

Stratford Landing

Newsletter

Stratford Landing Mount Vernon District Fairfax County October 2015

Bimonthly Newsletter

A Message from the SLCA President

To the right is a wreath assembled by SLCA board member Kim Fairchild. It is constructed from the ribbons that you tied throughout our neighborhood as part of the tremendous outpouring of concern for Hannah Graham. The wreath will be presented privately to the Grahams with a lovely book of photos of the ribbons throughout the neighborhood. If you would care to sign this book, it will be available at the SLCA Annual meeting on 10/27/15. Look for the meeting notice on page 3 of this newsletter. As you might imagine, the logistics of making this available to the community is challenging. As such, this will be the only opportunity to sign the book before we present it to the Grahams and hope you will be able to participate.



As noted, our community saw a tremendous outpouring of love, hope and shared grief for the tragedy that was Hannah's passing. It is hard to believe that a year has passed as I recall so vividly the heartfelt response of friends and neighbors that evening that our

worst fears were confirmed. I am grateful to you all.

This is likely my last column. I reluctantly agreed to serve as president for one year and have watched four pass. Those who know me have no fear that I will go quietly in the night (sorry!) But it is time for a change.

Kim Fairchild (the same Kim responsible for the wreath) has offered to run in my stead. The bylaws allow for a non-officio member of the executive

committee in the immediate past president, so I can't go too far.

See you around the hood!



2015 Halloween Parade & Fall Festival!!!

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

When: Sunday, October 25th 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!!!**

SLCA Annual Meeting & Call for Proxy October 27, 201 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 (or online at the website; see below) and can be returned to your Block Captains or paid at the annual meeting. Unsure who your block captain is? You may pay online at:
<http://stratfordlandingva.org/join/>

Candidates for the 36th Senate District Debate

The Executive Board of the Stratford Landing Citizens Association will be hosting a public debate prior to our Annual meeting between the candidates for the 36th VA Senate District, Mayor Gerald "Jerry" Foreman and Delegate Scott Surovell. The debate will begin at 7pm in the cafeteria at Stratford Elementary School. Attendees may arrive a few minutes prior to submit their written questions for the candidates. The questions will be then randomly drawn from a hat.

Jerry Foreman is the mayor of Dumfries, VA and Scott Surovell is the State Delegate representing the 44th District of VA.

FUN FACTS

By Leah Chapla

FORT HUNT NATIONAL PARK was originally a part of George Washington's River Farm and was still farmland in 1892 when the War Department purchased the land as part of its plan to modernize coastal defenses. Construction began in 1897 when it appeared that we would be at war with Spain (the Spanish American War began in 1898) & the final gun was installed in 1903 (the war was long over by then). The installation was named after Henry J. Hunt, the Union

officer who revolutionized artillery practices during the Civil War. By the start of World War I the fort was obsolete and after that it was used for an Army finance school and as the setting for African American ROTC training. During the Great Depression Fort Hunt hosted the Civilian Conservation Corps and in World War II it was called a Temporary Detention Center where 3,400 captured prisoners of war were interrogated and was so secret that it was only known by its address: P.O. Box 1142. Interestingly, workers there assembled escape kits for

Americans held in German POW camps. Fort Hunt was a recreation area from 1930 until World War II and after the war it was transferred back to the National Park Service which has run it since that time. The NPS is currently presenting new alternative concepts for the Park and after public review a final decision will be made. Strollers, dog walkers, bird watchers and picnickers enjoy its beautiful acreage throughout all four seasons today and hopefully will do so for years to come. Stratford Landing residents can easily walk or bike there.

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.

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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From our public safety chair:

Destructive tornadoes, a 5.8 magnitude earthquake, Hurricane Irene and Tropical Storm Lee all hit Virginia in 2011. In the minutes and hours after these disasters, it was difficult to make calls on cell phones because the mobile networks were so busy. When disaster strikes, whether natural or man-made, you may need to call 9-1-1 or let loved ones know that you are okay. Follow these tips to make you can communicate during an emergency.

Before a Disaster: How to Prepare Your Home and Mobile Device
Sign up for Fairfax Alerts to receive emergency alerts. If We Can't Reach You, We Can't Alert You.
Sign up for Fairfax Alerts today at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts.

Keep a list of emergency phone numbers in your cell phone and near your home phone.
Have charged batteries and car-phone chargers available for back-up power for your cell phone.
If you have a traditional landline (non-broadband or VOIP) phone, keep at least one non-cordless phone in your home, because it will work even if you lose power.
Prepare a family contact sheet with at least one out-of-town contact.
Often it's easier to make long-distance rather than local calls during an emergency. Create emergency contact wallet cards online or download printable Wallet Cards for emergency information.
Program "In Case of Emergency" (ICE) contacts into your cell phone so emergency personnel can contact those people for you if you can't use your phone. Let your ICE contacts know of any medical

issues or other special needs you may have.
If you are evacuated and have call-forwarding on your home phone, forward your home phone number to your cell phone number.
If you do not have a cell phone, keep a prepaid phone card to use if needed during or after a disaster.
Have a battery-powered radio or television available (with spare batteries). Disaster survival experts recommend investing in a ham **radio**. Radio signals will transmit just

fine no matter what the conditions, and ham radio bands are shared by the National Weather Service, giving you the ability to get additional information on any other trouble coming your way.
During and After a Disaster: How to Reach Friends, Loved Ones & Emergency Services
If you have a life-threatening emergency, call 9-1-1. In Fairfax County, you can now text 9-1-1, go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/911/text-to-911.htm for more information.
If you are not experiencing an emergency, do not call 9-1-1.
For non-emergency communications, use text messaging, e-mail, or social media instead of making voice calls on your cell phone to avoid tying up voice networks. Data-based services like texts and emails are less likely to experience network congestion. You can also use social media to post your status to let

family and friends know you are okay. In addition to Facebook and Twitter.

Keep all phone calls brief to avoid tying up voice networks. Just share vital information.

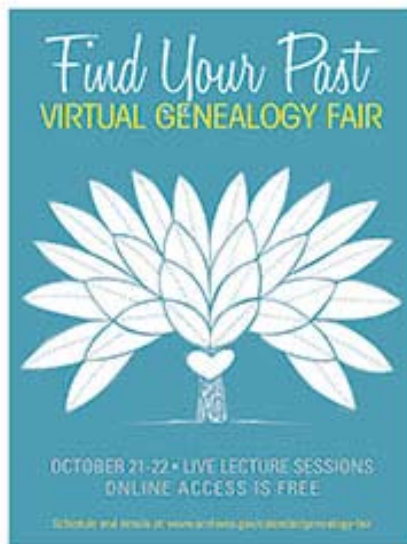
If you are unsuccessful in completing a call using your cell phone, wait ten seconds before redialing to help reduce network congestion.

Conserve your cell phone battery by reducing the brightness of your screen, placing your phone in airplane mode, and closing apps you are not using that draw power. If you lose power, you can charge your cell phone in your car. Just be sure your car is in a well-ventilated place – not in a garage – but do not go to your car until any danger has passed. You can also listen to local radio stations in your car for important news alerts.

Tune into local TV and radio stations for important news alerts. If applicable, be sure that you know how to activate the closed captioning or video description on your television.

Unless you have a hands-free device in your car, do not talk, text or tweet on a cell phone while driving. Stop driving or pull over to the side of the road before using the phone.

Immediately following a disaster, resist using your mobile device to watch streaming videos, download music or videos, or play video games, all of which can add to network congestion. Limiting use of these services can help life-saving emergency calls get through to 9-1-1.



Jim Bartlett will speak on “DNA and Genealogy” at 1 p.m. on October 20, 2015, to the Mount Vernon Genealogical Society, Hollin Hall Senior Center, 1500 Shenandoah Road, Alexandria, VA 22308. You will 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, in fact, link with cousins from all of your ancestors and prove those lines with atDNA. Each test will be discussed: what the results look like; how to use them; and what you can and cannot determine with DNA! Autosomal DNA (atDNA) will be explained in detail; as well as the three main companies that offer this test. Specific steps will be presented that have been proven to be effective. No biology is required to use the results. More information at <http://www.mvgenealogy.org/wp/>.

The National Archives and Records Administration will hold its third

annual “virtual” genealogy fair on October 21 and 22, 2015, with live lectures on census, military, immigration, and other records useful for genealogical research. Watch and ask questions from the comfort and convenience of your own home computer! The schedule and links to PowerPoint slides and handouts will be posted at <https://www.archives.gov/calendar/genealogy-fair/>. Speakers include Stratford Landing’s own Claire Kluskens.



Feathered Friends

Birds begin to migrate to warmer climates as summer’s mugginess vanishes into crisp autumn days. During August and September, 46 species were reported in Stratford

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Landing: Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Bald Eagle, Red-shouldered Hawk, Laughing Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Rock Pigeon, Mourning Dove, Barred Owl, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, White-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Fish Crow, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, American Robin, Gray Catbird, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Black-and-White Warbler, Scarlet Tanager, 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 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.



SRA Dog Swim

THANK YOU, BLOCK CAPTAINS!

Special thanks to our wonderful Block Captains for being ambassadors of our neighborhood.

Not only do they collect annual membership dues (as most of you recently experienced) but they are a valuable community resource and liaison between neighbors and SLCA. We couldn't do it without them!

Speaking of dues, if you haven't paid yours yet, you can do it online now at

www.stratfordlanding.org/join or through your Block Captain.

Thanks for making ours a vibrant and engaged community!

From Our friend at the SRA pool:

Thinking about joining the Stratford Recreation Association (SRA) next season? SRA has swim, dive, and tennis teams for children and offers lessons in each sport, whether or not your child aspires to become a team member. There's also a very active and growing women's tennis team. There are a variety of social events throughout the summer including the 4th of July, korn hole tournaments, happy hours, family nights, adult swims and a dog swim (pictured above).

Memberships are currently available. Why not join now and split the cost? You can pay for your pool share now and then pay annual dues in April of 2016. Much easier on the wallet than

paying all costs at once! If you're interested, please email Membership Chair Amy Kirner at membershipsra@gmail.com

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.

FAIRFAX COUNTY COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT) TRAINING:

What do you do if, during a major disaster, you call 9-1-1 and no one responds?

The Fairfax County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program prepares regular citizens to safely help themselves, their families, and their communities during major emergencies where first responders are delayed.

The following are the CERT classes being offered in the next three months:

Click here for CERT 101	<u>10/14/15 to 11/9/15</u>	<u>At the Fire and Rescue Academy</u>
Click Here for CERT 102	<u>9/23/15 to 11/4/15</u>	<u>The Old Firehouse Teen Center</u>
Click Here for CERT 103	<u>9/23 - 11/18/15</u>	<u>Lorton Volunteer Fire Department FS-19</u>
Click Here for CERT 104	<u>10/1, 8, 17, 22, 29, 11/5, 7</u>	<u>Sully Station Community Center</u>
Click Here for CERT Radio Workshop-1	<u>10/22/15</u>	<u>1730 - 2130, Braddock Dist. Supervisor's Office</u>
Click Here for CERT Radio Workshop-2	<u>10/25/15</u>	<u>1730 - 2130, Braddock Dist. Supervisor's Office</u>
Click Here for CERT Radio Workshop-3	<u>10/29/15</u>	<u>1730 - 2130, Braddock Dist. Supervisor's Office</u>
Click Here for DOM6 Dominion Overhead High Voltage Safety Act Demonstration Training	<u>10/07/15</u>	<u>1000 - 1130 PSTOC</u>
Click Here for DOM7 Dominion Overhead High Voltage Safety Act Demonstration Training	<u>10/07/15</u>	<u>1300 - 1430 PSTOC</u>
Click Here for Tour PSTOC	<u>10/08/15</u>	<u>1900 - 2100 PSTOC</u>
Click Here for WMATAEX2 WMATA CERT Exercise	<u>10/17/15</u>	<u>0900 - 1200, Carmen Turner Bldg. MD</u>
Click Here for SAR2 Search and Rescue in a Community Disasters	<u>10/30, 31</u>	<u>10/30 1800 - 2200, 10/31 0800 - 1700 FRA</u>
Lorton Exercise (Signup will be available next week)	<u>11/21/15</u>	<u>Old Lorton Youth Facility</u>
Click Here for Infectious Control / BBP BBP6	<u>11/21/15</u>	<u>0830 - 1000 FS-08</u>

For additional information on CERT training, see the following link:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fr/cert/cert.htm>

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