

Stratford Landing

Newsletter

Stratford Landing Mount Vernon District Fairfax County June 2010

Bimonthly Newsletter

Drive 4 Deals--Community Yard Sale, June 12th, 8AM

Clear out those closets, basements and garages and get ready to sell it all on the 12th of June. The event is being advertised in newspapers, our sandwich boards, online and anywhere else we can get the word out. So, join your neighbors, tote that stuff out to the yard, driveway, or setup in the garage and get ready for the bargain hunters. Sale start time is 8 AM. Good luck and happy hunting.



Citizen and Student of the Year both from Stratford Landing

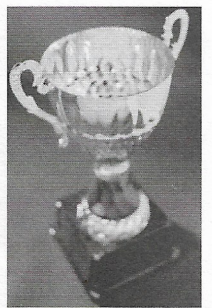
Congratulations to Joan McLellan who was selected as the MVCCA Citizen of the Year and to Rachel Lau who was selected as the MVCCA Student of the Year. They were honored at this year's Gala held on May 1. Joan has served for many years as

the voice and conscience of her community on the many social justice issues that affect citizens of the Mount Vernon Magisterial District. Joan has been actively involved with outreach missions

at her church, MVCCA's Special Committee on Affordable and Workforce Housing, Ventures in Community (VIC), and delivering food to UCM, Rising Hope, or Mondloch House. She has spent many nights at Rising Hope, hosting the homeless of the Richmond Highway Corridor so that they had a meal and a warm place to sleep through the winter months. In each of these activities, Joan can always be counted on to see the needs of those around her and spur others to respond to those needs. Her energetic and committed leadership in these organizations has inspired her community and provided an invaluable link to other organizations in addressing the welfare of the needy

within our District.

The Student of the Year is a new award for MVCCA, and two recipients were selected for 2010 – Jasmin Lawrence from Mount Vernon High School and our own Rachel Lau from West Potomac High School. These two young women are outstanding role models – they work very hard at school, are very active in their churches, and have interests that they share outside of school and church. Challenges that might defeat other young people bring out the best in these two young women. Jasmin is very active in her church, and volunteers at a recovery clinic. Her wish is to become a rehabilitation counselor and eventually open her own clinic. Rachel is active in her church and Girl Scouts. And although she doesn't talk about it, she is a very accomplished theater techie, working at her high school, her church, and with other groups in the Mount Vernon area.



Again, congratulations Joan and Rachel and also Jasmin. Well done!

We Have a School Budget for Next Year

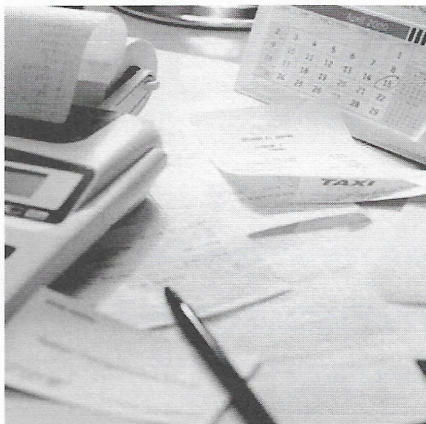
To learn the details and kill any rumors about next year's school budget go to: <http://www.fcps.edu/news/fy2011/bottomline052410.html>

From the Treasurer--Celia Boertlein

As of May 15, 2010 --Balance is \$3,306.73.

Balance on hand at beginning of fiscal year was \$7,768.36

Receipts for fiscal year have been \$10,325.00 (dues + advertising in



newsletter/directory)

controversy over how to characterize the property in the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan. This plan is required by state law to be used as a guide in decision-making about the built and natural environment by the county's Board of Supervisors and other agencies, such as the Planning Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals. It is also a guide for County staff and the public to use in the



Disbursements for fiscal year have been \$14,783.63

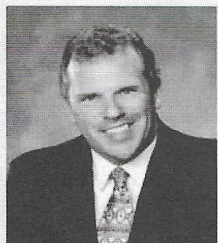
Total design & printing costs for 1,000 copies of the 2010 SLCA directory was \$4,352.80. (\$4.35 per copy). Total directory advertising collected (fiscal 2009 & 2010) was \$5,650.

Little Hunting Creek Pumping Station Update

We finally have the beginnings of closure concerning future plans for Little Hunting Creek Pumping Station. As many of you know there has been considerable

planning process. The plan is reviewed every five years and this Area Plan Review has been underway since February of this year.

As you know, the 9.6 acre property is currently public land used by the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES) for a sewage pumping station. Over the years, there have been numerous attempts to better define future use of the property should the County ever decide to surplus any of that property. Most recently, there was a proposal to edit the Comprehensive Plan section describing the pumping station acreage to update the wording calling it a sewage treatment plant to correctly identify it as only a pumping station. Also, some felt surplus acreage might be of benefit in other ways specifically as open space. The outcome of this nomination process resulted in two nominations being proposed to the County regarding future use of the land.



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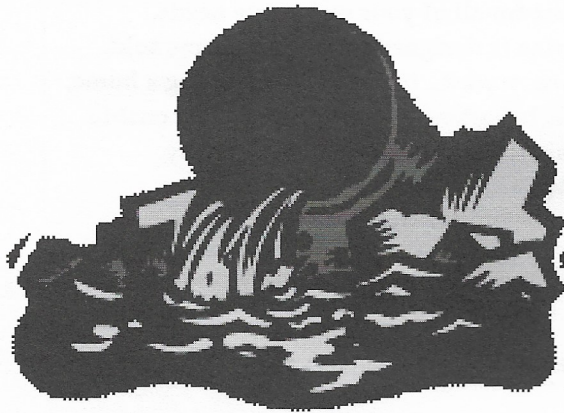
703-360-6300

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



You can access those nominations, preliminary staff report, and task force outcome at [this link](#). Go to the Mount Vernon Supervisor District section and look in the April 13th meeting agenda where you will find the applicable nominations, [09-IV-9MV](#) and [09-IV-10MV](#). Follow the links embedded along the way.

At that 13 April meeting, the nominations came before the APR Task Force for review and a decision as to what should be forwarded on



to the Planning Commission which will then review and advise the Board of Supervisors as to what the final Comprehensive Plan language should be regarding Little Hunting Creek pumping station.

Based on county staff investigations and discussions with the nominators the task force learned that the DPWES has no plans to surplus any of the land surrounding the pumping station into the foreseeable future, the volume of sewage pumped through and on to the Lorton treatment facility is the third highest in the county, and DPWES plans to keep the site secure and will not allow any public access. The staff recommended removing any language about surplus land, residential zoning, or open space. The task force amended the language to further eliminate extraneous wording and ambiguity and approved unanimously (19-0-0) the following plan language: **The site of**

the Little Hunting Creek Pumping Station is planned for and should be maintained in the long term for its current use as a sewage pumping station.

The unanimous vote of the Task Force makes it clear that issues of access to the Pumping Station and possible future uses of its property transcend Stratford Landing and are of concern to citizens throughout the Mount Vernon District. In conclusion, there will be no change in land use for the foreseeable.....and unforeseeable future for Little Hunting Creek Pumping Station.

The process continues with the Planning Commission reviews in June and July and then the final approval by the Board of Supervisors in September. You can track the public hearings on the issues at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/apr/southctyschedule.htm>. The applicable Planning Commission meeting for our pumping station issue will be July 14, 2010 @ 7:30pm, location to be determined.

Crime Prevention for Your Car

From Fairfax County Police Department Mount Vernon District

Several communities in the Mount Vernon District have been victim to night time vandals and thieves in the past month. We are working hard to solve these cases, but we need your help. If you are a victim of a crime, please report it to us.

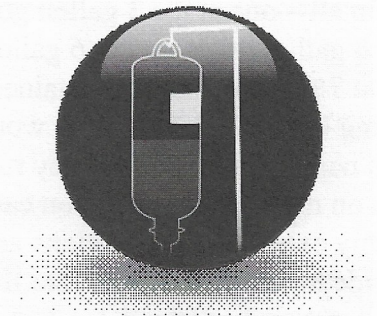
Tips for deterring thefts:

- Do not leave valuables in your vehicle. Remove portable GPS units from the dashboard, including the cradle. Do not simply place it in the glove box or under the seat.
- Keep a supply of moist towelettes to clean the area of the windshield

marked by the suction cup.

- Do not leave laptop computers, cameras, satellite radios or cellular telephones in your vehicle.
- Lock all doors and close windows when leaving the car, even if it is only for a short time.
- When possible, try to park the vehicle in a well-lit, busy area.
- Record your serial numbers to all your electronics such as your GPS, radio, etc.
 1. Make, 2. Model, 3. Serial #

For more information regarding this or other important crime prevention initiatives, please contact the Mount Vernon Crime Prevention Unit at 703-360-8928.



Blood Drive Recognition/ Next Drive From Jack Shawn

I was privileged to attend the Annual Recognition Dinner on May 6th sponsored by the INOVA Blood Donor Services recognizing over 1000 blood donors who had attained goals of from 3 to 23 gallons (yes, 23!) during 2009. It was an honor to be among the over 400 of them who were present. We heard inspirational accounts from blood recipients (both adult and little children) whose lives were saved or maintained through the donations of these wonderful people and it challenged us all to do even more in the future. One told us that statistics show that, in spite of the rigid but necessary requirements that have eliminated many of us as donors in the past, over 38% of Americans are still

eligible to give, but only 5% actually become donors. What easier way is there to become a hero than by giving some grateful recipient the gift of life?

community. She became a Virginia resident in 2004 when she and her husband were stationed here by the U.S. Air Force. They became Stratford Landing residents in 2006. Among the many contributions to the community, Miriam taught religious education classes and was an active volunteer at Stratford Landing Elementary. She will be sorely missed.

Godspeed Miriam to you and your family and thanks for being such a giving member of your community.

Feathered Friends

Thanks to Claire Kluskens During April and May almost 50 species of birds were seen in Stratford Landing, including Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Greater Yellowlegs, Ring-billed Gull, Mourning Dove, Barred Owl, Chimney Swift, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, White-eyed Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Fish Crow, Tree Swallow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Barn Swallow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-

breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, House Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Northern Parula, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Blackpoll Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, Song Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, House Finch, American Goldfinch, and House Sparrow.

The spring migration of songbirds is well underway. For more information

2009

Certificate of Recognition

Inova Blood Donor Services Honors
Stratford Landing
 Citizens Association, Inc.
 For Sponsoring Lifesaving Blood Drives

Thank you for helping to save the lives
 of patients in our community.

Terry Endlish
 Director
 Inova Blood Donor Services

INOVA BLOOD
 DONOR SERVICES

I was proud to see that donors from our Stratford Landing program were very well represented. There were eight in all—one at the 3 gallon goal, 2 at the 4 gallon mark, one at 6 gallons, three at 7 gallons, one who attained the amazing level of 13 gallons. I would like to name names, but privacy rules frown on my doing so. But you can certainly extend congratulations and gratitude to a gracious lady who lives at the south end of Bluedale. Just think, that is 104 pints, 104 donations, 104 trips to INOVA Mount Vernon Hospital just to give for us!

I will be gathering our heroes for the next drive at the hospital on June 5th. Won't you join us, or at least try to see if you can give? Call me, Jack Shawn, at 703-780-4752 if you have questions or want to schedule a time on that Saturday morning. The drive following is on August 7th. Mark it down, please and thanks again to all our donors!

Special Thanks and Farewell

Miriam Snedecor, our delegate to the Education Committee of the MVCCA will be departing this month after two years of sterling service to the executive committee and this

Leah Chapla

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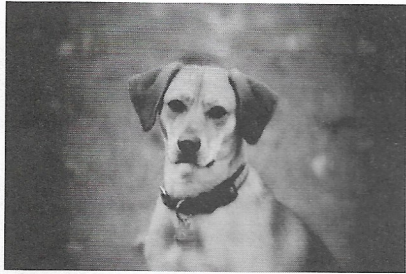
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 Alexandria, VA 22309
(703) 360-3939

about birds in our area, visit: www.eBird.org and www.allaboutbirds.org.

Curb Your Pets

Many of us in the community have reached a new level of frustration with our neighbors who continue to



neglect cleaning up after their pets. Often these pets are not on a leash and running well ahead of their owner thereby making it an occurrence that goes unnoticed. I learned how bad it really is during the snow storm when walking the dogs was possible only in the narrow confines of the plowed portion of the street. I was amazed at how much 'stuff' was left in the snow and on the road by owners who don't seem to pay attention to their dogs whether on or off the leash. This made me realize how bad it is for homeowners along the favorite 'dog walking' routes because when the snow is gone, all that 'stuff' is deposited in their yards. It is not pleasant to include items like this in this community newsletter but we all need to pay attention to the basic rules of common respect we should have for our neighbors to begin with. It is truly a simple thing to do and, as a pet owner, a duty to your neighbors.

Creek Cleanup a Success

Thanks to all the neighbors who joined the Friends of Little Hunting Creek in this year's creek clean up

conducted April 10 under the auspices of Alice Ferguson Foundation's Potomac River Watershed Cleanup. Friends of Little Hunting Creek surpassed last year's cleanup results: at 10 sites from Route 1 to the mouth of the creek, 117 volunteers picked up 227 bags of trash, 13 tires, and other weird and weighty items.

Leading Stratford Landing trash collectors and contenders for prizes sponsored by the Stratford Landing Citizens Association were:

- **BOERTLEIN AND THE CUB SCOUTS**, who collected 22 bags of trash, a fender, an air conditioner cover, motorcycle helmet, lawn chair and tire on the grounds of the Little Hunting Creek pump station,
- **WHITESSELL AND FRIENDS**, with 21 bags of trash, a tire, and a sheet of plywood collected from the Stirrup



marsh

- **LARKIN AND THE GIRL SCOUTS**, collecting 16 bags

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANER FOR 24 YEARS
WE CARE ABOUT OUR COMMUNITY & THE ENVIRONMENT



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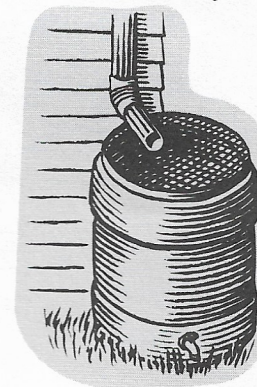
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and a big pile of honeysuckle from the Northern VA Conservation Trust site,

- **PAULNBETS**, collecting 10 bags, a 3 hp motor, and a tire at Shaw Park Court.
- **CULLEN AND GIRLS**, collecting 5 bags on Stockton Parkway.



Since Beate Whitesell won last year, Celia Boertlein and Kim Larkin won this year's SLCA rain barrel prizes.

And, finally, the **REAL** winners: all of us who love the creek and love to see its beauty unmarred by trash.

Springtime on the Water

Submitted by Roberta Masters-Cullen

Spring is in full bloom, everything is growing.

People are out planting flowers, lawn services are mowing.

New life is emerging - both in the creek and on the ground.

Baby turtles sun on logs, beavers swim by with branches they've found.

Osprey go fishing each day, they've reclaimed their nests.

The groundhog waddles by - I like him the best.

All of God's creatures, great and small, each make their own lovely sounds.....too bad they can't speak or stand five feet tall.

If they could come to a meeting of our SLCA,

Here's what I think they might like to say:

*Please pull up the weeds using your strong hands,

Or try something simpler like your old vinegar.

* Don't use Round-up or one of those sprays.

The next time it rains, it'll come

We've been here for decades, unable to speak.

Not everyone's perfect, but each of your choices affects both your yard, and those of us without voices.

For more information on how you can manage your lawn in a way that is safe for Little Hunting Creek and the Chesapeake Bay, please visit the Chesapeake Bay Foundation: <http://www.cbf.org/Document.Doc?id=59> and become a Gardener for the Bay.

Block Captains Email Addresses Still Needed

Please pass along your email address to Ken Pribyla or Mary Lou Hoffman



if you have not done so. We are still compiling the list to electronically

speed selective information out to the community and you folks are our best conduit right now.

If you don't

have email, then we need to know that as well so we can then use other methods when corresponding with you. Thanks again for all you do.

Executive Committee Openings and Coming Annual Meeting

With the departure of Miriam our Education Delegate, we will need a volunteer to step forward to take her place. If you are interested please contact Ken Pribyla, 703-619-1385, kprib@verizon.net.

Additionally, we are fast approaching the October Annual Meeting where we will be holding committee elections. If you are interested in serving your community through the association committee or know someone who would be an asset to the organization, you have until September 15th to announce or nominate them. There will be another announcement in the August newsletter, but please consider serving in some capacity. We would love to share the fun with you.

Upcoming SLCA Event

Our next event will be **Movie Night** at the Stratford Landing pool in August.



Check the website for details later this summer and the specifics will also be in the August newsletter.



down this way.

*Ask the lawn service not to apply fertilizer -

It doesn't taste good as an appetizer.

Thank you for cleaning up our Hunting Creek,