

Stratford Landing Newsletter

Stratford Landing Mount Vernon District Fairfax County August 2015

Bimonthly Newsletter

A Message from the SLCA President

Another year has passed and it is time for our annual membership drive. I'm reminded that this is a good opportunity to re-familiarize the members with what the association does for them (for a whopping \$10 per year).

On the back page of every newsletter you will find a list of those volunteers that manage this civic association. (Note: we are not a HOA – Homeowner's Association – with titled rights to govern the community). At the top of the list are the SLCA officers whose duties, likely familiar to most, are detailed in our bylaws. Further down are listed the names of our committee chairs (some standing and others organized by the chair, again, per the bylaws). We are a member of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations (MVCCA) which, as the name implies, is an organization that brings together the many community associations throughout our end of the county to share information and hopefully speak with a greater voice towards those issues that impact us. Each of the SLCA committee chairs are associated with the corresponding



committee on the MVCCA and attend regular monthly meetings. Following their monthly meeting, each chair reports the actions of their respective committees to the SLCA board which it discusses. A position is formed as needed to guide the committee chair as they return to the next committee meeting.

If that was not enough, the SLCA produces this newsletter bimonthly, manages the website, facebook page and the email alert of important events & happenings within the community. We have a solid block captain group (THANK YOU ALL!) that acts as our eyes and ears while welcoming new

neighbors, collecting the annual \$10 dues and delivering a paper version of the newsletter to those who choose (but the online version is in color!!)

Many volunteer hours go into managing the SLCA. We have a committed group of your neighbors who work hard to keep things moving and our community safe & secure (and we welcome additional volunteers!) Over 80% of the community are active members of the SLCA but we need to improve. If you have not heard from your block captain in the next month, please reach out to me and I'll see that your membership is continued.



COMMUNITY SHRED EVENT!

Support your local Crime Solvers program while disposing of your personal and financial documents securely! Shredding helps prevent identity theft.

Tax-deductible donations accepted to benefit Fairfax County Crime Solvers. Swing by and drop off your papers for a suggested donation of \$5 per bag/box. Papers will be shredded on-site.

All shredded materials are recycled to help protect the environment.

Saturday, September 12, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Mount Vernon District Police Station

2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria

Sponsored by Iron Mountain



Fairfax County Crime Solvers is a 501c3 non-profit organization that provides anonymous phone, email and text capabilities for the public to report criminal activity and wanted persons to police. Tipsters and their information are protected under state law. Cash rewards of \$100 to \$1,000 are paid out if a tipsters' information leads to an arrest and/or case closure. All funds are raised through donations. Learn more by visiting

www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org

Tip Line—1-866-411-TIPS(8477) **Email** tips securely by visiting our website

Text "TIP 187" plus your tip to CRIMES(274637)**

**Text STOP to 274637 to cancel. Text HELP to 274637 for help. Msg & Data rates may apply. Go to crimesolvers.net for Terms & Conditions & Privacy policy.



Stratford Recreation Association

Our friends at the SRA held their summer membership meeting in July where the new bath house plans were unveiled (pictured above). With appreciation to Khrysti Uhrin & JC Schaub for volunteering many hours of their architectural skills which has proven invaluable to the pool! We look forward to the new bath house opening with the 2016 season.

The other picture on this page is of the 5th annual SRA bike ride to 7-11. It is quickly becoming a right of passage for our kids and grows annually!

Please join the SLCA Community Blood Drive

Inova Mt Vernon Hospital
2501 Parkers Lane, Alex. 22306
The next SLCA "Jack and Betty Shawn" Blood drive is Saturday, October 3rd, 2105.

Look for the Sign-Up Genius link to be published soon on the SLCA website or feel free to contact Steve (via email or phone call to the number below) with your preferred time(s). Contact Steve Schlacter to schedule your appointment. Email:

stephen.schlacter@gmail.com
Phone: 703.587.5695 For more information on Blood Donation, please visit:
<http://www.inova.org/get-involved/blood-donor-services/donate-blood>



FUN FACTS #3

By Leah Chapla

Before the Mount Vernon Ladies Association of the Union purchased the Mount Vernon Estate in 1858 for \$200,000, it had been offered to the State and Federal governments for historic preservation but neither would buy. There was a higher bid from a developer but the owners would not sell for a commercial venture. Ann Pamela Cunningham, who was from South Carolina, founded the MVLA in 1853 for the purpose of preserving and restoring the home of George Washington and gathered ladies of the union and renowned speakers to help in raising the funds. She made an impassioned plea to the owner, John Augustine Washington, Jr. (the great-grand-nephew of George Washington) in a providential trip to Mount Vernon and he became convinced that the ladies would be the ones to take on the task of saving Mount Vernon. They bought the home, buildings and 200 acres

of land and opened the home to visitors (charging 25 cents for admission) as they began their restoration and preservation. During the Civil War, the estate was neutral ground and soldiers from both sides were admitted, after being asked to leave their guns at the gate.

Today the estate consists of 500 acres and is directed by the Board of Regents (“the Mt. Vernon ladies”) who represent 30 states. There are 500 employees and over 400 volunteers and the annual average number of visitors is one million.

Feathered Friends

Our summer breeding birds have been busy raising young. During June, 41 species were reported in Stratford Landing: Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Great Blue Heron, Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Mourning Dove, Chimney Swift, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker,

Pileated Woodpecker, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, Blue Jay, American Crow, Barn Swallow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, House Wren, Carolina Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Prothonotary Warbler, Song Sparrow, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, Orchard Oriole, Baltimore 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 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.





Stop It Now!

Together We Can Prevent the Sexual Abuse of Children

PREVENTION TOOLS

Have questions?
Need resources?

Get Help Now!

Online Help Center
<http://GetHelp.StopItNow.org>

Stop It Now! prevents the sexual abuse of children by mobilizing adults, families and communities to take actions that protect children before they are harmed.



351 Pleasant Street
Suite B-319
Northampton, MA 01060
Phone: 413.587.3500
Fax: 413.587.3505
www.StopItNow.org
info@StopItNow.org
Helpline: 1.888.PREVENT

Concerned about Sex Offenders in Your Neighborhood

A neighbor tells you about a "pedophile down the street", you learn of a "sexual predator" who's member of your faith community, the local paper reports on "child molesters hanging around" at your kid's school. What can you do?

You thought your neighborhood was pretty safe. Suddenly, your sense of security is shaken. Media stereotypes about people who sexually abuse children can make it all seem overwhelming. You needn't be overwhelmed. Start by learning the facts. Accurate information about the situation can help you turn fear into confidence that you really can keep your family safe. Here are some other things you can do to help make you feel secure again.

What you can do

Don't panic, respond calmly

Act with thought. Many people with a history of sexually offending are motivated to succeed when they re-enter society. Contrary to conventional wisdom, counseling can be very effective. Re-arrest rates for sexual offenses are actually very low. When given steady support, counseling and supervision they often pose little threat to anyone in the neighborhood.

Create a family safety plan

Your children and your family need to know what to do if anyone — family, friend, acquaintance, neighbor, or stranger — is approaching a child sexually. Remember, abuse is most likely to happen with someone you already know. For more information, read our Family Safety Plan at www.StopItNow.org/family_safety_plan.

If there was a public notice, ask the contact person or organization on the notice for more information. There may be a public meeting, local resources, or other materials that would help you and your family. Information may be available on the state's sex offender registry.

Attend the public community notification meeting

If there is community notification meeting, go to learn more about this person, their risk level, and how they will be supervised in the community. Learn about the restrictions that have been placed on this person so that if you see them doing something inappropriate you know how to report it.

Find out if the person convicted of a sexual offense is being supervised

Ask the person or organization who has notified you whether the person who sexually abused in the past is being supervised by a probation or parole



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officer. You should be able to get the name and telephone number of the probation or parole officer. This officer may be able to answer more complex questions about the risk this person may pose to your family.

Consider joining with another neighbor to meet the offender

Consider approaching the person with an offer of support, perhaps through the probation or parole office. Remember, you may already know this person or know their family and friends. Even if they are new in your community, they are a part of it now. If the person who sexually abused is open and honest about the past, they may really be trying to change and live a different life. Show your support for their willingness to live a different life that keeps children safe. Your support and watchfulness can help in their recovery. It is also a chance to alert them that you know about their past and are aware of their actions today. For a successful example of this, read this story of hope from a community member at www.StopItNow.org/community_member.

Notify the police if you see this person in a suspicious situation

Avoid a hostile confrontation. Making threats or taking revenge may put you at legal risk. It's also important to avoid any action that may just push the person who has sexually abused into hiding, where normal life is almost impossible and it's easier to go back to old abusive ways. No matter how you feel about this person, if you see him or her in a suspicious or dangerous situation, call the police or probation/parole officer. Many people who have sexually abused go on to live productive, abuse-free lives. But not all will make the needed changes in their lives. Your supportive watchfulness may help the person who has abused keep himself or herself under control.

Don't wait to take action for prevention

What we do know is that there are people who have abused in our communities, some already identified, some not. Don't just wait to be notified about someone who has been convicted of a sexual offense. Talk to your family and friends now. Make the sexual safety of children a priority all the time with everyone in your community.

- **Remember: 88% of sexual abuse is never reported**

Authorities can't notify you about most people who sexually abuse because they've never been identified.

- **Your safety action plan does not change**

Whether or not you've been notified about someone with an offense in your community, you still need to be concerned about safety. Think about those who may abuse in the same way that you stay aware of possible speeding cars, children in the streets, or drug dealers near your child's school.

- **You can limit access**


If you know what to look for and how to take action, people who sexually abuse children will not have access to them. Their abusive behavior can be stopped when we are all aware. They can get help to prevent any further abuse.

Upcoming Lecture: DNA and Genealogy

Jim Bartlett will speak on "DNA and Genealogy" at the Mount Vernon Genealogical Society, September 15, 2015, at 1 p.m., at the Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria, VA 22308. Jim will present a simple review of how DNA works, and you'll learn how to use DNA test results to learn more about your surname line and ancestry with Y-DNA; your all-female line and ancestry with mtDNA; and link with cousins from all of your ancestors and prove those lines at atDNA. For more information about this and other MVGS programs, special interest groups, and classes, visit www.mvgenealogy.org




Piano and Voice Lessons: Kim Fairchild, a SL resident, is offering piano and voice lessons for children and adults. Please call 703-629-3339 for more information.



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