

Stratford Landing Newsletter

TIMMONS

Stratford Landing Mount Vernon District Fairfax County April 2009

Bi-Monthly Newsletter

Blood drive dedication Page 2	Celebrate Earth Day Page 3 & 4	Little Hunting Creek Clean Up SLCA Morning Coffee Page 5	Stratford Landing Elementary School Parents Page 6	Local SLCA Resident Moves Business here Page 6
----------------------------------	--------------------------------------	---	--	--

Person of the Year Award, Stratford Landing Resident

Many of you may have read the article "Person of the Year", which was featured in the Mount Vernon Gazette's March 12th issue earlier this year. The SLCA would like to congratulate Mrs. Anne Andrews, of Stratford Landing, who was honored as Person of the Year. The 59th Annual Awards Banquet, a program to recognize outstanding volunteers in Fairfax County, was an event held March 15th and was sponsored by the Fairfax County Federation of Citizen's Associations and the Washington Post. Thank you Mrs. Andrews for your dedication and leadership to the community and for your many years of public service.

SLCA Potluck Dinner
Friday May 8th
Mark your calendars for the

second annual SLCA Community Potluck Dinner. The event will be held on Friday, May 8th from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at Stratford Landing Elementary School. It will be a great chance for catching up with the neighbors you haven't seen while we all hibernated through the winter, as well as meeting some newcomers to the neighborhood. To ensure that a variety of foods are available, families with last names beginning with A-M, please bring a main dish. Families with last names beginning with N-Z, please bring a side dish or dessert. The Stratford Landing Citizens' Association will provide drinks and paper products, as well as activities for the kids. If you have any questions please contact Heather Westpal. (see page 6 for contact information).

**SLCA Directory:
Coming Soon**
The SCLA will begin collecting

advertising for our new directory that will be distributed this summer. If you are interested in advertising, know of some who would, or have any questions, please contact Celia Boertlein the SLCA Treasure, at (703) 360-3735 or by email at cboertlein@aol.com or Melissa Cramer, the SLCA President, at (703) 360-1687 or by email at melissa.cramer@cox.net. All ads must emailed in PDF or JPEG format. Please make checks payable to Stratford Landing Civic Association and mailed to Celia's attention, at 8815 Stockton Parkway, Alexandria Va 22308. We are pleased to announce that pricing for advertising inside of the new directory will be the same as it was 5 years ago, which was \$150.00 for a full page and \$75.00 for a half a page. The premium areas: inside front cover and the back of the directory (outside jacket) will be \$500.00 each and the inside back cover will be \$400.00.



Stratford Landing Spring Fling, March 23, 2009

It was estimated that over 100 children along with their families paraded down the street to Stratford Landing Park where they were greeted with fun spring crafts, refreshments, and the traditional egg hut. Additional photos and updates can be found by visiting www.stratfordlanding.org.

Stratford Landing Blood Drive Receives New Name

In 1993, Jack Shawn, Stratford Landing Resident, organized the first blood drive for the Stratford Landing Community, at INOVA Mt. Vernon Hospital. Since that first blood drive, he has been responsible for the coordinating efforts with Mt. Vernon Hospital six times a year. Preparation is never easy, there are calls to be placed in order to solicit donors and scheduling to be done, so that everyone doesn't show up for the same time slot. Not only did Mr. Shawn, place these calls and follow up with his neighbors, he was always present on the day of the drive greeting people, moving along the line, making sure his neighbors and friends were comfortable, engaging in small talk about family and community, handing out donuts and

fruit juice, and graciously thanking people. Over the years and almost 100 blood drives, Jack Shawn has only missed one!

Mark your calendars for the following dates:

Potluck Dinner: May 8th

Blood Drive: June 6th

Community Yard Sale: June 6th

Movie Night: August 8th

The SLCA Board voted on April 14, to officially name the bimonthly blood drive held at INOVA Mount Vernon Hospital, the Betty & Jack Shawn Stratford Community Blood Drive. In honor of many years of dedication, support, and unselfish service put forth by Jack & Betty Shawn. The next blood drive is scheduled for Saturday, June 6th at

Mt. Vernon Hospital. We ask that if you do not plan to participate in the Community Yard Sale that morning, that you go to Mt. Vernon and give blood in honor of Betty & Jack Shawn's dedication. If you would like to contact Jack about available time slots or how you can be more involved, please call him at (703) 780-4752 or email him at jwshawn@verizon.net.

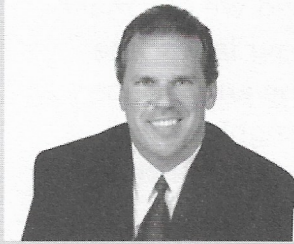
Why should you give blood? Every three seconds, someone needs a blood transfusion, 20% of the recipients are children and cancer patients, it is 100% safe, one pint of blood can save up to three lives, your donation will go to someone in your community, donating doesn't cost you any money, your body will replenish the fluid lost during the donation within 24 hours, you get to drink juice and eat donuts and cookies, and finally you get out of lifting anything heavy the rest of the day! We hope to see everyone there on June 6th.

Celebrate Earth Day

It is hard to believe that it has been 39 years since the first Earth Day on April 22, 1970. There is still plenty of work needed to address environmental problems we as a community are facing. The Chesapeake Bay is in bad shape, with a growing "dead zone" in which oxygen is depleted and living creatures cannot survive. Global warming is occurring faster than the scientists anticipated (visit www.ipcc.ch for assessments by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change). Many ask what we can do as individuals. These problems can not be solved by one person but each individual can make a difference. The following are 5 suggestions you can do:

• **Plant a tree!** Trees remove carbon dioxide from the air. They provide shade that reduces use of fossil fuels to run air conditioning. They hold soil and help prevent runoff. Mature trees improve the quality of water and air, and add thousands of dollars to the value of your home! If you have mature, tree treasure them—have them checked occasionally by a certified Arborist (Consumer Checkbook has articles and ratings), and remove ivy from them. English ivy can kill trees, and its weight can bring large trees down in storms.

• **Install CFLs** (compact fluorescent light bulbs). They use 1/3 less electricity as incandescent light.



Tom Pleimling

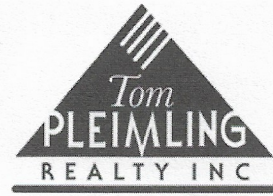
*Principal Broker
Top 1% Nationally in Sales
Your Neighborhood Realtor*

Tom Pleimling Realty,
Inc.
1701 Belle View Blvd.
#B1
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.
- ◆ Your home receives worldwide exposure on Tom's personal web domain at www.talk2tom.com and is advertised on Tom's 24-hour hotline, which gives buyers instant updates.
- ◆ 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



Turn off lights when you're not using them.

• **Eliminate or reduce your lawn.** Turf grass requires more energy inputs per acre than any other "crop" in the United States, including corn. There's the energy and dollar costs in seed, fertilizer, pesticide, herbicide, water and gasoline, not to mention the labor and noise. If you don't want to give up the suburban dream of a lush green lawn, consider reducing its size and replacing it with plantings, trees, and shrubs. Use more environmentally friendly lawn care: mow high (3-4") to reduce weeds and leave clippings on the lawn to fertilize it naturally. Don't add fertilizer without doing a soil test (available from Village Hardware or the VA Cooperative Extension Service, see www.ext.vt.edu for local offices) to learn whether your lawn needs it. If your lawn doesn't need phosphorus, most lawns here don't) use a phosphorous-free fertilizer such as FESCO. Nitrogen and phosphorous wash off suburban lawns and feed algae blooms that deplete oxygen and kill the Bay. Our own Little Hunting Creek has been designated by VA Department of Environmental Quality as "nutrient-enriched"—too much phosphorous and nitrogen. Visit The Chesapeake Bay Foundation at www.cbf.org for more good tips on "bay-friendly" yard care. *(continued on page 4)*



Is Your Landscape
This Happy?

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.

B. RUSHING
LAWN AND LANDSCAPING
703-339-2044
www.b-rushing.com

Celebrate Earth Day continued

•**Scoop the poop!** E. Coli measurements are high in Little Hunting Creek. Some is from geese, but much is due to pet waste washed into the creek, adding bacterial contamination and nitrogen pollution to the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay. Every year in our creek cleanup, we find newspaper bags of poop knotted at the top. It's hard to believe, but some people bag their dog's poop then toss it into the creek or down the storm drain (what are they thinking?) Please pick up after your dog and dispose of it in your own trash!

•**Install a rain barrel.** Much of the damage to the Chesapeake Bay is caused by run off from too many impervious areas, which are rooftops, paved roads, and parking lots. These areas shed rainwater rather than soaking it up. Back in the 1950s and '60s, when the neighborhoods in the Little Hunting Creek watershed were developed, the idea was to pipe storm water straight off those surfaces and into the creek as

quickly as possible. The result was too much storm water, moving too fast, scouring out the upper reaches of our creek and depositing sediment down here in the tidal portion. Now, thinking has changed: engineers want to slow the runoff down to let sediment and pollutants settle out while the water slowly soaks into the ground to recharge groundwater. As one step is to improve water quality in our built-out watershed, Fairfax County promoting the use of rain barrels that homeowners attach to their downspouts. The rain barrel captures the rain that falls on your roof, therefore reducing the volume of storm water (and the pollutants it carries) flowing from your property down the storm drain and into the creek. And, a rain barrel is a very handy source of free water for watering your garden with the added bonus of being better for plants because it's not chlorinated!

The Northern VA Soil and Water Conservation District will be holding workshops for homeowners who want to build or buy a rain barrel. Visit their

website at: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/rainbarrels.htm> for more information. There are more items that can be added to everyone's list of Earth Day actions, for example installing rain gardens, using Energy Star appliances, and many more. But this Earth Day, start by doing one thing our list. I am eager to hear about everyone's participation. Please feel free to send your questions, comments, or suggestions to Betsy Martin, betsy@folhc.org the Stratford Landing Board Member.

Mount Vernon at Home

(MVAH), a nonprofit membership organization designed to provide residents of the Mount Vernon area with the services and support they need to remain in their own homes and continue to participate in neighborhood and community life, is currently seeking an Executive Director. To find out more information please visit their website www.mountvernonathome.org

Little Hunting Creek Clean Up: Was a Success

Congratulations and thank you to the 82 volunteers, who picked up a record 119 bags of trash, recyclables and tires at the 8 pickup sites along Little Hunting Creek. In Stratford Landing, volunteers worked in the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust site, the

Leah Chapla

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



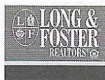
In our rapidly changing world it is a difficult decision choosing a real estate agent whom you like & trust to represent and market your most valuable possession.

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

Conversation & Coffee

Stratford Landing neighbors had a wonderful time at our most recent coffee, held on Saturday, February 21 in the Stratford Landing Elementary School cafeteria. Community members brought delicious food to share, enjoyed coffee and great conversations with their neighbors and took home carabiner clip key chains personalized with "SLCA"! Many thanks to all who attended, donated food for UCM, and helped with set-up and clean-up! Finally, a very special thanks to local realtor and former Stratford resident, Steve Deleyiannis of Coldwell Banker, who made the generous donation to provide our coffee, paper products and room rental fee and Steve's colleague, Bob Kuletz of Coldwell Banker, for all his help the day of the coffee. We look forward to seeing everyone in the fall for our next coffee event as well at the Pot Luck dinner on May 8th.

pumping station, Stockton Parkway, and Stirrup Lane. Special thanks to Wolf Den Pack 673, Den 6, Pack 680, Den 5, and Boy Scout Troop 1509, and to Matt Thompson and his science students from Mount Vernon High School, who volunteered at the NVCT site. Additionally thank you to Robert "Scotty" Scott of Fairfax County Solid Waste Management, whose crews had cleared all of our special pickup sites by 8:30 am. Monday morning.

The Stratford Landing Citizens' Association donated awards for the Stratford residents who picked up the most trash. The awards sponsored attendance at a Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District Rain-barrel Workshop and a free rain-barrel. The winners of the SLCA Rain Barrel prizes were: Beate Whitesell (9 bags), Roberta, Emma, & Lindsay Cullen (7 bags), and Caleb & Charles Norville (5 bags). Thanks again to everybody who participated—it is gratifying that the trash from 119 bags will NOT be flowing downstream into the Potomac and the Chesapeake Bay, and will NOT be despoiling the beauty of Little Hunting Creek and its shorelines. Several volunteers commented that many cleanup sites seemed less trashy than in past years. Here's hoping that trend continues! *(article provided by Friends of Little Hunting Creek).*

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

Stratford Landing Resident moves Business closer to Home

Art at the Center is an art studio designed specifically for children and their families. They emphasize the use of natural and recycled materials as well as traditional art media. The studio is a learning

laboratory where experimentation is encouraged and students can practice thinking skills and problem solving as they engage in projects. The arts are seen as languages for children to express their ideas, working both individually and collaboratively in a group setting. The studio environment is designed to provoke curiosity and wonder and to encourage active engagement with the materials and with each other. Peer feedback and building relationships is a key part of the creative and learning process. Art at the center, a business owned and operated by an SLCA member, moved from their location in Alexandria City to 2804 Sherwood Hall Lane. To learn more please visit their website at www.artatthecenter.org.

Attention: Stratford Landing Elementary School Parents. Please help to ensure your school receives funding for Full Day Kindergarten.

It is only elementary school in our cluster that does not yet have full day kindergarten, a real competitive disadvantage. Help make sure full day K becomes a reality for our kids. Join others in our community at the Fairfax County School Board meeting May 12th from 6:00-10:00 p.m. at Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road in Falls Church. Please contact Dana Deighton at ddeighton@live.com for more information.

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: Sue Massey, 703-360-8576, skmassey@aol.com

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 and 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



Dedicated to Complete Professional Real Estate Services in Northern Virginia for over 25 years.

We sell, rent and manage your home the proper way.

If you're looking for an investment home, there has never been a better time to buy.

I can help you find and purchase a fantastic foreclosed home and manage your new investment property.

Sell your home through me and enjoy a special Stratford Landing discount because I LIVE HERE, TOO.

PATRICK FOGARTY

**703-677-5737 cell
703-971-1800 office
Patrick@wilkinsonpm.com**

**www.wilkinsonpm.com
www.HomeFirstRealty.com**

