



# STRATFORD LANDING

Mount Vernon District, Fairfax County  
June 2016 Newsletter

## Welcome Summer!



### Letter from The President Goodbye Spring, Hello Summer!

It was a busy Spring for us all! Our Friends of Little Hunting Creek hosted their annual creek clean up. Judging by the mounds of full garbage bags I saw, their efforts were a success! We had a big turnout for our annual Easter Egg Hunt with roughly 80 children were in attendance. Our neighborhood was buzzing last weekend as we held our annual Spring yard sale. Hopefully our participants are pleased with the outcome and their houses are a little lighter. My thanks to our volunteers who made the event a success in spite of the postponement due to weather. Our streets have been full of trucks and equipment as all the re-paving has been done. I have attended a number of town hall meetings as our County grappled with budget issues and brought it to a vote. I also attended the basic training session at the Mount Vernon Police Station, led by Officer Robert Urps to learn about the implementation of a possible Neighborhood Watch Program. I am excited and hopeful that we will find a new coordinator to act as a liaison between our community and the police.

## Community Events

**Fort Hunt Park  
Summer Concert Series**  
June 5 - August 28  
7pm

These free concerts are held on Sunday evenings at the A-pavilion in Fort Hunt Park on the George Washington Memorial Parkway, and the south end of Fort Hunt Rd.

For more information:  
<https://www.nps.gov/gwmp/planyourvisit/forhuntconcerts.htm>

**Mount Vernon Nights  
Concert Series**  
June, July, August

Presented by Fairfax County Park Authority in partnership with the Mount Vernon District Supervisor and through the efforts of the Fairfax County Park Foundation and Friends of Mount Vernon Nights.

For more information:  
[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances)

Find us on Nextdoor &  
Like us on Facebook!



<http://www.stratfordlanding.org/>

## Letter from the President (cont'd)

I know that summer has arrived as I walk the streets to the sound of children squealing and laughing and water splashing as I pass our neighborhood pool. I can hear lawn mowers running and see kids with beach towels wrapped around their necks, riding their bikes to the pool. I feel like I notice more people out walking their dogs in the evening and last night as I sat on my front porch, I saw my first fireflies.

Indeed this is a wonderful time of year, as school begins to wrap up and people start to plan summer vacations and enjoy all that summer has to offer. It is also a time when there are many more bikes and walkers on the road, kids out throwing basketballs into their hoops, and new drivers learning how to drive and preparing to get their licenses. In the next few weeks, high school proms will take place

and graduation parties will be held. I am reminded to drive carefully and keep an eye out for all the activity I see on our streets.

During this wonderful season with so much to enjoy, I wish you all a safe and terrific summer. I for one am looking forward to a little down time and especially all the local free outdoor concerts available in our area. Some years ago, while travelling in France, I learned a phrase they use which has always stuck with me, "Sourie, c'est l'été!" or "Smile! It's Summer!" You know, I think I might just try that this summer!

Enjoy!

Kim Fairchild

## Little Hunting Creek Cleanup

April 26, 2016



This year's creek cleanup on April 16 had beautiful weather, and Friends of Little Hunting Creek hauled in plenty of trash. In Stratford Landing, 32 volunteers working from canoes and kayaks and on land pulled out 53 bags of trash and recyclables and four tires. Special thanks to Stratford Landing residents Pat Paterson and Paul Siegel, who led separate cleanup efforts on Stockton Parkway. There were 17 additional cleanup sites: in Riverside Estates, First River Farms, Gum Springs, and Colonel John R. Byers Park, including three cleaned up by Senator Scott Surovell, Delegate Paul Krizek, and volunteers on the west side of Route 1 on April 9, in snowy and miserable weather. All told, 175 volunteers hauled out 423 bags of trash and recyclables, 29 tires, 10 shopping carts, and much else. This year, three quarters of what we bagged was bottle litter (especially water bottles) that should have been recycled before it ever got in the creek. Thanks to all who participated in any of these efforts! We never get it all, but the creek always looks better.

***Thank you to our 2016 volunteers!***

**To learn more about 'Friends of Little Hunting Creek' and the Little Hunting Creek Watershed:**

<http://www.friendsoflittlehuntingcreek.org/>

## Signage Update

We surveyed the community earlier this year for four weeks regarding their opinion of the entrance signage. We collected a total of 90 survey responses. The results of the survey are posted below.

- 69%** feel that both the signage and landscaping need updating
- 7%** feel that only the signage needs updating
- 8%** feel that only the landscaping needs updating
- 16%** feel that everything is fine as-is

Some common themes carried through to most of the responses, including:

- (1) The desire to consider re-use of the existing brick pillars that hold the wood signs (if cost effective and/or if they are structurally sound);
- (2) Any new planting should be low maintenance/ sustainable and consist of only native species
- (3) The “taglines” currently used (for example: Plantation Estates) should be removed, and the signs should say only “Stratford Landing”; and
- (4) Consider placing an “entrance” number on the secondary entrances to assist with community way finding and/or in the event of an emergency.

Because the majority of those who responded feel that the landscaping, signage or both need updated, we are moving forward with costs estimates to either rehabilitate or replace the entrance signage and/or landscaping. In the meantime, we are asking residents to complete one additional survey regarding aesthetic preferences.

## Community Blood Drive

### To the Community:

The SLCA has held a community blood drive at the Inova Mount Vernon Hospital (IMVH) Donor Center since the mid 1990s. Jack Shawn started and coordinated the drive in honor of his wife, Betty. I met Jack at the blood drive shortly after moving here in 2003 and seeing the drive advertised on the yellow sandwich boards in the neighborhood. Jack would make phone calls to all of the potential donors on his list. He kept track of what time of day we liked to donate, he remembered names of our children, introduced us to our neighbors and fellow donors, and served his signature blend of orange and cranberry juice for post-donation recovery. About two years ago, I had the pleasure of taking over as coordinator of the drive, after Jack’s health was making it difficult for him to continue to organize the event that he cares so much for. We no longer have the juice fountain for Jack’s signature blend, but we do continue to share stories, talk about our families and community events, and enjoy doughnuts and juice throughout the morning.

Please consider joining us. The Blood Drive is held on Saturday mornings during the even months of the year. We try and hold it on the first Saturday, but we do make adjustments, often for Easter, and to accommodate the Inova Blood Donor Services schedule as well. Supporting the donor center at IMVH is very important to our community. The best way to ensure that a blood supply is available is for those that live in the community to donate it. “Give Local, Save Local.”

Sincerely,  
Steve Schlacter

**The remaining blood drives for 2016 will be held on:  
Aug 13th, Oct 8th, and Dec 3rd**

**Inova Blood Donor Services:**  
<http://www.inova.org/get-involved/blood-donor>

**Contact Steve Schlacter:**  
703.587.5695 or [stephen.schlacter@gmail.com](mailto:stephen.schlacter@gmail.com)

**The new survey is located here and will be open through the end of June:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/StratfordLanding-Signage>

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

### Fairfax County School Board Adopts \$2.7 Billion Budget for FY 2017

The Fairfax County School Board has adopted the Fairfax County Public Schools FY 2017 Approved Budget of \$2.7 billion, which includes a salary increase of a step and one percent market scale adjustment for all eligible employees, \$40 million to enhance teacher salaries and make them more competitive, and more than \$10 million to lower elementary school class sizes. The FY 2017 Approved Budget takes effect July 1.

.....

### Update on Traffic Calming Study

After much concern was raised about speeding and failure to stop at stop signs in the neighborhood, the SLCA board voted unanimously to submit an official written request to Supervisor Dan Stork to begin a traffic calming study for Stratford Landing. We have received the following response from his office:

“I wanted to let you know that a traffic study for Cavendish Drive, Londonderry Road, Camden Street and Childs Lane has been added to the Fairfax County Dept of Transportation schedule for traffic studies. It will happen before the end of the school year.”

.....

### Save the Date!

#### Stratford Landing Citizen Association’s “Good Bye Summer Hello Fall Soiree”

- When:** Saturday September 17th
- Where:** TBD - somewhere in our community
- Why:** To ease into the end of summer break and celebrate the leaves starting to change color
- Who:** Stratford Landing residents - Adults only

Stay tuned for more details as the date approaches. Our goal is to continue to build our neighborhood into a great community. We hope you’ll join us to catch up with old neighbors while getting to know new ones!

Feel free to contact Nicole Rooney at [reccomitteechair@gmail.com](mailto:reccomitteechair@gmail.com) with any ideas to help make this event a success!

### Executive Board

**President: Kim Fairchild**  
[SLCAnewpres2015@gmail.com](mailto:SLCAnewpres2015@gmail.com)

**Vice President: Jody Nyalko**  
[jnyalko@verizon.net](mailto:jnyalko@verizon.net), (703) 360-8350

**Treasurer: Celia Boertlein**  
[cboertlein@aol.com](mailto:cboertlein@aol.com), (703) 360-3735

**Secretary: Claire Kluskens**  
[birdlady2011@icloud.com](mailto:birdlady2011@icloud.com), (703) 780-3282

**Parliamentarian: Keith Kettell**  
[KWK2325@aol.com](mailto:KWK2325@aol.com), (703) 704-5438

**Immediate Past President: Rob Maher**  
[rob@mortgagefool.com](mailto:rob@mortgagefool.com), (703) 609-8261

### Delegates to MVCCA:

**Consumer Affairs: Terri Maloney**  
[T2maloney@aol.com](mailto:T2maloney@aol.com), (703) 780-3454

**Education: Carol Horn**  
[Horn.carol71@gmail.com](mailto:Horn.carol71@gmail.com), (703) 360-9015

**Environment/Recreation: Betsy Martin**  
[betsy@folhc.org](mailto:betsy@folhc.org), (703) 360-0691

**Finance: Scott Kopple**  
[skopple@verizon.net](mailto:skopple@verizon.net), (703) 864-3218

**Planning/Zoning: Leah Chapla**  
[leah.chapla@longandfoster.com](mailto:leah.chapla@longandfoster.com), (703) 929-4875

**Public Safety: Jim Taylor** ([jtrj@verizon.net](mailto:jtrj@verizon.net))

**Transportation: John Horn** ([john.horn3@gmail.com](mailto:john.horn3@gmail.com))

### Membership:

**Leah Chapla** ([leah.chapla@longandfoster.com](mailto:leah.chapla@longandfoster.com))

**Terri Maloney** ([T2maloney@aol.com](mailto:T2maloney@aol.com))

**Jody Nyalko** ([jnyalko@verizon.net](mailto:jnyalko@verizon.net))

**Debbie Davis** ([far2bike@gmail.com](mailto:far2bike@gmail.com))

**Mary Lou Hoffman** (703) 360-7267

**Recreation/Social : Nicole Rooney**  
([reccomitteechair@gmail.com](mailto:reccomitteechair@gmail.com))