



STRATFORD LANDING

Mount Vernon District, Fairfax County

Season's Greetings!

Far away the old year passes – and we've got a lot more in store for an exciting 2016.



Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all of our wonderful friends and neighbors! The end of the year may be upon us, but your Stratford Landing Citizens Association volunteer leaders are just gearing up for what

promises to be an exciting 2016. This new year, make a resolution to volunteer your time and talents to benefit our great community. Lots of great things are happening, and we want you to be a part of it! Read all the latest – and consider getting involved.

DECEMBER 2015

Upcoming Events



December 20, 2015
Santa Parade
1 p.m.
Starts on Elkin/Riverside



January 3, 2016
Fort Belvoir Bird Count
7 a.m.
Meet at 2602 Ryegate



February 6, 2016
SLCA Blood Drive
7:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Inova Mount Vernon Hospital

Stay Connected



On the Web:
www.stratfordlanding.org



On Facebook:
Look for "Stratford Landing Citizens Association"

"Bon Voyage" to Outgoing President Rob Maher

The next time you see a ship sailing by on the Potomac River, look closely – It might be Rob Maher. After five years serving as SLCA President, Rob recently stepped down to devote more time to family, work and, of course, his nautical pursuits.

Though Rob's tenure as President always looked like smooth sailing, he did more than most people can

imagine to keep SLCA running smoothly. SLCA is a 100% volunteer-led organization, and Rob not only was its leader but also its #1 volunteer, devoting untold hours behind the scenes to get the job done for the benefit of us all. So, from all of us to you, Rob, thank you for your leadership and service – and anchor's aweigh to your next great adventure!

A Note From the SLCA President

Dear Neighbors:

The grey days of November are giving way to the bright lights and festive atmosphere of this wonderful Christmas and holiday season.

In the same way, our community is in its own time of transformation. Older neighbors are retiring and moving to warmer climates. Young families with children are moving in.

Yet what remains the same – and what drew me here in 2012 – is this vibrant community of neighbors and friends. We all may be running in different directions with work, family and life pursuits, but when it matters most, we come together like no other.

As your newly elected SLCA president, my goals for the next year are to **facilitate a stronger community network**, find **new ways for neighbors to get to know each other** and **cultivate the best our neighborhood has to offer**. After all, together we are stronger.

I am grateful to outgoing President Rob Maher, whose tireless work over the past five years set the stage for this very strong foundation.

I look forward to getting to know you and to working together. Feel free to contact me with your ideas and feedback.

Season's Greetings!

Kim



*Kim Fairchild
SLCA President*

Contact Kim via e-mail at:
SLCANewPres2015@gmail.com

Meet the SLCA Board at:
[www.stratfordlanding.org/
Executive-Board](http://www.stratfordlanding.org/Executive-Board)

Thank You from the Graham Family



This wreath is made from the ribbons hung throughout the neighborhood

Last month, SLCA representatives presented the Graham family with a wreath made from the ribbons that hung throughout the neighborhood a year ago after Hannah's disappearance in Charlottesville. The family wishes to share this letter with the entire Stratford Landing community:

We wanted to thank you for the lovely wreath and book of photographs you presented us on behalf of SLCA.

It helped us enormously when we returned from Charlottesville to see so many ribbons displayed throughout the neighborhood, and the wreath and photographs will provide a permanent reminder of the overwhelming support we have received from our wonderful Stratford Landing friends and neighbors since Hannah's disappearance. We will never forget the generosity and kindness of you all.

*Warm regards,
John and Sue*



In Memoriam: Howard "Howie" Bowdring, Jr.

The Stratford Landing community was shocked and saddened to learn of the unexpected death of a great community leader, neighbor, friend and longtime volunteer treasurer of Stratford Landing Citizens Association: Howard "Howie" Bowdring, Jr.

Howie died of cardiac arrest during a morning Master's Swim practice on Wednesday, October 28. His life was celebrated at a funeral service at Good Shepherd Catholic Church on November 3, 2015, before a standing-room-only crowd of family, friends, neighbors and colleagues.

Howie was born in Somerville, Mass., on June 11, 1960, as the fifth of nine children. The family moved to the Belle Haven area of Alexandria, Va., in 1965.

He was a natural athlete, a real asset on the tennis teams at Bishop Ireton High School, where he graduated in 1978. Howie won the Virginia State All Catholic Doubles Championship four times and later competed on an east coast doubles tennis circuit. He attended Mary Washington College and

Virginia Tech before starting his professional career.

Since 2007, Howie was the Controller of the CARANA Corporation, which designs economic development strategies in dozens of countries. From 1997 to 2007, he was the Controller at Millennium Bank and served previously at the Greater Atlantic Savings Bank and First Commonwealth Bank.

In his spare time, he competed in triathlons and conquered the demanding 4.4-mile Chesapeake Bay Swim three times.

Stratford Landing neighbors currently are working on establishing a college fund for Howie's son Patrick to help the family with educational expenses. Details will be shared soon for those who would like to contribute.

Meet the Neighbors

This is the first in a new regular series profiling our many wonderful Stratford Landing neighbors. We start with Kim Fairchild, our new SLCA President, so you can get to know her a little better.

Kim Fairchild: Making Beautiful Music

Stratford Landing neighbors know Kim Fairchild as their kids' piano and voice teacher – but not so long ago, this chorister on Cavendish was the belle of Broadway.

Kim grew up in Pennsylvania and was never far from an instrument or a song. She played piano and clarinet, sang in choirs and in high school was selected for a chorale of goodwill ambassadors to Europe. Her talents took her to Indiana University, one of the nation's top music schools, where she majored in voice and theatre. Soon, the bright lights beckoned.



In New York City, Kim performed on Broadway and toured nationally with "Showboat." She sang at Radio City Music Hall and Opryland and performed in opera houses from Florida to Kansas.

While in New York, Kim met her late husband, an accomplished French chef, and they moved to the Washington, D.C. area. When their son was young, she poured her artistic talents into a floral design and wreath-making business.

After her husband's untimely death, Kim and her son found their way to the area and, eventually, to Stratford Landing.

Says Kim: "When I was a child, I was obsessed with Mount Vernon. To me, it was like a princess fairyland. I never dreamed I would live here one day. I feel so privileged to live on the land once owned by George Washington. I feel strong ties to Mount Vernon."

Today, when she's not teaching, volunteering at church or visiting her son at UVA, Kim and her partner Rob can be found sitting around the fire pit.

"My dad was a park ranger, and I grew up spending summers in Wyoming," Kim says. "If the fire pit was lit, it was a sign to the neighbors to stop by, pull up a chair."

So next time you see the fire rolling, consider it an invitation. You'll enjoy good conversation – and leave with a song in your spirit.

GET TO KNOW KIM



Favorite Movie:

"I'm a movie fanatic. *Chariots of Fire* is my favorite."

Favorite Role:

"Violetta in the opera *La Traviata*. I also enjoyed playing a pirate in *Peter Pan* at the Kansas City Starlight when they were short on pirates."

The Perfect Day:

"I would spend my day on my bicycle."

Dream Job:

"Public service, law or interior decorating."

Nominate a Neighbor

Nominate a neighbor to be profiled next in a future newsletter. Contact Jennifer Bridgman at (202) 641-8840 or JLKrempin@gmail.com.

Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations: An Update from Your SLCA Delegates

One important function of the Stratford Landing Citizens Association is to represent our neighborhood within the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations.

This nonpartisan organization brings together neighborhood representatives from the Mount Vernon District of Fairfax County to promote the common good of residents. The Council takes positions on issues of concern to its members and advocates to Mount Vernon's elected representatives and government entities including Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Fairfax County School Board, Virginia General Assembly, Virginia Department of Transportation and more.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

SLCA Delegate: Scott Kopple

Fairfax County may have to cut \$75M from 2017 public schools budget

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) may see some serious resource cuts in its Fiscal Year 2017 budget. Projected costs for items such as student enrollment growth, state mandated retirement, health insurance costs and employee salary increases are increasing more than projected revenues.

The County established a Budget Task Force to examine the issue with respect to potential areas to cut, reduce or redesign. Potential revenue increases through fees were also examined. Public input was also received as part of this process. You can view the complete report:

[http://www.boarddocs.com/vsba/fairfax/Board.nsf/files/A4823767084D/\\$file/FY%202017%20Budget%20Task%20Force%20Recommendations1.pdf](http://www.boarddocs.com/vsba/fairfax/Board.nsf/files/A4823767084D/$file/FY%202017%20Budget%20Task%20Force%20Recommendations1.pdf)

Additionally, there is an online tool available at www.fcps.edu/SaveFCPS where you can examine the budget further to help formulate and then submit your recommendations.



The School Board will make the final decision on the proposed budget at its May 26, 2016 meeting.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

SLCA Delegate: Kathy Hoke

Health & Human Services Committee is on hiatus until a new Chair steps forward

This committee plays a vital role in influencing local policies and programs regarding access to health care, behavioral services, workforce opportunities, quality childcare and affordable housing. After 15 years, this committee's Chair has stepped down; the group is on hiatus until a new Chair is identified.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMITTEE

SLCA Delegate: Leah Chapla

Resolution supporting Mount Vernon Country Club modifications passed

The Planning & Zoning and Environment & Recreation committees passed resolutions supporting Mount Vernon Country Club's second Special Exception Amendment to complete certain site modifications within the 100-year flood plain that will result in reduced stormwater runoff from the golf course. The P&Z Committee added to its resolution the recommendation that the remainder of payment of \$100,000 for construction of trails be due and payable within five years – December 31, 2020.

SLCA Committee Updates

Get more details and contact information at www.stratfordlanding.org

RECREATION

Chair: Becca Levine Moller

Events in the Works for Neighbors of All Ages

As we look ahead to 2016, you can expect to see many of our favorite neighborhood traditions continue – and some new ones take shape.



Would you like to help with special events? Do you have ideas? We'd love to hear from you!

Special thanks to outgoing SLCA members Kelly Garr and

Courtney and Laura Cheney for their volunteer services as Recreation Co-Chairs for the past several years.

SAFETY

Chair: John Horn

A Reminder to Keep Your Doors Locked

Residents in several nearby neighborhoods have reported vehicle break-ins and thefts in recent weeks. Don't allow these crimes of opportunity. Keep your doors locked, keep valuables out of sight, and always keep your eyes open to unusual activity.

In the event you are the victim of a theft, contact the Fairfax County Police Department and then let us know. We have a strong relationship with the Mount Vernon precinct, but we always want to hear from you so we can stay on top of incidents and communicate to members as appropriate. (Keep in mind that as a volunteer-led organization, SLCA serves as an important voice for the neighborhood but enforcement of laws and ordinances rests *solely* with Fairfax County Police Department.)

COMMUNICATIONS

Chair: Jennifer Bridgman

Stay Connected with SLCA All Year Long

To stay on top of the latest news from SLCA:

- **Join us on Facebook** (look for "Stratford Landing Citizens Association") to find real-time updates, news and information from power outage updates to lost dogs to event photos.
- **Visit our web site** (www.stratfordlanding.org) and click on "Blog" for current news/updates.

MEMBERSHIP

Team: Jennifer Bridgman, Leah Chapla, Debbie Davis, Mary Lou Hoffman, Terri Maloney, Jody Nyalko

2015-16 Membership Drive

Thanks to all who renewed their SLCA memberships by the October 1 annual deadline – and if you haven't paid yours yet, renew online at www.stratfordlanding.org/join

Coming in 2016: SLCA Member Directory

In 2016, work will begin on the eagerly anticipated SLCA Membership Directory. As in past years, this small printed book will include the name, address and phone number of all members in good standing who give their consent to be included. It's a great way to stay in touch with neighbors. Watch for communication about this starting in January. If you'd like to help, contact Debbie Davis (far2bike@gmail.com).

Coming Soon: SLCA Welcome Wagon

In 2016, we're starting a "welcome wagon" to personally welcome new neighbors, introduce them to SLCA and provide valuable resources. Watch for more information coming soon!

Snapshots from Around the Neighborhood

SLCA "Jack & Betty Shawn" Blood Drive

A record number of Stratford residents participated in the most recent SLCA community blood drive at Inova Mount Vernon on Dec. 5. This neighborhood-led blood drive dates back to the 1990s and today bears the name of longtime neighbors, Jack and Betty Shawn, who coordinated it for most of those years. The next blood drive is scheduled for Saturday, February 6, 2016. Give the gift of life and catch up with your neighbors in this relaxed setting. For information, contact Steve Schlacter at stephen.schlacter@gmail.com or (703) 587-5695.



SLCA Halloween Costume Parade and Party

A group of little ghosts and goblins (and, from the looks of it, a couple "Dorothys") kicked off the Halloween season with a costume parade and party featuring treats, crafts, games and fun at the park.



Meet Your 2016 SLCA Executive Board

Executive Board

President: Kim Fairchild
SLCAnewpres2015@gmail.com

Vice President: Jody Nyalko
jnyalko@verizon.net
(703) 360-8350

Treasurer: Celia Boertlein
cboertlein@aol.com
(703) 360-3735

Secretary: Claire Kluskens
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(703) 780-3282

Parliamentarian: Keith Kettell
KWK2325@aol.com
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Immediate Past President:
Rob Maher
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SLCA Committees

Communications: Jennifer Bridgman
JLKrempin@gmail.com
(202) 641-8840

Membership:
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Leah Chapla (*leah.chapla@longandfoster.com*)
Terri Maloney (*T2maloney@aol.com*)
Jody Nyalko (*jnyalko@verizon.net*)
Debbie Davis (*far2bike@gmail.com*)
Mary Lou Hoffman (703) 360-7267

Recreation/Social: Rebecca Levine Moller
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**Transportation/Community
Improvements:**
John Horn
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Consumer Affairs: Terri Maloney
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Environment/Recreation: Betsy Martin
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Finance: Scott Kopple
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The Stratford Landing Citizens Association Newsletter is published bimonthly for members in good standing. Stratford Landing Citizens Association is a not-for-profit, volunteer-led organization committed to enhancing the quality of life in the neighborhood.



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