

Stratford Landing Citizens' Association



President's Letter

A Busy and Exciting Time of Year!

This is a time of celebration, but also a time of running from event to event. Recently, I returned from attending two college graduations. While attending one reception my son's fraternity held for parents, I met the father of a fraternity brother. The father inquired where I was from. Although he no

longer lived in Alexandria, he mentioned that he had attended Fort Hunt High School. After further discussion, we discovered that he had lived at the intersection of Culpepper and Cavendish

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Block Captains

Block Captain Kathy Lehner writes about this important role and why you should consider volunteering.

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Little Hunting Creek

Stratford Landing volunteers help to improve the environment by cleaning up Little Hunting Creek.

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SLCA Family Picnic

Learn more about this wonderful community picnic, hosted by Betsy Martin, Paul Siegel, and Randy and Thelma Myers.

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Long Grass?

Each summer we have a number of people reach out to us with concerns about the height of grass in a neighbor's yard.

As per County Code Section 119-3-1, "grass cannot exceed the height of 12 inches in a lot one half acre or smaller."

If you need to report a claim to [Code Compliance](#) you can do so online at the Fairfax County [website](#).

CONTACT INFORMATION:
8AM - 4PM Mon-Thurs and
9:15AM - 4PM Fridays.

[703-324-1300](tel:703-324-1300) | TTY 711

DCCCodeComplianceE-mail@fairfaxcounty.gov

12055 Government Center
Parkway, Suite 1016
Fairfax, VA 22035

Block Captains: An Important Community Role to Fill

Hi, neighbors! I have redistricted our "blocks" to 54 from 72. I am hopeful this change will make our membership renewal process easier for everyone, including our block captains.

We still have 12 districts without block captains. I will alert you via email or a note in your mailbox if you live in those districts, with the hope you will volunteer to take on this important role in our community. Block captains do more than assist with the annual membership drive. We count on them to communicate matters of concern to the board regarding your blocks.

As for the annual membership drive, thanks to technology it's not all on the block captains to notify our neighbors and collect dues. I have been a block captain for 15 years and I find it much easier today to remind my neighbors about their annual dues than when I first started. (I don't want my neighbors running from me because they are afraid I will hassle them about paying their dues.)

This is a friendly neighborhood and I hope that I am a friendly block captain.

If you have any questions please send me an email at member.stratfordcitizen@gmail.com.

- Kathy Lehner

Stratford Landing Citizen's Association Blood Drive

Saturday, June 2
7:30 am to 12:30 pm

2501 Parker's Lane
Alexandria, VA

Inova Blood Donor Services will be located in the Inova Mount Vernon Hospital Donor Center. Make your lifesaving appointment today!

All donors who complete the

screening process will be entered in a drawing for 2 tickets to see Zac Brown Band on July 27. Donors will be notified July 18th.

Visit <http://bit.ly/SLCAI0602> to schedule your appointment or call us at 1-866-BLOODSAVES and use Sponsor Code 3018 or contact Stephen Schlacter at (703) 587-5695 or stephen.schlacter@gmail.com.

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Little Hunting Creek Cleanup A Success!

Stratford Landing Citizens Volunteer To Improve The Environment

We had a great turnout at the Northern Virginia Conservation site for the April 14 Little Hunting Creek cleanup! There was very little trash at the site, so volunteers led by Celia Boertlein and NVCT's Rentz Hilyer pulled and cut invasive vines. They hauled a huge pile of fallen trees and branches to the street, where Robert O'Hanlon chipped it up in his chipper. Volunteers put the wood chips on the little path through the site.

Take a stroll to see for yourself! The site looks so much better and the path is a delight! The Friends of Little Hunting Creek awarded the Beautification and Environmental Improvement Award to

Rentz Hilyer, Kim Larkin, Robert O'Hanlon, Celia Boertlein, and 25 other volunteers for their work on the site.

Elsewhere, Paul Siegel led the seafaring volunteers of the Stratford Armada in picking up trash from the creek. Volunteers also cleaned up sites on the creek in Riverside Estates, First River Farms, Gum Springs, and at Colonel John Byers Park. Senator Scott Surovell and his "Surovolunteers" once again cleaned up the trashiest section of streams in the county, near the Janna Lee Avenue bridge and at Mount Vernon Plaza. Thanks to their

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not far from where I live. As I recall this, I still see the big smile on his face when we made this connection. What is interesting is how we immediately felt a communal bond. I realized, once again, how human beings are designed to live and thrive in a community. It is always fun to see families outside in their yards and streets conversing, while their children play in the spring sun. This is a neighborhood in which investing time and effort is a worthwhile endeavor. That is why I became the SLCA President. As we “steam roll” to the end of school and begin to don our swimsuits and flip-flops, I hope that you will consider joining us creek side for our upcoming SLCA-sponsored picnic. Property owners Betsy Martin, Paul Siegel and Randy and Thelma Myers have graciously opened their lots along the creek for this event. We are excited for this opportunity to come together in such a lovely part of the community. The SLCA will provide chicken, and we ask that

you bring a dish to pitch in along with your chairs and blankets. If you have a children’s game or activity that you could bring along, that would be great. The property owners have requested no plastic water bottles, because they spend a lot of energy battling plastic bottles in the environment. We will supply water, iced tea, lemonade, and cups. You are welcome to bring wine or beer. Please check our website for more information about this event. An e-mail announcement will be sent out as well. We will divide request for food alphabetically, to avoid ending up with too many brownies, for example. These are the events that give us a chance to get to know others in our neighborhood and strengthen our community ties.

- SLCA President

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efforts, there’s a lot of trash we will never see floating down the creek in Stratford Landing.

All told, 115 volunteers picked up 254 bags of trash and recyclables, 14 tires, and 2,400 pounds of bulk trash from Little Hunting Creek.

Thanks to all the neighbors who participated in the cleanup and who’ve worked on the NVCT site this spring, including Kim Larkin; Celia Boertlein; David, Catherine, Auggie and Caroline Baker; Jeanne, Miki and Braeden Kasai; Donna Stauffer; John Dickert; Jonathan Larkin; Kathy and Dan Eddy; Lena, Blake, and Danette Berry; Linda Sweeney; Thom Soyka; Tom Earley; John Graham; Randy Myers; Scott Jefferson; Carrie Ustun; Betsy Martin; Paul Siegel; Pat, Parker, and Bennett Paterson; and Tim and Annabelle Zlatich—and any other unknown helpers.



Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations – Education Report

On May 15, Matt Dunne, SLCA's liaison to the MVCCA Education Committee, was elected to serve as 1st Vice President for the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens' Associations. Matt will advocate on behalf of Fairfax County civic, homeowner, and condo associations before local and state officials.

On May 17, Matt Dunne was elected to serve as Vice President of Advocacy for the Fairfax County Council of Parent Teacher Associations. Matt will advocate before local and state officials to maintain a world-class public school system that provides a quality education to all children in Fairfax County.

On May 21, the MVCCA Education Committee held a meeting with Dr. Francisco Duran, Chief Academic and Equity Officer for Fairfax County Public Schools. Dr. Duran briefed the Committee on the joint County/FCPS "One Fairfax" initiative, which commits the county and schools to intentionally consider equity when making policies or delivering programs and services. As part of this initiative, FCPS has recruited additional personnel to focus on closing the achievement gap and review current policies. In addition, FCPS is collecting and analyzing data that will inform and improve service access and delivery, to include AAP and TJHSST admissions. Dr. Duran also briefed the Committee on new state assessments of public schools. Mt Vernon District schools had rated poorly under the prior state assessment system, but they are expected to be rated highly under the new assessment system, which focuses

on progress and factors like absenteeism. Conversely, Western Fairfax County schools are expected to rate lower than they had under the prior assessment system.

On May 24, the Fairfax County School Board adopted the FY 2019 Approved Budget of \$2.9 billion, which includes an additional \$53.1 million as part of a multi-year plan to enhance teacher salaries and \$43.9 million for a step increase for all eligible employees. By providing competitive salaries for teachers and support staff, FCPS aims to recruit and retain the talented personnel required to provide our children with a world-class public school system. The projected enrollment for FY 2019 is 190,168. FCPS anticipates an increase of 4,320 students, or 8.3 percent, to be eligible for free and reduced-price meals. The district's cost per pupil is projected to be \$15,318 for FY 2019, fifth out of the 10 area school districts.

The School Board directed the Superintendent to conduct a comprehensive analysis of disciplinary measures (to include rates of suspension) and identify any discrepancy in rates by ethnic group, special education status, or other factors that may indicate disproportionality in discipline. Based on this analysis, the Superintendent will present his recommendations at a fall School Board work session regarding professional development and best practices to improve the school climate and the use of tiered interventions provided by school, regional, and centrally based resources, and possible staffing.



Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations – Environment and Recreation Report

Proposed development on Dogue Creek

The E&R committee heard a presentation from developers proposing a 43-unit townhome development at 8800 Richmond Highway, which is currently a storage yard and welding shop. The 8.14-acre property is entirely within the Dogue Creek floodplain, Resource Protection Area, and/or Environmental Quality Corridor. It is planned for open space in the Comprehensive Plan, and the developers are seeking a plan amendment to allow the property to be developed.

About 41,000 square feet of fill would be added to raise the elevation on which the townhomes would be built. The developers propose as special amenities dedicating about 3 acres as open space, creating a pocket park, reconstructing the riparian buffer, and removing concrete debris.

The Comprehensive Plan says that disturbances to Environmental Equality Corridors should only be considered in “extraordinary circumstances” and only where mitigation or compensation measures will provide “clear and substantial net environmental benefits.”

Committee members asked many questions about potential environmental benefits and harms, possible flooding upstream or downstream of the site, the impact of climate change and sea level rise, and what options for preserving the property as open space had been explored. The Fairfax County's staff report on the proposed development will be presented at next month's meeting on June 6.

Huntington Levee

The committee also heard an update on the construction of the Huntington Levee from Fairfax County's lead engineer on the project.

The levee will be 6 to 8 feet tall, planted with native grasses and with walking trails on top. Pump stations will be installed that can pump 46,000 gal/min to handle flooding events, with a backup generator in case power is lost.

The County built a new playground to replace a park area that had to be removed. Construction began January 2017 and is scheduled to be completed February 2019.

Did you receive your neighbor's mail?



We have received several requests from some of our elderly and longtime residents. They ask you please return your neighbor's mail if you receive it by mistake. This alleviates their concern when they are expecting important mail.

Thank you all for your help with this issue!

President: Kim Fairchild
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SLCA FAMILY PICNIC

WHEN: Sunday, June 10, 3:30-6pm

WHERE: Across the street from
8707 and 8709 Stockton Parkway

Hosted by Betsy Martin and Paul Siegel,
and Randy and Thelma Myers

SLCA will provide chicken (baked and
fried), drinks, utensils, plates, etc.

Members please provide the side dishes
or desserts.

A-M: Side dishes and salads

N-Z: Desserts

Please bring chairs and kid-friendly
outdoor games.