

Stratford Landing

Newsletter

Stratford Landing Mount Vernon District Fairfax County August 2014

Bimonthly Newsletter

A Message from the SLCA President

Coming as a surprise to all I've queried, we now have speed humps in front of Stratford Landing Elementary which were installed in early August. While there may have been a legitimate need to better control traffic speeds on Riverside Lane, VDOT has developed a disturbing practice of reacting to complaints from a relative few without consulting the community at large (we saw this recently on Sherwood Hall Lane). And yet, complaints about the many potholes ...

With school starting next week, a reminder to be more cautious when driving is timely. Be safe for all our sakes.



Concerns about County Spraying for Fall Cankerworm

In late April, 2014, 2,200 acres of Fairfax County were subjected to aerial spraying in the County's Fall Cankerworm Suppression Program. 70% of the sprayed area is in the Mount Vernon District, and one spray area is directly across Little Hunting Creek from Stratford Landing, in Wessynton (for a map, see

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/environmental/fallcankerworm/canker_sprayblock.htm). The insecticide used is *Bacillus thuringiensis var. kurstaki* (Btk), made in the laboratory from a naturally-occurring soil bacterium.

The target of the spraying is the fall cankerworm (*Alsophila pometaria*, more commonly known as inchworm or looper), a native species of moth that is in its caterpillar stage in spring. The inchworm does not bite or

sting humans nor transmit human disease, but it can be a nuisance to people and it can harm trees. Trees usually recover, but if inchworms defoliate trees several years in a row, they may die, especially if they are already stressed by drought, air pollution, etc.

The insecticide Btk is widely believed to be safe to humans and other mammals, but some suggest that the evidence is insufficient to expose large populations to aerial applications. It may persist in soil and water, and there is a risk of drift.

The insecticide kills not only the inchworm, but all butterfly and moth caterpillars (Lepidoptera) exposed to it, including Virginia's state insect, the



Eastern Tiger Swallowtail butterfly, which is usually common but is rare in our area this year. Instructions for the product used by Fairfax County (Foray 48B) instruct that, "This product must not be applied aerially within ¼ mile of any

habitats of threatened or endangered Lepidoptera." The Frosted Elfin, a butterfly that Virginia lists as a species of Greatest Conservation Need, is documented in or near areas being sprayed.

In spring, caterpillars are an important food source for migrating and

breeding birds of Fairfax County. Virtually all birds feed caterpillars to their young, so killing all caterpillars in late April knocks out the food source for nestlings in areas affected by spraying. The County's helicopter broadcast spraying occurs at a time of peak migration for birds passing through our area. They depend on this high protein food source to sustain themselves during their long migration. Songbird populations have been experiencing population declines over the past few decades, and elimination of an important food source at the peak of migration and breeding adds a stress factor to the birds. Studies of chickadees and warblers confirm that after Btk spraying, birds forage longer for food, bring fewer caterpillars to the nest, and even make fewer nesting attempts.



Because of concerns about the impacts on wildlife of the spraying program, several organizations oppose it and are asking the county to stop it. They include the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia, Friends of Dyke Marsh, Friends of Huntley Meadows Park, Friends of Mason Neck State Park, Friends of Meadowood, and the Northern Virginia Bird Club.

If you want to learn more, you may want to hear both sides of the issue at two presentations this fall:

Sept. 3, 7:15 p.m., Conf. Rm. 3, Mount Vernon Government Center: Staff from the county's Pest Management Branch will make a presentation about the program to the MVCCA Environment and Recreation Committee. (This meeting is open to the public, but public participation is at the discretion of the chair.)

Sept. 15, 7:00 p.m., Sherwood Meeting Room, Sherwood Hall Library: Katherine Wychulis, Friends of Dyke Marsh, will present "Time to End Insecticide Spraying Program to Control Native Fall Cankerworm." Sponsored by the Friends of Little Hunting Creek. All are welcome.

Litter Movie on Oct. 17

It's bad enough that Friends of Little Hunting Creek cajole you to participate in the creek cleanup every year, but now



they're showing movies about litter??

Yup. Come see *Plastic Paradise: The Great Pacific Garbage Patch*, Friday, October 17, 7:30 p.m. at the Huntley Meadows Visitor Center, 3701 Lockheed Blvd.

Plastic is ubiquitous in the environment—including Little Hunting Creek and the rest of the Potomac shoreline. Come see this documentary movie about one place where the world's plastic ends up, and its harmful effects on birds and other animals, and the environment. Part of the film focuses on remote Midway Atoll, the winter home for most of the world's remaining populations of Laysan, black-footed, and short-tailed albatrosses. Unfortunately it also lies within the so-called "Great Pacific garbage patch," an area of the central North Pacific Ocean characterized by

very high concentrations of plastic debris trapped by the currents of the North Pacific Gyre.

In this independent film, journalist/filmmaker Angela Sun goes on a journey of discovery and meets scientists, researchers, and volunteers who shed light on the effects of our plastic consumption.

This program is free and is open to the public. Visit www.plasticparadisemovie.com to watch the trailer.

Sponsored by the Friends of Little Hunting Creek, Alice Ferguson Foundation, Friends of Dyke Marsh, Sierra Club/Mount Vernon Group, and the Mount Vernon Unitarian Church, Green Sanctuary Task Force.

Feathered Friends

As summer winds down, the birds have become more quiet. Young ospreys have left their

nests. During July and August, 46 species were reported in Stratford Landing: Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Green Heron, Black Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Mourning Dove, Barred Owl, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Ring-billed Gull, Laughing Gull, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Blue Jay, American Crow, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Louisiana Waterthrush, Cedar Waxwing, Song Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Orchard Oriole, House Finch, American Goldfinch, and House Sparrow. For more information about birds in our area, visit eBird.org and allaboutbirds.org. Want to see what you've been missing? Bird walks are held every Sunday morning at Dyke Marsh (meet near the north end of the Belle Haven picnic area) at 8:00 a.m. and at Huntley Meadows Park in the parking lot every



Monday morning at 7:00 a.m.
All are welcome

From our transportation chair:

See the picture below for information about a County wide traffic/speeding survey being conducted. If you would like to participate you can follow this link: <http://svy.mk/1oef9WO> or go to the Fairfax County website and enter the search term “speeding initiative”.

I know this is a topic no one wants to think about, but with the enhanced traffic enforcement this month, I thought this was an opportune time to talk about it.

What should I do if I get pulled over by the police??

Consider the following:

Do Not assume the reason you are being stopped – the officer will let you know upon their approach

Police officers are trained to place themselves in a position/posture which increases their safety.

Their actions and communications are not intended to be offensive

Over-reaction, yelling or being uncooperative will complicate the situation and will increase the amount of time of the stop

When the officer approaches your vehicle:

Remain seated in the vehicle with your seatbelt ON – do not exit your vehicle unless instructed to do so by the officer



What is the neighborhood picnic?

If you are new to Stratford Landing, the neighborhood picnic is a great way to meet new neighbors. For those that have lived here a while, it is a fun way to catch up with friends. Last year we celebrated Stratford Landing with new games (cakewalk!), catered BBQ, and boat rides (thanks to our very own President – Rob Maher!).

Here's what you need to know:

The main course, utensils/paper goods, and non-alcoholic drinks are provided. Bring your own chairs and picnic blankets. There is an available boat launch, so bring your canoe!

What do we need from you?

- Please bring a side to share WITH a serving spoon:
 - Last names of A-M : A healthy salad or fruit
 - Last names: N-Z : Any other side dish or dessert to share
- If your children intend to participate in the cakewalk, please bring a small cake or 6 cupcakes. Remember, the more cakes, the more times the kids get to play this fun game!
- Questions: Courtney Cheney Courtney.cheney@capsco-inc.com
Kelly Garr klw2p@hotmail.com

Leave your hands on the steering wheel in the 10 & 2 position

Do Not make any sudden movements or gestures

If it is during the hours of darkness, turn on the interior light of your car as soon as you stop, then place your hands back on the steering wheel

When the officer asks for identification and registration – if you need to reach for the documents, or if they are in a bag, purse or glove box, please let the officer know what you are going to do, and get a positive response from the officer before acting

Remain calm – do not become argumentative

Cooperation can greatly reduce the amount of time you are detained

If there are passengers in the vehicle, you should advise them to keep their hands clearly

visible, to make no sudden movements and to follow the officers instructions

I disagree with what I am being charged with – why do I have to sign the summons?

The Code of Virginia requires the recipient of a summons/traffic ticket to sign. It affirms your promise to appear in the appointed court or to pre-pay the ticket before the assigned court date (if prepayment is indicated on the summons).

This is not an option – if you do not sign the summons, the officer is required to bring you before a magistrate.

Your signature **IS NOT** an admission of guilt – it is only affirming your promise to appear in court or to prepay the summons (if allowed)

If you disagree with the officer you may appear in court and make your argument to the Judge, who is the trier of fact –

not the officer

Haven't signed up for Fairfax Alerts yet??

Why not???

Be Safe,
Greg

MPO Greg Kottemann
Fairfax County Police
Department
Mount Vernon District
Station
Crime Prevention Unit
703-360-8400 x 2275
gkotte@fairfaxcounty.gov

Volunteer Opportunity

If you're looking for a way to make a difference in the Mount Vernon community, you don't need to look further than Mount Vernon At Home. We are a non-profit organization that relies on volunteer time and talent as we assist older adults to age in

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How often will I receive alerts? Emergency alerts will be customized to your preferences. However, alerts about events posing a significant risk to life or property will be sent to all devices.	How much does it cost? Fairfax Alerts is free. You may incur charges from your cell phone company if you have a per-call or per message limit on your mobile device.
Will my information be shared? No, the information you provide will be used for emergency purposes only.	How do I sign up? Sign up and customize your Fairfax Alerts at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts .
What other ways can I stay informed? Emergency Blog: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog Twitter: twitter.com/fairfaxcounty Facebook: facebook.com/fairfaxcounty	

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts

place in their homes. Our volunteers provide that extra help that make aging in place easier for seniors in our neighborhood.

Volunteers are needed for local transportation to medical and personal appointments, errands, and grocery store trips; light handyman chores and home technology to name just a few. No minimum number of volunteer hours is required. Please call Mount Vernon At Home ([703-303-4060](tel:703-303-4060)) or email us at info@mountvernonathome.org to learn more. AND...check out our website for our newsletter and more information at www.mountvernonathome.org.

Classifieds

NOTE: Any SLCA member who would like to place an ad, please send a note or email to the editor with the ad information and your contact information. Listings of items for sale are limited to one year. Ads for services require at least one written recommendation (e.g. email) from a Stratford Landing resident. The editors reserve the right to remove or reject such ads.



They said we were fools to price mortgages this low!



M. Robert Maher
Director

207 S. Alfred Street

Alexandria, Virginia 22314

Office: 703-535-1556

Fax: 206-350-4967

Email: rob@mortgagefool.com

Piano and Voice Lessons:

Kim Fairchild, a resident of Stratford Landing, is offering piano and voice lessons for children and adults. Please call 703-629-3339 for more information.



Stratford Landing

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