

Stratford Landing Citizens' Association



President's Letter

Back To School, and Fall Is On The Way!

If you are anything like me, you hate to see summer end. Sure, fall is a wonderful time, but I always try to grab every ounce of daylight and outdoor time I can hold onto. I get annoyed when the school supplies hit stores two weeks after kids have finished school, and I wish we could all just come up for a bit of air. In any case, fall is just around the corner and school is officially in

session. I hope you have all had a moment to relax and enjoy the season. As we look ahead to fall, we are kicking off our membership drive. To ensure a successful drive this year, our membership committee has worked extremely hard over the past months to coordinate efforts of our

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Halloween Volunteers!

Learn how you can help the community by volunteering for the annual Halloween Parade and Party.

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'19 Membership Drive

Learn all the benefits of being an SLCA member, how to apply, and how you can help us meet our deadline goal.

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MVCCA E&R Report

Read the latest from the Mount Vernon 7ci bW'cZ7 |hnybgi Association Environment & Recreation Report.

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SLCA Blood Drive

The next SLCA Blood Drive will be Saturday, October 6 from 7:30am to 12:30pm.

Appointments can be booked online using Sponsor Code 3018 or by contacting Steve Schlacter at Stephen.Schlacter@gmail.com or (703)587-5695.

If you have questions about eligibility, please visit www.inova.org/bloodsave or contact Inova's Donor Advocate at (571)434-3628.

MVCCA: Update on sanitary sewer line replacement

The county is replacing a sewer line that runs under the streambed of Little Hunting Creek. In May, soil borings in the creek and the eastern and western shorelines were taken using truck-and barge-mounted rigs. The borings confirmed that more structure (pilings) will be needed to support the new sewer line; gravel bedding will not be enough.

The county is about 35% through the design stage now. They have a preliminary alignment that's a little south and parallel to the current alignment. The county is also working on permitting requirements and looking at the staging of the construction work. No certain word yet on when that will be.

MVCCA: Renovation & expansion of the Mount Vernon RECenter

Construction on the first phase will start in February 2020, with an estimated completion date of July 2022.

The first phase of the renovation and expansion will include a complete overhaul of the center's existing pool, an expanded two-floor fitness center, fixes

to the ice rink and a completely reworked entrance area.

Phase 1 is the only phase fully funded at this point, and also includes funding for the design of a new ice rink, which is planned for Phase II.

Phase III includes plans for the addition of a leisure pool.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Please consider helping to host our annual Halloween Parade and Party.

You can choose the date and time that works best with your schedule, and we can provide you with details and a list to make your effort easier. For questions, please contact SLCAnewPres2015@gmail.com.



King's Jewelry



Blue Sapphire is the birthstone for September.

The ancients believed sapphires influenced spirits, made peace between enemies and represented truth, sincerity and consistency.

King's has an incredible selection of sapphires in rings, pendants and earrings. Come take a look!

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MEMBERSHIP DRIVE ✓

Let's Care For Our Community Together!

...just \$10 by October 15

It's time for the SLCA's annual membership drive. Please print the membership form in this newsletter or go to the website and renew or join now. I know this simple task can easily be forgotten among efforts to return our daily routines and responsibilities, but your Block Captains and I would like to establish a new precedent with this year's drive by sticking to the October 15th deadline.

If you renew or join by October 15th you will be a member in good standing and can vote at this year's annual meeting, which is scheduled for October 23rd.

Why join? Your \$10 membership supports

the SLCA annual dues to the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations, which is where we have representation on the standing committees that make important policy decisions and recommendations to the elected officials and staff regarding school planning, zoning, housing, the environment, public safety, human services and more!

The SLCA volunteers provide you with e-Blast alerts from across our "community watch" network. You also receive ongoing communication and neighborhood news via the SLCA newsletter, website, and

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Facebook page. SLCA volunteers also provide the neighborhood directory and the “Sweet List” of recommended service providers and contractors endorsed by our neighbors.

The SLCA is a resource for your community-related questions and concerns. We maintain strong relationships with the Fairfax County Police Department, the Park Police and others.

The SLCA also provides annual community events to ensure our neighborhood of 770 homes feels friendly and welcoming to everyone that lives in our community. We sponsor the annual Easter Egg Hunt, a community yard sale, summer picnic, blood drives, watershed cleanups, and Santa on the fire truck every December.

The SLCA exists to serve and strengthen our community by providing a forum for sharing information, connecting neighbors, promoting activities and fostering civic engagement. Please renew or join today!

- Kathy

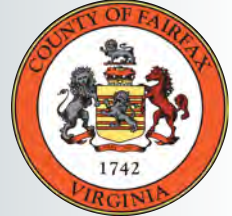
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block captains. Thanks for all the efforts of the committee and thank you to our block captains for your assistance in this effort. You can get more details in this newsletter from Committee Chair Kathy Lerner on Page 3. We are in the process of planning our Annual Meeting on October 23 at Fort Hunt Elementary School. Our speakers will include Susan Jones and Allison Fitch, whose bios you can read on this page. Our fall yard sale is scheduled for October 13 with a rain date of October 20. Before you know it, Halloween will be here. We are asking volunteers to host this year’s Halloween parade and party. If you have questions, please e-mail me. I can provide you with details and a list to make it easy to help. So on we go whether we are ready or not. I guess I will just have to acquiesce and go get those mums and pumpkins after all.

- SLCA President

Susan Jones

Susan Jones was born and raised in Springfield, VA. She



attended Robert E. Lee H.S. and East Tennessee State University. She was a police officer for 12 years with the Knoxville Police Department before moving back home to work with the Department of Cable and Consumer Services. She has been with the county for 18 years, and is currently the Branch Chief of Consumer Affairs.

Allison Fitch

Allison Fitch graduated from James Madison University in



2012 with a bachelor’s in Social Work. She began her career with Adult Protective Services and continues to support the elderly in home health, hospice, and nursing homes. Allison returned to Adult Protective Services in 2017 with Fairfax County and serves as the Financial Exploitation Coordinator.



SLCA RESOLUTION

(as amended by the SLCA Executive Committee 7/10/18)

1. WHEREAS, the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations, representing the citizens' associations of the Mount Vernon magisterial district, takes positions on issues of concern to its members and the Mount Vernon community, and presents them to Mount Vernon's elected representatives and other government entities;

2. WHEREAS, the credibility of the MVCCA is harmed by financial conflicts of interest on the part of its officers and committee members which appear to influence the positions taken by the MVCCA;

3. WHEREAS, MVCCA by-laws (Article VI, Section 5) state that, "In order to maintain the nonpartisan status and reputation of the Mount Vernon Council, no person who is a candidate for, or holds, an elective position with Fairfax County, who is an officer of a political party, or otherwise has a conflict of interest, may serve as an Officer or a member of the Board of Directors. A removal under this section shall be considered a removal for cause."

4. WHEREAS Roberts' Rules (section 45, p. 405, 11 th edition) states that, "No member should vote on a question in which he has a direct personal or pecuniary interest not common to other members of the organization";

5. WHEREAS, current MVCCA Board policy is for officers and members with financial conflicts of interest to disclose the conflict, but does not mandate their recusal from debate, voting or other participation,

and, contrary to Roberts' Rules, allows them to vote, and fails to limit their using the MVCCA to advance their own financial interests;

6. WHEREAS, disclosure alone provides some transparency, but provides weak or no protection from the reputational damage and corruption of its mission that MVCCA can suffer from financial conflicts of interest;

7. WHEREAS, merely disclosing conflicts of interest will further discredit the MVCCA when the conflicts are widely publicized;

8. WHEREAS, MVCCA does not have an effective procedure for notifying member associations and their representatives in a timely way that their dues are overdue and therefore their representatives have lost voting rights;

9. WHEREAS, nonpayment of dues has been enforced selectively and without notice to committee members and this selective enforcement has prevented some committee members from voting or speaking in committee meetings;

Therefore be it resolved, the Stratford Landing Citizens Association requests the MVCCA to revise its bylaws and policies to ensure stronger provisions, including recusal, to prevent financial conflicts of interest.

Be it further resolved, the SLCA asks that MVCCA develop better procedures for timely notice to members of dues nonpayment that are more respectful of member associations and their representatives.



Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Association Environment and Recreation Report

Proposed development on Dogue Creek

The committee's recent meetings have been dominated by discussion of a proposed amendment to Fairfax County's Comprehensive Plan to allow 43 townhomes to be built at 8800 Richmond Highway. This 8-acre property, a former junkyard, has long been an eyesore and detriment to the community. The parcel along the highway is zoned "commercial", and to its north lie two parcels zoned "residential, 2 dwelling units per acre". All three parcels are almost entirely in the Chesapeake Bay Resource Protection Area and the 100-year floodplain. They are recognized as part of the Dogue Creek Environmental Quality Corridor and protected by Fairfax County's Comprehensive Plan and several ordinances. They are currently planned for open space.

The E&R Committee debated and passed a resolution supporting (with conditions) a plan amendment to allow development, which was then amended and passed by the MVCCA General Council. The county staff report, issued after the MVCCA vote, strongly recommends against the amendment. At a July 19th public hearing of the Planning Commission, proponents (including the property owner and agent for the developer, MVCCA, the Sacramento shopping center owner, and local neighborhoods) testified that the plan amendment would help revitalize the Route 1 Corridor, and clean up a property that has long been a drag on the immediate neighborhood. Opponents (including Friends of Little Hunting Creek) testified that the

standards set by county and policy that such encroachments should only be allowed in "extraordinary" circumstances, and only where environmental benefits clearly outweigh harms. They said that approving the amendment would open the door to development in currently protected riparian areas and floodplains, and a better use of the land would be to provide public access for kayaking, canoeing, fishing, and birding in Pole Road Park and Dogue Creek.

The Commission postponed a decision until September 13th, and comments are being accepted until then. Send your comments on Plan Amendment 2018-IV-MV2 to plancom@fairfaxcounty.gov and dan.storck@fairfaxcounty.gov.

In the course of debate over this property, several E&R members strenuously objected to the fact that MVCCA Board members had conflicts of interest because they are an owner of the property, real estate agent for the property, or agent for the developer. Although they disclosed their conflicts of interest, the Board members did not recuse themselves, and actively participated, arguing for passage of a resolution in favor of the development in which they have a financial interest. SLCA passed a resolution (Page 5) objecting and asking MVCCA to revise its bylaws to better address conflicts of interest, and plans to meet with the new co-chairs to discuss.

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Standing Committee Chairs

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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**ELECTION OFFICERS
NEEDED!**

The Office of Elections is currently recruiting voters to serve as Election Officers a few days a year, including for the upcoming 2018 elections. Election Officers are needed at each of the 243 precincts in Fairfax County to run the polls and assist the voters. Training for new Election Officers begins in late August and will continue into October.

View the "Being an Election Officer" Video

Listen to the Podcast "Need Election Officers"

To apply call (703)324-4735, e-mail, or visit the Office of Elections website for more information.

Fall Yard Sale



The Fall Yard Sale will be held October 13 with a rain date of October 20. Get ready to clean out your closets and empty your drawers. SLCA will pace advertising the week prior. All you need to do is set your items out and bring in the cash!