

Stratford Landing Newsletter

Stratford Landing Mount Vernon District Fairfax County June 2009

Bimonthly Newsletter

Earth Day Article

Last month's Newsletter, April 2009, listed installing compact fluorescent light bulbs as one of five suggested ways to celebrate Earth Day. Please do remember to dispose of them properly (at a Fairfax County Household Hazardous Waste facility, or by returning them to Home Depot) because they contain small amounts of mercury and should not be thrown out in the trash. Thank you.

SLCA Directory

The SCLA has begun collecting advertising for our new directory that will be distributed this fall. 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 be 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 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. (*Deadline for payment is August 1, 2009. See form on page 6.*)

Watershed Friendly Gardens Tour

There will be a Watershed Friendly Gardens tour on Sunday, June 14th, from 1:00-5:00 p.m. Do you have run off or drainage problems? Do you just want to take care of your yard in a way that's better for the environment? Get inspired to create an environmentally friendly landscape at your home, school or business!
(continued on page 2)

A free, self-guided tour features gardens full of native plants, wildlife habitat, compost systems and landscape elements such as rain gardens, rain barrels and cisterns, permeable pavement and vegetated (green) roofs. These features can solve drainage problems and keep our streams clean! One of the gardens is right here in Stratford Landing. For more information including a tour brochure is available on our website www.stratfordlanding.org. The tour is cosponsored by the Northern Virginia Soil & Water Conservation District and the Virginia Master Naturalists – Fairfax Chapter. E-mail your questions to conservationdistrict@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-324-1423, TTY 711.

Caring for you trees

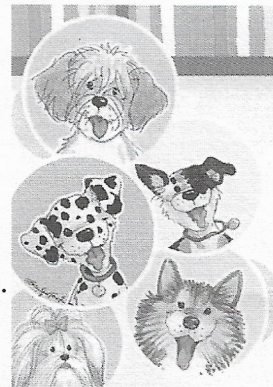
Properly cared-for trees add value to your property, give shade that provides summer comfort, benefit birds and other wildlife, and add beauty and grace to your home. How do you ensure that they stay healthy? What to do when preventive or corrective tree work becomes necessary because a tree appears to be failing? How to tell

if a tree poses a danger and should be removed? Here are a few tips and links that provide information to help keep your trees healthy and safe. *Signs of trouble.* Inspect your trees yearly. According to Washington Consumers' Checkbook, the following signs may indicate they need work: Thinning in the crown, or smaller than normal or discolored leaves. Roots pulled loose from the ground or fungal growths on the roots or the main trunk. Dead or fallen branches more than 2" in diameter. Deep vertical cracks on opposite sides of the main trunk. Sawdust on the trunk from wood-boring insects. A trunk that develops a noticeable lean in one direction, or a branch canopy that is not roughly balanced. Lastly, other unusual deformations or deposits on leaves, limbs, or bark. Sometimes it will be obvious what needs to be done—remove a large dead limb, for example. Other times, expertise may be needed to properly diagnose the problem and correct it. Many trees are lost because they are inaccurately diagnosed, or given the wrong treatment on the advice of "experts." Tree workers are not licensed in Virginia, and may lack any knowledge or expertise about trees and their proper care. Sometimes they may create problems rather than solve them, for example, by spraying and killing a pest's natural predators. They may tell you that because a tree is

hollow, it must be removed, according to VA Department of Forestry's Urban Forester Jim McGlone, mature trees often become hollow with age. If a tree is not leaning, it can be up to 40% hollow and still be safe.

Finding Expert Help For Your Trees

One way to make sure you get good advice (and a better price for any tree work that's needed) is to get multiple opinions and estimates from different tree firms. Another way is to consult an arborist whose training and expert knowledge of trees is certified by the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) or by membership in the American Society of Consulting Arborist (ASCA). You can identify local arborist at the ISA and ASCA websites (www.isa-arbor.com, www.asca-consultants.org). Washington Consumers' Checkbook (www.checkbook.org) provides useful advice about tree care and specific guidance about which tree service firms are most highly rated by their customers. *(continued page 3)*



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

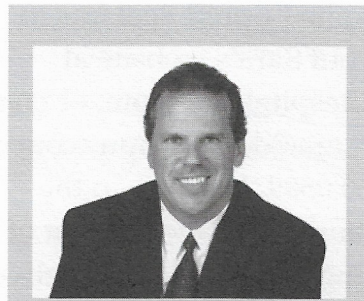
(To see the article and ratings, follow the link www.checkbook.org/SLCA/, then click on "Ratings table" anywhere in the article. You'll be asked for a valid email address, and given access to the tree firm ratings. You will also be offered a special discounted rate available to SLCA members to subscribe to Consumers' Checkbook.) The county also has good information on buying, planting and caring for trees at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/environmental/trees.htm, including a page on hiring an arborist (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/environmental/hiring_an_arborist_flier_final.pdf). Finally, be wary of tree works who drive around the neighborhood soliciting work. Unless they have a solicitor's license, such solicitations are illegal. And recently the newspaper has reported on "woodchucks" who solicit unnecessary work (often from elderly women), overcharge for it, and keep coming back to insist on doing more unnecessary work, for more money.



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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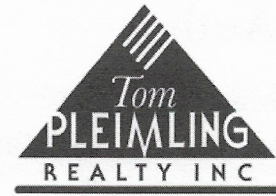
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"If you are thinking of making a move, contact me at your convenience. I'd be delighted to speak with you."

-Tom



How You'll Benefit By Hiring Tom Pleimling:

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- ◆ For more information, call Tom at 703-360-6300



Practices to Avoid

The VA Cooperative Extension Service provides a quick summary of what to avoid when trying to keep trees healthy (24 Ways to Kill a Tree, www.pubs.ext.vt.edu). Consumers' Checkbook advises that you and any tree care firm you hire avoid these all-too-common practices: Don't climb trees using spikes. This is extremely damaging. Don't

top trees. Topping damages and disfigures trees, and makes them hazardous. Don't allow the pruning of branches to rip bark below a cut. Don't paint wounds. Don't fill cavities with concrete. Don't unnecessarily enlarge or "point" tree wounds. Don't leave rope or wire wrapped around a tree trunk. Don't spray unless there is a clear need to control a specified pest or disease. If possible, avoid tree removal and major tree work in the spring, when you'll be destroying the nests and young of any birds inhabiting the tree. You are more likely to get a better price for tree work in the fall.

Author, Author

There's a new author in the neighborhood! Stratford Landing resident Sara Gorman just published her new book, "Despite Lupus: How to Live Well with a Chronic Illness." The book outlines the steps Sara has taken to regain the health and wellness she lost due to years of struggling with lupus, a chronic, debilitating, often life-threatening illness. Sara was diagnosed 8 ½ years ago, at the age of 26. A native of Indiana and graduate of the University of Notre Dame, Sara resides in Stratford Landing with her husband, 8-month old daughter, and two pug dogs. Want a copy

of Despite Lupus? Feel free to check out Sara's website at www.despitelupus.com, or contact her at sara@despitelupus.com or 703.360.0589. If you're in the neighborhood, save the cost of shipping and she'll hand deliver a signed, dedicated copy to your door! The book is \$19.95 plus tax.

Second Annual Potluck

The second annual Stratford Landing potluck dinner was held on Friday, May 8th at the Stratford Landing Elementary School. Neighbors young and old enjoyed mixing and mingling with each other, and welcoming new

families to the neighborhood. The food was wonderful, the kids had fun playing games, and a great time was had by all. A special thanks goes to everyone who participated in the potluck and the members of the community who helped set up and clean up. We look forward to doing it all over again next year!

Movie Night

Don't forget to mark your calendars for the SLCA and SRA annual movie night schedule for August 8th. Updates and announcements will be posted on the SLCA website as they are made available. Visit us at www.stratfordlanding.org

Leah Chapla

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

From the President

It has been an honor to serve this community as president these last 2 years. I am sad to say that I will not be running for a position on the SLCA Board at our Annual Meeting which is scheduled in October. I wanted to announce this information early so that members of the community who wish to be more involved, have over the summer to consider volunteering for our community. It has been a wonderful opportunity to serve you and I have enjoyed working with everyone. I have deep respect and admiration for those who have been volunteering along side of me, those who volunteered before me, and to those who come forward after me. If you are interested in running please contact Sue Massey, SLCA Secretary (*contact information on page 6*). Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank You!-*Melissa Cramer*

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,
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cboertlein@aol.com

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Heather Westphal,
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Transportation: Ken Pribyla,
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mdsnedecor@gmail.com

Membership: Mary Lou Hoffman,
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Planning & Zoning: Chad Coneway,
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(703) 780-4752, jwshawn@verizon.net

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
(continued page 6)

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, before 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 contact Melissa Cramer.

Help support our Community!

Please Contact businesses in our area with our flyer!

Our Membership Directory reaches over 700 homes

Directories are in use for 4 years and will be distributed to members this fall

They are given to all new members of the community now and over the next 4 years

Advertising Costs

\$150 for a full page

\$75 for a half page

\$400 for inside back cover

\$500 for inside front cover

Advertising copy will have an image size of 4 5/8 x 7 1/2 (full page) or 4 5/8 x 3 5/8 inches (half page), excluding margins. The files submitted should be EPS, TIFF, JPEG or PDF files of the largest size possible. By size, we mean the file size, not the physical size. The larger file sizes will increase the resolution of the ad, minimizing blurry/fuzzy type or photos. For example, an ad that is 2MB in size will print much better than one that is 300,000. Ads that are pulled from the Internet are always rather low resolution and won't work for quality printing purposes.

Correspondence, including transmittal of ad copy, should be sent to cboertlein@aol.com. Please be sure to include a name, phone number, and email address where your business may be contacted, with questions or concerns.

Payment should be made to:

Stratford Landing Citizens' Association

c/o Celia Boertlein, Treasurer

8815 Stockton Pkwy.

Alexandria, VA 22308

Thank You!