



# STRATFORD LANDING

Mount Vernon District, Fairfax County

April 2017 Newsletter

## Spring is finally here!



### Letter from the President

Many updates to share!

I am always happy to see the crocuses appear and the daffodils blooming. Despite the setback with the recent snow storm, spring has begun to show signs of its arrival and we can say goodbye to another winter.

Recently, I attended a meeting with our assigned Task Force made up of four neighborhood volunteers, and county officials to review the findings of our ongoing Traffic Calming Study. All four streets that were surveyed qualified under county criteria for excessive speed. The county presented the results of their study and their proposed solutions for the committee to review. The next step in this process is for the Task Force to approach the neighborhood residents whose property would be directly affected by any traffic management measures taken to explain the county's suggestions. After this phase is completed a public hearing will be scheduled for all neighborhood residents. In the meantime, with nicer weather and longer days arriving, it is a good time to remember that there are more people enjoying outdoor activities and more children at play.

### Upcoming Events

#### Annual Easter Egg Hunt

**Saturday, April 1st, 2PM**

**Stratford Landing Park**

The Easter Bunny is sure to make an appearance! If your child will be participating in the Easter Egg Hunt, please drop off 10 eggs stuffed with wrapped candies in the pink bin located at 2314 Creek

Drive by Friday, March 31st!

#### Little Hunting Creek Clean-Up

**Saturday, April 8th, 10AM**

More information can be found here:

[www.friendsoflittlehuntingcreek.org](http://www.friendsoflittlehuntingcreek.org)

Details on page 4

#### Celebrate Earth Day!

**Saturday, April 22nd**

A number of opportunities and events are planned for our neighborhood, including a few exciting raffles and an opportunity to purchase plant material from a local nursery to help raise money for new signage. See website for details.

#### Spring Yard Sale

**Saturday, May 6th, 8am - Noon**

Rain Date: Sunday, May 7th

#### UCM Give From The Heart Gala

**Saturday, May 6th @ 6pm**

Location: US Patent & Trademark Office,  
Madison Building Atrium

For details: <http://www.ucmagency.org/gala2017.html>



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## Letter from the President (cont'd)

I am pleased to announce that we have a volunteer to begin establishing a Neighborhood Watch Program. We met to discuss his ideas and he has already attended the mandatory Fairfax County Police training session. He is setting up an email contact and will be reaching out to neighbors who are interested in being a part of this organization. We are excited to have this program available in our neighborhood.

So, as we get outside to plant our pansies and put down the mulch, I wish you all a Happy Spring! I look forward to seeing the kids out playing and saying hello to my neighbors.

## Hannah Graham Memorial Tree

On February 25, 2017 a tree planting ceremony was held along Stockton Parkway near Little Hunting creek to honor what would have been Hannah Graham's 21st birthday. For those of you not aware, Hannah grew up in Stratford Landing, and her parents still reside here. Along with the Graham family, board members of the SLCA and 50 neighborhood residents were in attendance.

Thanks to Hybla Valley Nursery for their generous donation of a flowering dogwood, to the property owners who planted the tree on their property, and to residents who contributed toward a plaque, which will be permanently placed at the base of the tree.



The Flowering Dogwood, planted in honor of Hannah Graham, is located along Little Hunting Creek across from 8707 Stockton Parkway.

## Fairfax County 275th Anniversary

2017 marks the 275th Anniversary of Fairfax County. The County is celebrating its 275th birthday on June 17th, and all residents are invited to attend. SLCA has been asked to help promote the celebration. Please visit [www.fairfax275.org](http://www.fairfax275.org) for information about special anniversary events and activities.

### Logo Update:

Thank you to all who provided feedback regarding the new Stratford Landing Logo!  
We are working on new designs and will be sending out a new survey soon for final input!

## 2017 Membership Directories Now Available!

The 2017 Stratford Landing Citizens Association Membership Directories have been distributed by Board Members and Block Captains. If you are a member and haven't received a directory, please contact Jody Nyalko at [jnyalko@gmail.com](mailto:jnyalko@gmail.com) or 703-360-8350; or Celia Boertlein at [cboertlein@aol.com](mailto:cboertlein@aol.com) or 703-360-3735.

## Bock Farm Update

On January 26, 2017, Supervisor Dan Storck hosted a community meeting to discuss Bock Farm. The meeting was recorded on Facebook Live and is available on Storck's Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/SupervisorDanStorck](http://www.facebook.com/SupervisorDanStorck)

At the February 22nd MVCAA Meeting, Storck reported that there were three "for sale" options being considered:

1. The original application for four four-story buildings, aged 55+
2. Four, three-story senior living units, aged 55+
3. 35-40 townhomes without age restrictions. The units would be offered at \$700K+.

According to Supervisor Storck's website, "For the Bock Farm application, the Board supported my decision to not accept the original proposal and refer the matter back to the Planning Commission, enabling the property owner to modify and more expeditiously and less expensively resubmit a revised application. It is anticipated that the applicant will submit one of the other two options recently presented for either a modified 55+ senior independent living community or family townhomes. Any resubmission would require Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors' public hearings and approval by the Board." Storck estimates the revised application process will take an additional 4-6 months.

On March 5, the MVCCA Planning & Zoning and Transportation Committees learned that, because of recent nearby neighborhood opposition to the plan, the developer has come forward with a new plan to build 40 units not restricted to age 55+. There will be options for buyers to add elevators. The developer also wants to offer 5 "workforce" units which would probably be priced 20-30% below market price point. Work force units are for teachers, firefighters, etc. but are not "affordable" units.

## FY 2018 Fairfax County Budget No tax rate hike - schools still short

On February 14, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS) was presented with the \$4.1B draft budget prepared by the County Executive that called for maintaining the current established property tax rate of \$1.13/\$100 assessed valuation. The county projects a slight increase in the average homeowners' real estate assessment which

translates into an average tax increase of \$40.69 per home.

The budget, however, does not fully fund several major programs, some of which are unfunded mandates by Richmond. Fairfax County Public Schools require \$2.03B to fully fund its education programs and staffing plan. The advertised budget is short \$61M according to the County's public documentation. Other shortfalls include, for example, \$5.3M in the Diversion First program. Diversion First is an award winning alternative to incarceration for people with mental illness or developmental disabilities, who come into contact with the criminal justice system for low level offenses. Also the County will need an additional \$6.7M for Health & Human Services because Richmond has altered the Medicaid waiver process.

SLCA is an active member of the non-partisan, non-profit Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations (MVCCA). MVCCA represents and promotes the interests of all the Mount Vernon member neighborhoods, including Stratford Landing, before the Board of Supervisors. The County's budget remains at the top of MVCCA's priorities.

## Gardening for Wildlife Audubon at Home

Have you ever thought you'd like to attract birds and butterflies to your yard, and do more to support pollinators and other wildlife? The Audubon at Home program, developed by the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia, can help. Here are ways to make your yard wildlife-friendly:

(1) Plant native plants! Native wildlife depends on native plants for food. Native plants are also adapted to our growing conditions, including our clay soil and muggy, hot dry summers. Natives thrive with far less need for maintenance and care, if you choose the right plant for the right spot. Check out the Plant NOVA Natives website for more details at <http://www.plantnovanatives.org/home.html>

(2) Reduce or eliminate use of insecticides. It goes without saying that if you want to attract butterflies and other insect pollinators, you shouldn't kill them off. If you want to bring birds to your yard, you shouldn't kill a primary source of food. The chemicals you put on your lawn can wash down the stormdrain, straight into Little Hunting Creek, where they harm water quality and affect wildlife downstream.

(3) Get rid of exotic invasive plants. Exotic plants originated outside the country, often in Asia. Native plants were growing here before settlers arrived. In our neighborhood, English ivy is a real problem. It displaces native vegetation, climbs trees and kills them, traps moisture next to the bark, fostering disease, and creates a hazard to humans and structures because of its weight. It grows rampantly into nearby natural areas, and creates an impenetrable jungle. This doesn't mean you shouldn't plant any exotic plants—many non-natives are perfectly well-behaved and won't take over your garden. To identify the worst thugs that should be removed, consult Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas, <https://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/pubs/midatlantic/index.htm>, by the National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

For advice on habitat improvements you can make in your yard, you can request a free consultation with a certified Audubon at Home Ambassador, who will walk your yard with you, recommend native plantings to make your yard wildlife-friendly, and tell you how to get your yard certified as a Wildlife Sanctuary.

To learn more or request a free consultation, visit <http://audubonva.org/audubon-at-home-1> or drop by Stratford Landing's Earth Day Celebration on April 22nd, pick up a brochure, and sign up for a consultation with an Audubon at Home Ambassador.

## Little Hunting Creek Cleanup Details

Meet your neighbors and see Little Hunting Creek from a novel vantage point! For the last dozen years the Friends of Little Hunting Creek have staged a creek clean-up as part of the Potomac River Watershed Cleanup. This year's cleanup starts at 10 am on Saturday, April 8. There will be two locations in Stratford Landing – 2611 Childs Lane and 8610 Stockton Pkwy (the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust property, at the intersection of Stockton and Londonderry). Please wear or bring: (1) Sturdy waterproof shoes or rubber boots or old sneakers, (2) Long pants and long sleeves, and (3) Water, and a hat or sun protection (some sites are exposed). We supply gloves and sturdy plastic bags. Community service credit hours are provided for students who bring their forms. Contact Paul Siegel -- [Paul@FOLHC.org](mailto:Paul@FOLHC.org) -- if you plan to participate.

### **Executive Committee**

**President: Kim Fairchild**  
SLCAnewpres2015@gmail.com

**Vice President: Jody Nyalko**  
jnyalko@gmail.com

**Treasurer: Celia Boertlein**  
cboertlein@aol.com

**Secretary: Claire Kluskens**  
birdlady2011@icloud.com

**Parliamentarian: Keith Kettell**  
KWK2325@aol.com

**Immediate Past President: Rob Maher**  
rob@mortgagefool.com

### **Delegates to MVCCA:**

**General Council: Jody Nyalko**  
jnyalko@gmail.com

**Education: Matthew Dunne**  
mdunne@gmail.com

**Environment/Recreation: Betsy Martin**  
betsy@folhc.org

**Finance: Scott Kopple**  
skopple@verizon.net

**Planning/Zoning: Leah Chapla**  
leah.chapla@longandfoster.com

**Public Safety: Jim Taylor**  
jrtrj@verizon.net

**Transportation: John Horn**  
john.horn3@gmail.com

### **Membership:**

**Leah Chapla** (leah.chapla@longandfoster.com)

**Terri Maloney** (T2maloney@aol.com)

**Jody Nyalko** (jnyalko@gmail.com)

**Debbie Davis** (far2bike@gmail.com)

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

### **Recreation/Social:**

**Nicole Gerow** (reccommitteechair@gmail.com)

### **Neighborhood Watch:**

**Cole Smith** (smithwc1@gmail.com)