

# Stratford Landing Newsletter

*Stratford Landing Mount Vernon District Fairfax County December 2009*

**Bimonthly Newsletter**

## **Annual Holiday Decorating Contest**

It's getting cold and is dark way too early. So let's bring out the holiday decorations and light up the neighborhood! Mary Lou Han and her appointed judges will be scouting the neighborhood starting on December 15th to cast their votes. The four categories for judging are: Best Overall, Prettiest in the Daytime, Prettiest at Night, and Most Kid-Friendly. Winners will be chosen by December 19th. One winner from each category will win a \$50 gift certificate. So don't forget to decorate!

## **Pumping Station Referendum**

SLCA members need to disregard the Referendum concerning proposed amendments to the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan printed in the October 2009 Newsletter. One of the nominations was changed and

the Executive Board, if necessary, will be revising and reissuing a new referendum in the coming months. Currently the Area Plan Review (APR) will be moving into the task

**Santa Is Coming to  
Stratford Landing on  
December 19th at 3:00.  
The "sleigh" route can be  
found at  
[www.stratfordlanding.org](http://www.stratfordlanding.org)**

force analysis phase in January. Supervisor Gerry Hyland has given us until the early spring time to give him our wishes regarding what we want the Comprehensive Plan to say regarding the county property at the Little Hunting Creek Pumping Station. So, stay tuned for more on this issue.

## **Fall Coffee**

Neighbors had a relaxing morning at the second annual Fall Coffee on Saturday,

November 14th at the Stratford Landing Elementary School cafeteria. Community members brought delicious food to share and enjoyed coffee and great conversations with their neighbors.

## **SLCA Annual Meeting Highlights**

The SLCA Annual Meeting was held October 20, 2009, at Stratford Landing Elementary School, and attendance was high. The board reported they had received dues from 580 households, 138 households were present at the meeting and 153 households were represented by proxies. At 7:30 p.m., Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland made remarks on issues of concern to our area. All three candidates for the Virginia House of Delegates, 44th District, then spoke and took questions (Jay McConville, Republican; Scott Surovell, Democrat; and Glenda Parker, Independent Green). (continued page 2)

At 8:55 p.m., the Annual Meeting was called to order by President Melissa Cramer. Nominations were made, seconded, and voted upon. Contested races were voted upon by secret ballot. The following officers were elected: Ken Pribyla, President; Sue Massey, Vice President; Claire Kluskens, Secretary; Celia Boertlein, Treasurer; Mary Lou Hoffman, Membership; Ed Gonsalves, Parliamentarian and Rules Committee Chair; and Heather Westphal, Recreation Chair. There were no candidates for Community Improvements and Transportation Committee Chair, so the vacancy for this position will be filled by appointment at a later date. Dana Deighton and Angela Meyers will also serve as Recreation Committee co-chairs.

The following delegates to MVCCA committees, who are appointed by the president pursuant to SLCA bylaws, agreed to serve during the coming year: Chad Coneway, Budget and Finance; Patrick Meyers, Planning and Zoning; Jack Shawn, Health and Human Services; Betsy Martin, Environment and Recreation; Miriam Snedecor, Education; Joan McLellan, Workforce Housing. Delegates are needed

for the following MVCCA committees: Consumer Affairs and Public Safety. If you are interested please give Ken Pribyla a call at (703) 619-1385 or send him an email at [kprib@verizon.net](mailto:kprib@verizon.net).

Treasurer Celia Boertlein presented the proposed

the outgoing President Melissa Cramer and outgoing Vice President Charles Herrmann for their service to the SLCA. The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.

## Stratford Landing Halloween Parade and Party

Despite being moved to the rain date at the last minute, Stratford Landing families came out in droves for the annual Halloween Parade and Party sponsored by the Stratford Landing Citizens' Association. On a beautiful Sunday afternoon, superheroes, princesses, witches, and lots of little animals lined up behind a fantastic black truck (perfect for a Halloween event) for a march up

Camden Street. The fun continued at Stratford Landing Park where neighborhood children ran through the inflatable obstacle course, did some crafts, and played lots of game with balls, hula hoops, and bean bags. Special thanks go out to all the volunteers who helped make this a success.

### Leah Chapla

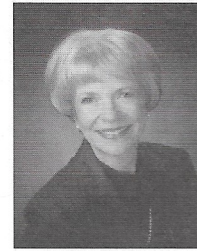
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2009-2010 budget and took questions about it from the floor. After discussion, the membership voted to accept the proposed budget.

President Melissa Cramer asked for a moment of silence for Past President Rick Edgerton, who passed away this summer. Past President Tom Burgess thanked

## Treasurer's Report

Balance on hand at beginning of FY 2010 (October 1, 2009) was \$7,768.36. Balance on hand as of 11/27/09 was \$13,582.40. Major receipts during period were \$5,920.00 from dues (58 members lower than budgeted) and \$2,025.00 from advertising in the upcoming community directory. We have now reached the "break even" point on the directory. Major disbursements during period were \$961.80 from printing of September and October newsletters; \$950.30 for costs of the annual meeting, Fall Festival/Halloween Parade, Fall Coffee; \$192.86 for maintenance of community

entrances. The contract for maintenance of community entrances has been awarded to AP Lawn and Landscaping. Additional expected expenditures by end of 1st quarter FY 2010 include printing of December newsletter, holiday decorating contest prizes, and insurance premiums.

## Get Your Newsletter and SLCA Updates by way of Email

As was discussed at the annual meeting, we will be moving to an electronic method of delivering the newsletter in the future and we will be setting up a process for you to opt in with your home address if you



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would still like a paper copy delivered to you. In the meantime please visit [www.stratfordlanding.org](http://www.stratfordlanding.org) and become familiar with all we have to offer on our website. Newsletters are posted on the website after the final draft is sent to the printer. Archived copies remain in the documents portion if you should ever need to revisit the information. Please help us move into the electronic age and assist us in getting you the latest and greatest news in a more timely fashion. Look for more information on how we will continue with this transition in your February Newsletter.

## Slow Down Out There, Please

We are receiving anecdotal evidence that we have a traffic problem here in our little neighborhood. The complaints include and are not limited to the following: rolling stops at intersections, speeding vehicles on many roads, and a general disregard for signage, pedestrians and each other. Our teenagers are learning to drive on our streets. We have received reports of some of the trainees and trainers are being passed illegally while they are teaching driver's education. The neighborhood should be setting an example of how to drive well not how to drive recklessly. (continued page 4)

It is obvious by the complaints being sent to the board that we can do better. Our neighborhood has a significant number of service industry businesses visiting our area every day. If these businesses are speeding or not following traffic signs please call the company directly with specific information. They do not want to lose our business and they will make the effort to change their employee's behavior. The rest of the infractions belong to our residents. We as neighbors are the ones who are ignoring driving etiquette and breaking the law. Let's use the personal responsibility inherent in the original planning of this neighborhood and be more respectful of our neighbors. Please watch out for one another out there.

### Bicycle Helmets

We repeatedly see too many children (teens) and adults riding bicycles in the neighborhood without a helmet. Helmets save lives, and protect from permanent brain injury. Some statistics: nationally, 698 bicyclists died in 2007 who were not wearing helmets. Head injuries accounted for 62.6 percent of all bicycle fatalities (year 2000, children 0-19). About 540,000 bicyclists visit emergency rooms with injuries every year. Of those, about 67,000 have head injuries, and 27,000 have injuries serious enough to be hospitalized.

More statistics can be found at <http://www.bhsi.org/stats.htm>.

### 2009/2010 Calendar

Check out our website at [www.stratfordlanding.org](http://www.stratfordlanding.org) for the calendar of events for 2009/2010.

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\*Transportation/Community Improvements—**Vacant**  
\*Consumer Affairs—**Vacant**  
\*Public Safety—**Vacant**  
**\*Please contact Ken Pribyla if you are interested in volunteering for the vacant positions above.**