traffic at any point between intersections where their presence would be obscured from the vision of drivers of approaching vehicles by a vehicle or other obstruction at the curb or side, except to board a passenger bus or to enter a safety zone, in which event they shall cross the highway or street only at right angles.

## **SLCA Collecting Email Addresses**

The SLCA is still collecting email address for those who would like to receive website updates and the bimonthly newsletter via email. This will not replace you current delivery of the paper newsletter. If you are interested, please email [melissa.cramer@cox.net](mailto:melissa.cramer@cox.net) with SLCA newsletter in the subject line. We are hoping to have this program up and running by our April Newsletter.

**SLCA Executive Board****KEN PRIBYLA**

~~President: Melissa Cramer, (703) 360-1687,  
melissa.cramer@cox.net~~ **703-619-1385**

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Mike Avila, (703) 619-5220,  
EagleDO36@aol.com

**Environment:** Betsy Martin, (703) 360-0691,  
betsy@folhc.org

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

**Public Safety:** Vacant

**Consumer Affairs:** Vacant

The Newsletter is published bimonthly  
(February, April, June, August, October,  
and December), by the Stratford Landing


Citizens Association, for the benefit and information of its member residents. All members may submit items for inclusion in the newsletter by submitting them to the president or secretary in writing by the 20th of the month preceding publication. Other contributions to this publication are welcome, subject to editing. Unless otherwise attributed, the president is responsible for the content of the newsletter.

Advertising is permitted and information may be obtained by emailing melissa.cramer@cox.net. Rates are determined by the size of the add and number of newsletters one commits to.

Individual SLCA members and other organizations or groups may request, on a first-come, first-served basis, to be placed on the meeting agenda by contacting Secretary Sue Massey or President Melissa Cramer, in advance of the meeting. Meetings are held on the 1st (double-digit) Tuesday of every month, beginning at 7:30 in the library or Principal Conference Room at Walt Whitman Middle School, located on Parkers Lane. Please try to give us one-week advance notice, whenever possible when requesting to be on the agenda. All meetings are open to Stratford Landing Members.

**SLCA Vacancies**

Public Safety, Consumer Affairs, and Budget/Finance Committee Representatives are still vacant. Each representative goes to one Mount Vernon Council Meeting for their committee and reports back to the SLCA Executive Board at the monthly meeting. If you are interested in more information, volunteering, or becoming more involved with your community please contact Melissa Cramer at (703) 360-1687 or at melissa.cramer@cox.net.



**Biscuit Break**  
**Dog Walking and Pet Sitting**  
**P.O. Box 90462**  
**Alexandria, VA 22309**  
**(703) 799-2993**  
**Biscuit.break@verizon.net**