

# Stratford Landing Newsletter

Stratford Landing Mount Vernon District Fairfax County December 2014

Bimonthly Newsletter

## A Message from the SLCA President

While it is a privilege to honor the memory of those friends and neighbors we have lost, it is my great pleasure to honor one who did not leave us. Dana Deighton is a dear friend and neighbor to many. She has served on our recreation committee in the recent past and it remains her nature to volunteer in service to our community.

Dana recently fought a deadly disease and appears, against all odds, to have beaten it. Her tenacity and bravery were awe inspiring. So much so, the Washington Post felt it was a story worth telling:

[www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/medical-mysteries-cancer-patient-was-given-no-hope-but-fought-anyway/2014/12/19/0de2d202-797c-11e4-84d4-7c896b90abdc\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/medical-mysteries-cancer-patient-was-given-no-hope-but-fought-anyway/2014/12/19/0de2d202-797c-11e4-84d4-7c896b90abdc_story.html)

It is a wonderful to know Dana, her courage and the expression of love towards her from this community!



Below is a notice of a potential rezoning of our elementary schools. As you might imagine, in the short time that this notice has been published, many have expressed alarm about it.

Cathy Hosek is the Stratford Landing ES volunteer who is keeping the school community abreast

### Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) Public Hearing on the Capital Improvement Program (CIP)\* Rezoning

Stratford Landing & Fort Hunt Elementary schools

Tue, January 6, 2015, 6pm - 8pm

Jackson Middle School, 3020 Gallows Road, Falls Church

FCPS announced posted this past week a rezoning meeting on January 6th that will affect Stratford Landing & Fort Hunt Elementary Schools.

The proposed boundary changes could be implemented as early as September 2015 and are meant to address overcrowding in some of the schools.

From the CIP:

- Reassign students from Hybla Valley ES to Hollin Meadows ES and Stratford Landing ES upon the completion of their renovation projects. This option will provide capacity relief to Hybla Valley ES.
- Reassign students from Stratford Landing ES to Fort Hunt ES. This option will provide capacity relief to Stratford Landing ES and will reduce the capacity enhancement needed with the renovation.

*\*The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) can be viewed in its entirety at:*

[www.fcps.edu/fts/planning/cip/cipbookfy2016-20.pdf](http://www.fcps.edu/fts/planning/cip/cipbookfy2016-20.pdf)

of the information on the SLES PTA Facebook page. She is urging members of the Stratford Landing ES community to attend the meeting so that changes aren't made to the school boundaries without significant neighborhood/community input.

While overcrowding is an issue, the CIP seemingly forces changes here that could be better accommodated at other under-capacity facilities (as noted in the CIP) such as Waywood. (Notably, no significant changes appear to be planned there – see this link:

[www.fcps.edu/fts/planning/cip/attachmentc.pdf](http://www.fcps.edu/fts/planning/cip/attachmentc.pdf)). These changes will not only impact school age families but all of us who own real estate here!

As noted, the SLES facebook page has updates and many comments/suggestions worthy of consideration.

We are aware of two recent deaths in our community, both residents of Bluedale St.:

Eileen Reosti, loving wife of Horace Reosti and mother of nine passed away at home on December 4, 2014. Horace and Eileen were among the original members of Stratford Pool, as well as Good Shepherd Catholic Church, where Eileen attended Mass regularly until shortly before

her death. Between 1976 and 1985, six Reosti children would graduate Fort Hunt High School. The two youngest graduated West Potomac High School in 1986 and 1987. - See more at: <http://www.jeffersonfuneralchapel.com/obituary/Eileen-Joan-Reosti/Alexandria-VA/1458085#sthash.LTMgVn5i.dpuf>

Darren Alexander Eger passed away on December 3, 2014, in Alexandria, VA., at the age of 43. Devoted husband of Amanda Leigh Pernisi Eger and loving father of Madalyn (Maddy) Antoinette .

He is survived by his wife, Amanda, daughter, Madalyn, parents Ronald and Gail Eger (who reside on Bluedale) and, brother Christopher (Ali).

Special thanks to Tom Lavery who, of his own accord, captured in photos many pictures of our ribbons honoring Hannah Graham! We will make

these available soon on our website

## **RECREATION COMMITTEE**

We are still in need of assistance on the recreation committee

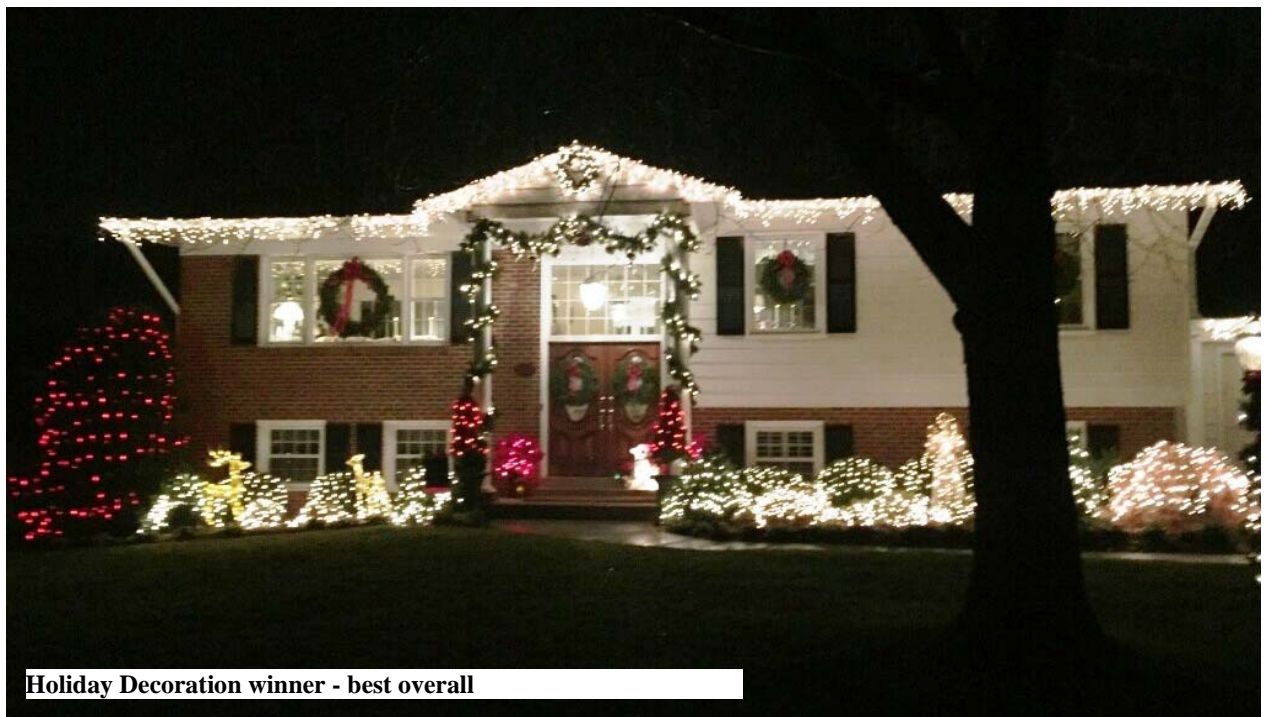
**Our events are well attended, and cannot be planned and run with only one volunteer. We need Recreation Committee members immediately. Please consider volunteering, so these family-friendly events can continue.**

Courtney Cheney  
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(202)-270-9413

Kelly Garr  
[K1w2p@hotmail.com](mailto:K1w2p@hotmail.com)

## **From Environment and Recreation...**

On Dec. 17, the Mount Vernon Council of Citizen's Associations voted in favor of a



Holiday Decoration winner - best overall

resolution opposing Fairfax County's aerial spraying for fall cankerworm (this issue was discussed in a previous newsletter).

**Stewardship Day, January 19, 12:30 – 3 pm:** Join the Friends of Little Hunting Creek at 8610 Stockton Parkway (adjacent to the pump station) to work on removal of ivy and other invasive plants. Bring loppers,

clippers, workgloves, and dress for the weather. Hope to see you there! Email [betsy@folhc.org](mailto:betsy@folhc.org) for more info. Community service credits are available.

### Learn about Snakeheads!

**Feb. 22, 2 pm.** Come to Huntley Meadows Visitor Center to hear a talk by John Odenkirk, fish biologist with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. He will explore the world of the snakehead—its characteristics, impacts, and future—and discuss the future and health of the Potomac River fishery. Program is sponsored by the Friends of Dyke Marsh, the Friends of Little Hunting Creek, Northern



Holiday Decoration winner - best day display

Virginia Chapter of Trout Unlimited, and the Assawoman Fishing Unlimited Club. (Visitor Center is at 3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria, Virginia 22306.)

### Feathered Friends

Permanent residents and winter visitors are here. From October to December, 52 species were reported in Stratford Landing: Canada Goose, Mallard, Hooded Merganser, Double-crested

Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Bald Eagle, Red-shouldered Hawk, Killdeer, Laughing Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Mourning Dove, Barred Owl, Chimney Swift, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Phoebe, Blue Jay, American Crow, Fish



Holiday Decoration winner - best at night



**Holiday Decoration winner - Best for the Kids**

Crow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, Ruby-crowned Kinglet, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Yellow-rumped Warbler, White-throated Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, 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.

**From: Friends of Sherwood Regional Library**

**Re: Sherwood Regional Library, second floor changes**

We have just been informed of a proposed action at the Sherwood Regional Library that will adversely affect the community.

Starting in January the library will be closing its second floor, except for limited hours on Sunday through Thursday (1 to



5 PM). The second floor conference rooms will be permanently closed. This adversely affects the general community but especially the neighborhood populations who use the computer lab and other resources on the second floor. It also adversely

affects the income that the Friends of Sherwood Library get from their ongoing book sale, the profits from which directly support the library.

In addition, it limits seniors from visiting the offices of Mt Vernon at Home, the increasingly important non-profit that provides ways and means to seniors to remain in their homes as they age.

# Stratford Landing

Library management has framed this action as the result of a new security issue related to staffing cuts, but we are prepared to work with them to find ways to preserve access.

Furthermore, this proposed action has been initiated without the opportunity for public input.

We understand that there are resource limitations that the library must consider but believe there are ways and means to ensure that these critical services/functions are maintained for the community.

As you know, the library serves a diverse community including low income and minority customers, as well as numerous

non profit groups, civic groups, churches, and educational institutions who regularly use the library conference rooms (all of which are on the second floor) for their meetings.

These groups include among others, MVAAC, local neighborhood associations, home school and preschool groups, athletic associations, study groups, ESL learning activities, and Girl and Boy Scout groups.

We would be glad to provide additional information but are bringing this to your attention now in hopes that you can help resolve this unfortunate situation before it becomes a reality. Public input is vital. Please


inform your community leaders and keep alert for similar unilateral actions at your libraries.

Sincerely,

Nora Gyuk  
President of the Friends of  
Sherwood Library

## **Audubon Christmas Bird Count**

The Fort Belvoir Christmas Bird Count (which includes our neighborhood) will be on Sunday, January 4. Want to participate? Call or email Claire Kluskens at 703-780-3282 or email [ckluskens@verizon.net](mailto:ckluskens@verizon.net) for details. You can even participate by counting just the birds at your own feeder!



**M. Robert Maher**  
*Director*

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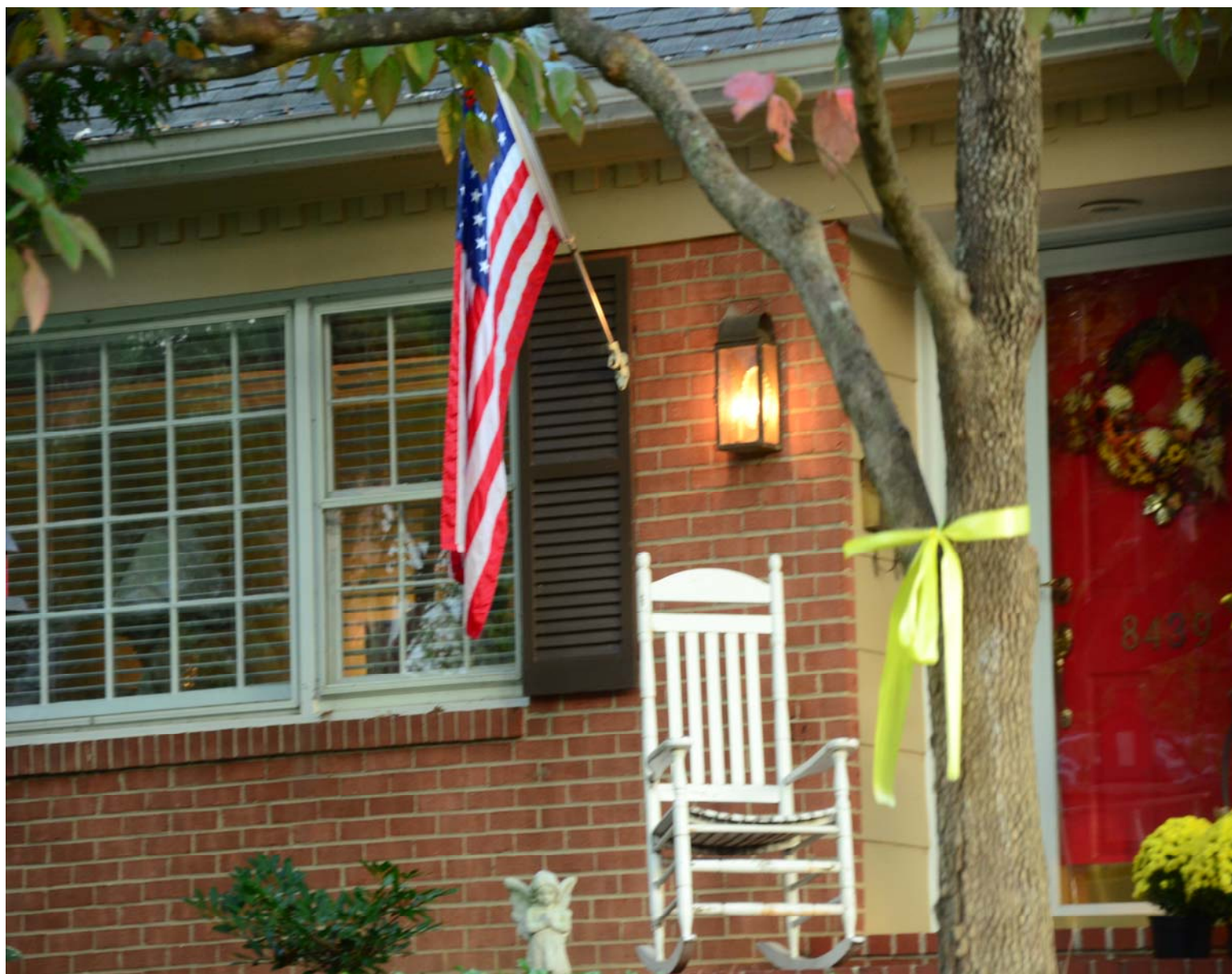
# Stratford Landing

<b>Stratford Landing Citizens Association</b>						
<i>Actual vs Budget Operating Statement</i>						
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>
Balance at End of Period (Actual or Expected)			\$ 928	\$ 1,822	\$ 1,397	\$ 2,109

# Stratford Landing

## **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

## Stratford Landing Executive Committee Officers

Rob Maher, President  
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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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HHS above

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