



# STRATFORD LANDING

Mount Vernon District

Fairfax County

22308

April 2018 Newsletter



*This is what Spring should look like!*

## President's Letter

### Sense of Community & Volunteers Needed!

I am an only child and for the last couple of years have been responsible for the care of my 92-year-old disabled father who lives in Northern PA way out in the country by himself with a dog. I will be eternally grateful to his extensive network of neighbors and friends. Not a day goes by it seems that someone doesn't stop by with a container of homemade soup or a pizza or just to say hello. There is a lady that often walks her dog past his house and will stop and grab my father's dog to walk with her so he gets his exercise. But there are also those who are just "checking in."

As president of the SLCA, I have had elderly people reach out to me to ask for assistance with neighborhood issues such as solving drainage problems or trying to contact the appropriate local government agency to resolve something. It is at these times that it makes me think of my dad and how what might seem so simple to us can be a big challenge to someone who cannot simply upload, download, email, or "text it to me."

## News & Events

### Blood Drive

The next two blood drives will be Saturday, April 7 and Saturday, June 2

Inova Mt. Vernon Hospital Donor Center  
2501 Parker's Lane  
Alexandria, VA 22306

Donors can schedule an appointment at [www.inovabloodsaves.org](http://www.inovabloodsaves.org) using Sponsor Code 3018, or by contacting Steve Schlacter: [stephen.schlacter@gmail.com](mailto:stephen.schlacter@gmail.com) or 703-587-5695.

### Little Hunting Creek Cleanup

Saturday, April 14. Please see article inside for details.

### Community Yard Sale – Save the Date

Saturday, May 5. Details to follow.

### SLCA Members Picnic – Save the Date

Afternoon of Sunday, June 10. Details to follow.

### SLCA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

- Coordinate one of the popular recreational events or be the Sandwich Board Manager.
- Format the Newsletter.
- Become the Secretary for the Association.

Contact the SLCA President at: [slcanewpres2015@gmail.com](mailto:slcanewpres2015@gmail.com)

Find us on Nextdoor &  
Follow us on Facebook!



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

You know “just take a picture of it on your phone and send it to me” type stuff. My father was born before a computer was even a thought. He is a very bright man but used to functioning in a very different way.

I have heard some say that they prefer to get their information through social media, such as Facebook or Nextdoor. Of course, those sites do have their value and offer a network to neighborhoods. But doesn't “just checking in” have its place as well?

I recently read an article about the importance of community, whether you define that as your work place, where you live, or even the people in your yoga class. It stated that it is the life blood of our well-being and that it can improve one's overall health and even boost your immune system. The article went on to say that as families become more and more spread out, we rely more on communicating with others where we live. Also, by contributing to your community and lending a helping hand, it provides great benefits to you even by just making you happier overall. I go to a local assisted living facility 2 times a month and just sit and play the piano for the residents. I can honestly say that I am benefitting much more from going there than the people that I play for are.

One of the goals of the SLCA right now is to recruit new block captains for blocks that are missing them and to revamp the way that the system of block captains is structured. I believe that block captains are critical to the success of the SLCA and to the well-being of our neighborhood not just because they help in our membership drive, but more importantly as they are a very powerful means of communication in Stratford Landing particularly for our elderly residents. If you have any thoughts or questions about block captains feel free to contact us at [member.stratfordcitizen@gmail.com](mailto:member.stratfordcitizen@gmail.com).

- Kim Fairchild, SLCA President

#### **REPORT FROM MVCCA Environment & Recreation**

The MVCCA Environment and Recreation (E&R) Committee heard a presentation from County staff working on the stream restoration of Quander Brook, which runs through the Fairchild property, behind Chuck E. Cheese on Route 1. This stream has been terribly damaged and eroded from massive storm water runoff from the parking lots and Route One. The County is currently nearing completion of the design phase, and plans to install step pools and raise the streambed to slow down the runoff and restore the stream (and protect the Potomac River and Chesapeake Bay from

sediment being scoured from the streambed). The area will be replanted in native trees and shrubs. Once the stream restoration is complete, the Board of Supervisors will turn the property over to the Fairfax County Park Authority, and it will become a park. Recently, land was obtained from the Quander family to provide access to the park from Quander Road. This area is of historical and archaeological significance. Indian artifacts from the archaic and Woodland periods have been found on the Fairchild property. Vermont troops camped there during the civil war, and Union horses were watered at the original Spring Bank, the valley wall that dripped with springs and was covered with ferns.

#### **Little Hunting Creek Cleanup, on April 14th!**

Join Celia Boertlein (CBoertlein@aol.com) at 9 a.m. at the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust property (on Stockton Parkway, adjacent to the pump station) to pick up trash from the marsh. Wear old clothes and waterproof boots if you've got them, this area can be muddy. Or, bring your kayak or canoe (and personal flotation device, of course) to 8706 Stockton Parkway and join Paul Siegel (paul@folhc.org) who will be leading the Stratford Armada to collect trash from the water. He'll be leaving promptly at 9 a.m., to beat the tides. If you're a glutton for punishment, join Senator Scott Surovell and the Surovolunteers the week before as well, to clean up the trashiest section of the creek (and the trashiest stretch of stream in Fairfax County) on April 7. For details about these cleanups (and more) conducted as part of the 30th annual Potomac Watershed Cleanup, visit <http://trashnetwork.fergusonfoundation.org/map/>

#### **REPORT FROM MVCCA Public Safety**

Assistant Fire Chief John Caussin of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department (FRD) presented to the MVCCA Public Safety committee. Chief Caussin oversees the Business Services Bureau and the Office of the Fire Marshal so he was one of the best people to provide an overview of the proposed FY2019 budget. The FY 2019 advertised budget has \$209.4 million dollars allocated for the FRD of which 74 percent will be used for staffing.

- Fire and Rescue responded to 101,000 calls last year. About 73 percent of the calls were for emergency medical services and 25 percent were for fires, with the balance involving hazardous materials, technical rescue and other events.
- Operations personnel work a 56-hour work week which is comprised of 24-hour shifts. Staff work on a day, off a day, on a day, off a day, on a day and then off four days. The other departments in Northern Virginia work the same shift,



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but Washington, DC and Prince Georges County, Maryland work a 42-hour work week. Fire and Rescue currently has a number of capital improvement projects here in the Mount Vernon District including rebuilding the fire stations at Lorton, Woodlawn and Penn Daw. These projects will occur over the next several years with completion dates in 2023.

Link to the Fairfax County 5-year Public Safety Staffing Plan Update / Discussion:

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/boardofsupervisors/sites/boardofsupervisors/files/assets/meeting%20materials/committees/2017/nov28-public-safety-5year-staffing-plan-update.pdf>

### LETTER FROM OUR MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

Hi, Neighbors!

The SLCA needs Block Captains and I hope you will consider volunteering when we finish redrawing the Block Captain lines this summer. We want to even out the territory each Captain is responsible for and reduce the overall number of Block Captains from 72 to something more functional.

We will only need you to walk your block to remind your neighbors to renew their annual membership in the SLCA or to join if they are new to our neighborhood or their membership has lapsed. I will provide you with everything you need to print and deliver and the SLCA will send emails to all our members reminding them to renew in September and October.

Thank you! For more information, contact Kathy Lehner at [member.stratfordcitizen@gmail.com](mailto:member.stratfordcitizen@gmail.com)

### SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

The Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce recently announced that at least \$12,000 will be awarded to local graduating seniors pursuing further education in business. Students may apply online or calling 703-360-6925 to request an application. The application deadline is Friday, April 27. Those applying for the scholarships must plan to pursue further education in a business-related field and live in the Mount Vernon or Lee Districts. For the past fifteen years, the Chamber has invested in the future by

awarding more than \$190,000 in scholarships to graduating high school students.

### Community Shred Event

The next Fairfax County Crime Solvers Community Shred Event is Saturday May 19th from 0830-1200 at the Mount Vernon District Station, 2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306. Swing by and drop off your papers for a suggested donation of \$5 per bag/box. Papers will be shredded on-site. Note: This event will take place on the North side of the station, which is different from the past events.



Please join us for a weeklong fundraising event with "Top It Off" to support the Stratford Landing Citizens Association.

Saturday, May 5 – Saturday, May 12

Get ready to shop!

Mother's Day    Graduations  
Teachers Gifts    Beach Time

"Top It Off" is located at 7968 B Ft. Hunt Rd.

Store Hours: Monday-Saturday 10-6,  
Sunday 12-5, Wine Wednesday 6-8

The SLCA will receive 10% of total sales during this event.  
Just mention the SLCA as you check out.

**Richmond Highway Corridor Improvements**

Find out about plans to widen Richmond Highway (Route 1) from Jeff Todd Way to Napper Road. A Fairfax County Public Information Meeting is being held on Wednesday, April 4, 2018, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., with the presentation starting at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Mount Vernon High School Auditorium / Cafeteria (use entrance 4) at 8515 Old Mount Vernon Road, Alexandria, VA 22309.

**Important links for more information:**

Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations:

<https://www.mvcca.org/>

Fairfax County FY19 Advertised Budget:

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget/advertised-budget-plan](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget/advertised-budget-plan)

Online newsletter (The Dixie Pig) for Senator Scott Surovell:

[www.scottsurovell.blogspot.com](http://www.scottsurovell.blogspot.com)

Monthly newsletter from Supervisor Dan Stock:

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/mount-vernon-advisor>



And, this is the way that Spring looked on March 21, 2018

**Executive Committee**

**Officers**

**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

**Standing Committee Chairs**

**Comm. Improvements & Transportation: John Horn**

john.horn3@gmail.com

**Membership: Kathy Lehner**

member.stratfordcitizen@gmail.com

**Events: VACANT**

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Rules: Keith Kettell**

KWK2325@aol.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:**

**VACANT**

**Planning/Zoning: Leah Chapla**

leah.chapla@longandfoster.com

**Public Safety: Cole Smith**

stratfordlandingnw@gmail.com

**Transportation: John Horn**

john.horn3@gmail.com

**Neighborhood Watch:**

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

**Webmaster**

**Sarah Linden** (sarah.artuso@gmail.com)