

# Stratford Landing Newsletter

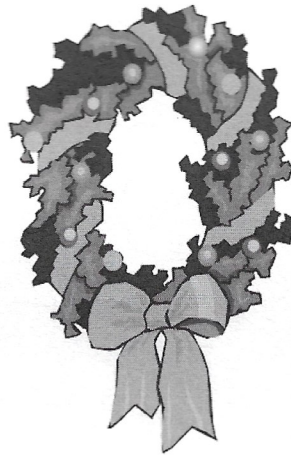
*Stratford Landing Mount Vernon District Fairfax County February 2010*

Bimonthly Newsletter

## Exec Committee Welcomes New Members

We are almost there! Thanks to several volunteers who recently joined us in our quest to keep you informed and represented on the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Association's (MVCCA) committees we have only one vacancy on the committee. Howard Bowdring was elected by the committee to chair the Transportation/Community Improvements committee so we now have someone to work those potholes and represent us at the MVCCA Transportation committee. Patrick Meyers came aboard as the appointed delegate for Planning and Zoning when Chad Coneway took the Budget and Finance appointment. Tony Magro stepped up to the Public Safety appointment. We welcome them all. We now have only one vacancy-Consumer Affairs. Please see the details on all the committee on the last page of the newsletter. Again, thanks to all who have worked with us to fill the committee positions and to better represent you in the Mount Vernon District and the county.

## Holiday Decorating Winners



Congratulations to our 2009 Holiday Decorating Winners:

Prettiest in the Daytime:

2317 Creek Drive

Prettiest at Night:

8709 Triumph Court

Most Kid-Friendly:

8725 Bluedale Street

Best Overall:

8622 Yardley Drive

Thanks to Mary Lou Hoffman and her committee of judges for getting the judging done before all of the beautiful decorations were covered in snow!

## Santa Was Diverted!

Thanks to the Blizzard of 2009, Santa's "sleigh" was needed elsewhere the weekend of December 19<sup>th</sup> and couldn't make it through Stratford Landing. Although his elves determined that alternate means of transportation would be unsafe under the circumstances, they did manage to deliver some candy to Spill The Beans Organic Coffee and Chat House to be distributed to local kids. They delivered and donated the rest to the Mondloch House Community Shelter on Lockheed Boulevard.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual SLCA Potluck Dinner Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup>

Plug in your crockpots and break out the baking sheets! The neighborhood potluck dinner is coming up this month. The event will be held in the Stratford Landing Elementary School Cafeteria from 6:00-7:30p.m. on Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup>. This is a great chance to come in from the cold, socialize with your neighbors, and sample (what is sure to be) a great variety of food. SLCA will provide drinks, utensils, and paper products.

# Stratford Landing

\*\*\* If your last name begins with A-M, please bring either a side dish or dessert.

\*\*\* If your last name begins with N-Z, please bring a main dish. Please contact Heather Westphal at 703-360-5258 if you have any questions.

## Next Up from the Recreation

**Committee:** Mark your calendars for the Spring Fling and Egg Hunt on Saturday, March 20<sup>th</sup>. Please check the website for further details as the date gets closer.

## County Budget Shortfall May Impact Schools

As most of you know, Fairfax County is facing a budget shortfall which will directly impact our schools. On January 7, Superintendent Jack Dale presented to the School Board a budget that included \$104.8 million in program cuts. The cuts that will impact our community include:

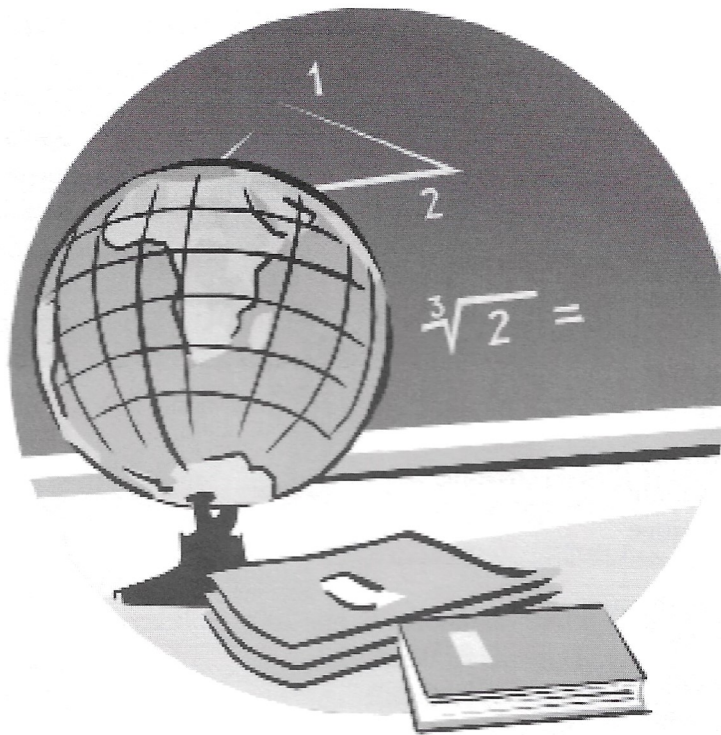
- \*The elimination of "behind the wheel" drivers education
- \*Bus service to "gifted and talented" centers if a base school has "gifted and talented" equivalent classes available
- \*Bus service to academy programs if there are fewer than five students enrolled in the program from a high school
- \*Freshman athletics, indoor track and winter cheerleading
- \*Foreign language in elementary schools (not including immersion programs)
- \*"Focus" program at Fort Hunt Elementary

\*Most traditional summer school programs

Other proposed actions include (but not limited to):

- \*Increasing class size by one student per teacher for all classes except special education
- \*Freezing employee salaries and no cost of living increase
- \*Adding new fees for AP and IB tests
- \*Adding fees for athletic programs
- \*Increasing community use fees

There is a resolution proposed by



Ron Fitzsimmons (ronJfitz@cox.net) calling for increasing the real estate tax by 10 cents, raising approximately \$180 million (roughly \$100 per home owner). The funds would be specifically earmarked for Fairfax County Public Schools. Whether you agree or disagree with such a measure, the best thing you can do individually is to contact the Board of Supervisors (ALL members of the BOS) and let them know your thoughts.

Chairman, At-Large — Sharon Bulova

Districts

Braddock — John C. Cook

Dranesville — John W. Foust

Hunter Mill — Catherine M. Hudgins

Lee — Jeff C. McKay

Mason — Penelope A. Gross, Vice Chairman

Mount Vernon — Gerald W. Hyland

Providence — Linda Q. Smyth

Springfield — Pat Herryty

Sully — Michael R. Frey

Should you wish to contact them, go to:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/government/board>.

Upcoming key dates are:

\*February 4 School Board adopts FY2011 Advertised Budget

\*February 23 County Executive releases FY2011 Advertised Budget

To get involved in the budget process and learn about the FCPS budget, visit their website at <http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2011.htm>.

If you want to speak at a board meeting go to <http://www.fcps.edu/schlbld/requestspeak.htm>

If you wish further clarification on any of the above, please feel free to contact our reps for Education, Miriam Snedecor, and Budget and Finance, Chad Coneway. Their contact information is on the last page of the newsletter.

# Stratford Landing

## LITTLE HUNTING CREEK CLEANUP

9:00 a.m.-noon April 10<sup>th</sup>

The Potomac-wide cleanup sponsored by Alice Ferguson Foundation takes place April 10<sup>th</sup> this year. Friends of Little Hunting Creek invite you to help clean up the creek as part of this effort—you may win a free rain barrel!

We'll pick up trash and pull invasive English ivy at the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust site (at the intersection of Londonderry and Stockton Parkway) and on the grounds of the sewage pump station. Gloves and trashbags will be provided. Community service credit is given.

You can work from the water or from the shore:

- To go out on the creek, volunteers must bring their own canoes or kayaks, paddles, and life vests and have paddling experience. Call number below in advance to arrange to launch from 8706 Stockton Parkway in late afternoon, when the tide is rising.
- Loppers are helpful for removing invasives.
- The shore is muddy, and some areas have poison ivy—volunteers should wear long pants and sleeves and sturdy (rubber?) boots.
- Gloves and trash bags will be provided.

Thanks to the Stratford Landing Citizens' Association, the two Stratford households that pick up the most trash will win FREE rain barrels and complimentary enrollment in a rain barrel workshop conducted by the No. VA Soil and Water Conservation District. A rain barrel attached to

your downspout provides free water for your lawn or garden and reduces stormwater runoff from your roof!

For more information, contact Betsy Martin at 703-360-0691 or e-mail [Betsy@folhc.org](mailto:Betsy@folhc.org)

## Stratford Recreation Association News

Many members have asked if they may pay their SRA dues in installments - and the answer is YES! (Though all 2010 dues must be paid in full by April 1st or late fees will apply!) Although the formal budget (including 2010 dues amount) will not be set by the Board until mid-February, if you wish to pay in three installments, it is suggested the first two be \$200.00. The final installment should be based on the actual 2010

budgeted amount announced in the March SRA News. Again, dues must be paid in full by April 1<sup>st</sup>, or late fees will apply. Please contact Rob Maher ([rob@mortgagefool.com](mailto:rob@mortgagefool.com)) or Arline Fay ([afay3@verizon.net](mailto:afay3@verizon.net)) if you have questions.

Upcoming SRA Fundraising Events (a portion of your total food order donated to SRA):

Chevy's -- March 10<sup>th</sup>, 11 am to 10 pm (email [jnyalko@verizon.net](mailto:jnyalko@verizon.net) for a copy of the flyer, if needed)

Moe's -- February 20<sup>th</sup>, all day

## Stratford Woman's Club

The Stratford Woman's Club annual chicken luncheon for 50 members of the Route One Corridor Homeless was held on Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> at the Mt. Vernon Health Center. Each guest received a



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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:

- Tom sells more Fort Hunt homes than any other individual real estate agent.
- Your home receives worldwide exposure on Tom's personal web site [www.talk2tom.com](http://www.talk2tom.com) and is advertised on many other sites such as Realtor.com, trulia.com, and homesdatabase.com.
- Use of Tom's moving truck.
- You benefit from Tom's 25 years experience and more than 1600 homes sold.
- For more benefits, do not hesitate to call Tom at 703-360-6300.



new warm shirt donated by club members, and numerous donations of food were provided by local restaurants. This difficult task, which requires considerable coordination, was the work of our committee ladies Nancy Truluck, Dorene Steadman, and Elsie Plues. Thanks to all who participated.

## St Aidan's Day School Seeking Director

St. Aidan's Day School is seeking a new preschool Director to oversee 125 children and 20 staff for the upcoming 2010-11 school year. A complete job description is outlined on our website: <http://www.staidanepiscopal.com/school.php>. Please send resumes by February 19<sup>th</sup> to Search Committee, Attn: Elizabeth Rees, at [saintaidans@verizon.net](mailto:saintaidans@verizon.net) or St. Aidan's Episcopal Church, 8531 Riverside Road, Alexandria, VA 22308.

## Student of the Year Civic Award

Posted on the MVCCA website, [www.mvcca.org](http://www.mvcca.org), is information (criteria and application) about its first ever Student of the Year Civic Award.

The purpose of the award is to recognize a high school senior from Mount Vernon HS, South County SS and/or West Potomac HS who demonstrates personal achievement through community involvement, volunteer work, and/or exceptional civic duties. The award(s) will be presented during the MVCCA Annual Gala on May 1st.

## 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

## Block Captains

Thank you all for what you do to keep our membership informed and in touch with us. You are the glue that keeps us viable in the neighborhood. Please, if you have not done so, provide your email to Ken Pribyla, [kprib@verizon.net](mailto:kprib@verizon.net), when you have distributed this edition of the newsletter. We would like to establish a contact list for keeping you up to speed on issues and other late breaking news and events. Also, it will allow us quicker updates to the membership roster. Again, thanks for all you do for the association.

## Electronic Newsletters and Listserve Email Update

We are working on this process and ask for your patience. It may be as simple as borrowing someone's fifteen year old to get us into the 'Tech' era. Regardless, we will continue with both print and electronic media to reach you the members. Stand by for more in the coming months.



## Fort Hunt / Mt. Vernon

### Business Networking Group



Connect with Local Business Owners & Professionals who live and work right here in our neighborhood.

### Networking with Neighbors

Monthly Networking events Thursdays at

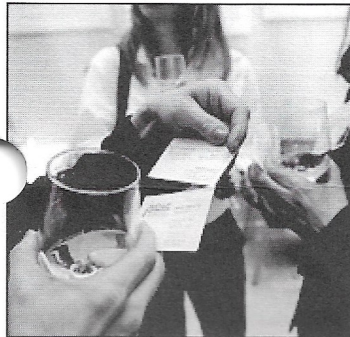
#### Spill the Beans

1900 Elkin St.

6:00PM – 8:00PM

• February 25<sup>th</sup> • March 18<sup>th</sup> • April 15<sup>th</sup>

• May 20<sup>th</sup> • June 10<sup>th</sup>



- Meet other Business Owners
- Learn about Local Resources
- Exchange Leads
- Support our Local Economy!

We have an online group on Facebook.

Mt. Vernon/Fort Hunt Area Business Network

For more information contact Kimberly Villa  
Kimberly@TallGirlPromotions.com or (703) 780-1171

### Attention Blood Donors

The next Community Blood Drive is on Saturday February 6 at INOVA Mt Vernon Hospital. Call Jack Shawn at 703-780-4752 for further information.



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7924 Grimsley St.  
Alexandria, VA 22309  
**(703) 360-3939**

www.stratfordlanding.org

### Children's Book Drive for Homeless Shelters

Two Stratford Landing West Potomac High School students, sisters Callie and Abby Jacobs, are undertaking an ambitious service project as they launch their 2010 Children's Book Drive for Homeless Shelters. Their goal is to collect over 1,000 gently used and/or new children's books by the end of March to donate to local homeless shelters. Books ranging from the most basic board books to young adult books are perfect donations for the book drive! Maybe you have some children's books at home that your kids have outgrown - you can contact Callie Jacobs at [calliente27@gmail.com](mailto:calliente27@gmail.com) or Abby Jacobs at [ajacobs94@gmail.com](mailto:ajacobs94@gmail.com) to let them know you have books to donate and they will schedule a book pickup. What could be easier?



### Special Thanks

As mentioned on the previous page, I borrowed a neighbor's fifteen year old to publish this edition of your newsletter. So, a big THANK YOU goes out to young Master Jack Wilson of Turbridge Lane for his expertise in design and his patience with an electronic dinosaur. God Bless you, Jack. Thanks.

## Stratford Landing Executive Committee Officers

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Consumer Affairs—Vacant

Please contact Ken Pribyla if you are interested in volunteering for the Consumer Affairs position.