

# Stratford Landing Newsletter

*Stratford Landing Mount Vernon District Fairfax County October 2014*

Bimonthly Newsletter



I can't claim to know Hannah or her family well. But that smile is not one you forget and I first saw it while stopping to watch a West Potomac softball game. She was at bat and flashed it when looking back at her team as they urged her on from the dugout. Hannah has quite a presence that starts with that smile.

By now, you have no doubt

seen this and other pictures of Hannah. Fortunately, her plight has garnered both local and national exposure as has this community's response. From the vigils to the yellow ribbons tied to our trees, entrance signs, light posts and more, the media has taken notice. If only in small measure, we

have helped keep the search for Hannah in the forefront. I am certain of the Graham family's appreciation for this small gesture of hopefulness for Hannah's return.

Thank you to the SLCA board members who assembled the ribbons, some as donations and others at deep discount from

"Every parent's worst nightmare" –John Graham

## **A Message from the SLCA President**

I was to continue the conversation about speed humps. Life changes direction so fast.

On September 13<sup>th</sup>, our neighbor, Hannah Graham, a second year student at UVA went missing in Charlottesville.



local proprietors like the Variety Store, Virginia Florist and Michaels on Rt. 1 & Falls Church.

If you haven't yet, we hope you'll join the yellow ribbon effort to show support for the Graham family. Also, visit the Stratford

Landing Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/StratfordLandingCitizensAssociation](http://www.facebook.com/StratfordLandingCitizensAssociation)) to see a photo gallery of some of the ribbons displayed throughout the neighborhood. And, thank you for continuing to keep the Grahams in your thoughts and prayers.

**Stratford Landing Recreation needs your help!!!!**

We need volunteers for the Recreation Committee and volunteers at-large for help with community events. The Co-Chair position is split between 2-3 people, so we are currently in need of 1-2 people. Three core recreation events have taken place throughout each year. These include the Spring Festival, Halloween Festival, and Santa's Fire truck visit. The events are at the discretion of the Recreation Chairs, so we welcome creativity and new ideas.

## SLCA Annual Meeting & Call for Proxy October 28, 2013 7:00 pm Stratford Landing Elementary Cafeteria

It is time again to elect officers & standing committee chairs for your community association. **If you cannot attend, please give your proxy to someone who will!** Dues remain at \$10 and include the 6 newsletters, internet updates, facebook page, a community broadcast network and various neighborhood activities throughout the year. Dues are payable to the SLCA via check or cash and can be returned to your Block Captains or paid at the annual meeting. Unsure who your block captain is? Please contact Membership Co-Chairs, Jeannie Lough (email: [Jeannie.Lough@gmail.com](mailto:Jeannie.Lough@gmail.com), phone: 202-210-7978) or Mary Lou Hoffman [703-360-7267](tel:703-360-7267))

We are collecting names of volunteers at-large and can contact you before events for help with set-up and activities. Just email us your contact info. This is a great way to meet friends and neighbors, as well as volunteer in the community.

**These events are well attended, and cannot be planned and run with only one volunteer. We need**

**Recreation Committee members immediately. Please consider volunteering, so these family-friendly events can continue.**

Courtney Cheney  
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(202)-270-9413

Kelly Garr  
[Klw2p@hotmail.com](mailto:Klw2p@hotmail.com)



## SLCA 2014-2015 Membership Drive

Dear Neighbor :

The 2014-2015 Stratford Landing Community Association (SLCA) Membership Drive is going on NOW. If you would like to be a member or renew your membership please pay the dues to your neighborhood block captain or contact me directly (see below).

Dues remain unchanged this year at \$10 and include; 6 newsletters, internet updates, a community broadcast network and various neighborhood activities throughout the year. The dues are payable to Stratford Landing Citizens Association (SLCA) via check or cash and can be returned to your block captain (me.) All membership payments are due October 1<sup>st</sup>.

If interested please take the time to update your contact information below and let me know whether your family would prefer the newsletter in a (P) paper copy, (E) electronic copy via email or (B) both.

FIRST AND LAST NAMES:	_____
STREET ADDRESS:	_____
PHONE NUMBER:	_____
EMAIL ADDRESS:	_____
CIRCLE ONE:	(Paper)                      (Email)*                      (Both)

*\*Electronic copies cut down on printing costs and include updates and community alerts☺*

Many thanks and I look forward to hearing back from you! Please feel free to contact me at the information below if you have any questions or need anything else.

Many thanks!

## From our safety chair: Have fun and stay safe on Halloween!

**NOTE:** Halloween is a community celebration, not something that Fairfax County government plans or controls like other jurisdictions around the country. Trick or treating generally occurs in our community Oct. 31. If trick or treating happens in your neighborhood, please be safe!

### Safe Trick or Treating Tips

Don't let the excitement of Halloween allow your children to ignore the normal safety precautions: Do not talk to strangers; **do not go into homes or cars of people they do not know**; and do not approach animals they do not know.

Make sure children know their name, phone number and address and to provide this information to a police officer in an emergency or if they are lost.



Younger children should have an adult with them while older children should provide their route and when they expect to return. If possible, provide a cell phone for your children. Children should only visit homes that have their **porch lights on**.

**Inspect your children's candy before they eat it.** Although food tampering is rare, it's safest to eat only those candies

that are

individually wrapped and not homemade, unless you know the families who have prepared the homemade treats.

Have flashlights or glowsticks for children and/or for the accompanying adult.

**Adults are reminded not to drink alcohol and drive.**

### Safe Costume Tips

Make sure your child's Halloween costume is made with **fire retardant materials** and has eye holes large enough for your child to safely see out enough so it doesn't interfere with walking.

If your child carries an accessory, such as a fake sword, make sure it's made from a flexible material such as rubber, so it cannot injure your child or others.

Consider using makeup on children's faces instead of a mask to allow the child to see clearly.





## **2014 Halloween Parade & Fall Festival!!!**

Join us for the annual costume parade,  
pumpkin crafts, games, food, and fun!!!

**When: Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup> from 2-4pm**

**Where: Parade begins at 2pm on the corner of  
Camden and Cavendish. The festivities will  
take place at the park behind Stratford  
Elementary School. See you there!!!**

# Stratford Landing

## Feathered Friends

In September colorful warblers who spent the summer breeding in northern boreal forests stopped by our neighborhood for yummy insects before continuing south to Central and South America. Very soon, Dark-eyed Juncos, White-throated Sparrows, and other species will begin their winter "vacation" in Stratford Landing. During September, 48 species were reported in Stratford Landing: Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Red-shouldered Hawk, Laughing Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Caspian Tern, Mourning Dove, Barred Owl, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Eastern Phoebe, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Fish Crow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Black-and-white Warbler, Magnolia Warbler, Canada Warbler, Song Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, House Finch, American Goldfinch, and House Sparrow. For more information

about birds in our area, visit [eBird.org](http://eBird.org) and [allaboutbirds.org](http://allaboutbirds.org). Want to see what you've been missing? Bird walks are held every Sunday morning at Dyke Marsh (meet near north end of 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.

## 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.

## 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.

## SLCA Community Blood Drive

at Inova Mount Vernon Hospital, Saturday, Dec. 6th. Please contact Steve Schlacter to schedule your appt.: ([stephen.schlacter@gmail.com](mailto:stephen.schlacter@gmail.com)). A few slots are still available between 8 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Thank you for your generous spirit.



## Stratford Landing Citizens Association

### Actual vs Budget Operating Statement

Oct 1, 2013 through September 30, 2014

		Budget FY2013	Actual FY 2013	Budget FY2014	Actual 09/30/2014
	<b>Balance on Hand (Beginning of Period)</b>	\$ 1,628	\$ 1,628	\$ 1,822	\$ 1,822
	<b>Receipts</b>				
	Dues (Budgeted at 650 members @ \$10 each)	6,500	6,170	6,500	5,409
	Advertising in the newsletter	1,200	600	1,200	730
	Other (Donations)	-	-	-	-
	<b>Total Receipts</b>	<b>7,700</b>	<b>6,770</b>	<b>7,700</b>	<b>6,139</b>
	<b>Disbursements</b>				
	<i>Communications</i>				
	Printing	2,000	1,735	2,000	1,234
	Website development & maintenance	150	77	150	-
	<i>Total Communications</i>	<b>2,150</b>	<b>1,812</b>	<b>2,150</b>	<b>1,234</b>
	<i>Community Activities</i>				
	Annual Meeting/Candidate's Night	175	168	175	-
	Fall Festival and Halloween Parade	400	325	350	382
	Winter Coffee and Community History Event	200	141	200	-
	"Santa on a Fire Truck" and Holiday Decorating	400	340	400	220
	Spring Fling and Egg Hunt	275	94	150	-
	Summer Party	250	397	350	82
	Contributions			300	-
	Sign Maintenance at Community Entrances	-	-	-	-
	<i>Total Community Activities</i>	<b>1,700</b>	<b>1,465</b>	<b>1,925</b>	<b>685</b>
	<i>Membership Fees &amp; Subscriptions</i>				
	Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Assoc.	125	102	125	102
	Treasurer of Virginia (Corporation Reg.)	50	-	50	50
	<i>Total Membership Fees and Subscriptions</i>	<b>175</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>152</b>
	<i>Other Expenses</i>				
	Supplies	50	-	50	-
	Signs for Advertising events, etc.	-	-	-	-
	Directory (or Addendum)	-	-	-	-
	Bank Charges	40	-	40	15
	Directors & Officers Insurance	3,500	2,410	3,000	2,981
	General Liability insurance	785	787	785	785
	<i>Total Other Expenses</i>	<b>4,375</b>	<b>3,197</b>	<b>3,875</b>	<b>3,781</b>
	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>8,400</b>	<b>6,576</b>	<b>8,125</b>	<b>5,852</b>
	<b>Balance at End of Period (Actual or Expected)</b>	<b>\$ 928</b>	<b>\$ 1,822</b>	<b>\$ 1,397</b>	<b>\$ 2,109</b>

# Stratford Landing

## Stratford Landing Executive Committee Officers

Rob Maher, President  
703.609.8261  
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Jody Nyalko, Vice President  
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### Committee Chairs

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Jeannie Lough, Membership Co-  
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Keith Kettell, Rules & Parliamentarian

Courtney Cheney, Recreation Co-  
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vacant, Recreation Co-Chair

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Claire Kluskens, Secretary  
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### Association Delegates

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Work Force Housing now joined with  
HHS above

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