

Stratford Landing Citizens Association



President's Letter

Community Goals For 2019 And Beyond

I am not a big fan of making New Year's resolutions. I try to set reasonable goals and stick to them on a daily basis, like going to the gym, drinking water, and getting rest. I never really understood all the hype of New Year's Eve as I typically wake up the next day and think how nothing really feels different. I am writing this before Christmas for deadline, but

I am already thinking of the new year for SLCA and what I hope to accomplish in 2019. As you may know we have been trying hard to come up with a solution for our community entrance signs. They are looking tired and particularly the one at the corner of Wittington Blvd

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Environmental News

Learn how you can make a positive impact on the community and environment from your own backyard.

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Donate Whole Blood

Read about the benefits of Whole Blood donation, and all the opportunities your INOVA and SLCA will provide in 2019.

Pages 2 & 5

Planning & Zoning

MVCCA presents the latest in the Wesley Housing application for development at Huntington Ave and Biscayne Dr.

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Stratford Landing Citizens Association Blood Drive

Thank you so much for your continued generosity this past year. Also, a big thank you to Anne and AJ, and the rest of the INOVA Blood Donor Services staff for their support in helping us continue this great community tradition that Jack Shawn started so many years ago.



Looking back on 2018, our SLCA group had 40 unique donors who made 106 donations. Each donation can help save up to 3 lives, so that's a pretty significant impact our community has made.

We're planning our 2019 drives and have posted a tentative schedule below. I will confirm the dates as we draw closer.

Also, we are gauging interest in platelet donation. The Mount Vernon donor center doesn't have a dedicated apheresis machine, but we are exploring options for bringing one to one of our blood drives. Please let me know if you would be interested in donating platelets. You may visit the INOVA Blood Donor Services [webpage](#) for more information, or see **Page 5** in this newsletter.

My best wishes to you and all for a safe and happy year ahead, and I look forward to seeing you around the neighborhood and at a blood drive soon!

Steve Schlacter
SLCA Blood Drive Coordinator (Sponsor Code 3018)

Lost iPhone

An iPhone was found across the street from 8707 Stockton Parkway on December 7.

If you think it is yours, please contact paul@folhc.org

SLCA Blood Drive – Tentative 2019 Schedule

- Saturday, February 2, 2019
- Saturday, April 6, 2019
- Saturday, June 1, 2019
- Saturday, August 3, 2019
- Saturday, October 5, 2019
- Saturday, December 7, 2019

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April	May	June
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July	August	September
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October	November	December
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Environmental News and Updates

The Planning Commission hearing to consider whether to amend the Comprehensive Plan allowing a townhome development in the floodplain at 8800 Richmond Highway was postponed indefinitely, at the request of the applicant.

The November meeting of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations Environment and Recreation Committee was cancelled, because there is no chair of the committee. A

replacement is being sought; if you have a suggestion or want to volunteer, email betsy@folhc.org. Committee chairs are selected by the MVCCA Co-Chairs and must be members in good standing of a citizens' association, which is a member of the MVCCA.

The Northern Virginia Conservation Trust (NVCT) and Friends of Little Hunting Creek invite you to come pull invasive vines (such as English ivy, Wintercreeper, Japanese honeysuckle) at the NVCT site (Londonderry and Stockton) on the morning of Jan. 19 from 10 am to 1 pm. Contact betsy@folhc.org.

Congratulations to neighbors Celia Boertlein and Paul Siegel for completing their training as Virginia Master Naturalists, Fairfax Chapter!

Do you feel disheartened by recent frightening news about climate change and environmental setbacks? If so, here's an antidote to despair: focus on making your own backyard a positive force for environmental good and provide an oasis for birds and wildlife.



Here are several ways to do well and feel better:

- **Plant an oak!** Oaks are magnificent when mature, provide shade, improve water quality and air quality. They help combat climate change by absorbing CO₂ and

releasing oxygen. Oaks provide a haven and life support for wildlife: did you know that 534 native species of animals are supported by white oaks, more than by any other tree? Be sure to plant them well

away from power lines and utilities.

- **Remove invasive vines from your yard, especially from trees.** English ivy, Wintercreeper, Japanese honeysuckle, and other non-native invasive species do a lot of environmental harm. They overwhelm and displace native plants and trees, killing them. When they climb a tree, they cause disease and the weight creates a hazard tree, vulnerable to being brought down by wind. Ivy harbors the mice that carry Lyme disease.
- **Learn more about how to attract and support birds, bees, butterflies and other beneficial wildlife in your yard.** Visit <http://audubonva.org/wildlife-sanctuary-program/> to request a free visit from an Audubon at Home Ambassador, who can advise on native plantings and other ways to create habitat in your own back yard. You can even get certified as a Wildlife Sanctuary, with a nice yard sign.

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and Elkin St, which is in total demise.

We continue to brainstorm ways to fund maintenance on the signs, and are in the process of getting estimates to clean and trim vegetation around the Wittington Blvd sign, at least. I hope to accomplish this goal in 2019 with the support of our residents.

Another suggestion is for our neighborhood to contribute to the "Take Back the Night" program. As you may know, we work with Officer Urps from the Mount Vernon Police Department for our Neighborhood Watch Program. He has approached us yearly to solicit support for the event. I would like to hear from anyone who has ideas on what we could contribute. You may also contact our Neighborhood Watch Coordinator, Cole Smith.

As always, we have spring activities on the calendar. Last spring we couldn't hold the Easter Egg Hung due to a lack of volunteers. We hope it will take place in 2019! Of course, we also hope to have the Spring Yard Sale if someone would volunteer to organize it. I'm always happy to help coordinate and answer questions regarding

any SLCA event.

Last Saturday, my husband and I drove the lead car for "Santa on the Fire Truck." In spite of the record-breaking rain, we found groups of children and family members on corners holding colorful umbrellas. I got a tiny lump in my throat when I saw the expression on some of the children's' faces.

Earlier that day I had described the event to my father, who lives in the countryside in Pennsylvania. He said it was such a great idea and that it surely contributed to a sense of community. He also said they had nothing like it where he lives. I understand some of these neighborhood events have taken place for years.

My father's comments reaffirmed, for me, the importance of the events and of close-knit communities. Happy New Year everyone! Many thanks to all who contributed your time, energy and talent in 2018.

Kim Fairchild
SLCA President



MVCCA Planning & Zoning

The Committee heard from the Wesley Housing attorney and its Senior Project Manager to put forward a second development option for their property to be sited at the southeast intersection of Huntington Ave and Biscayne Dr. The property is approximately 1.04 acres and is currently occupied with two sets of duplex dwelling units and a 3-story garden apartment building.

The applicant is proposing 126 multifamily units (studio, 1 bedroom & 2 bedroom rentals), 7,500 sq. feet of office spaces, and 179 parking spaces; 35% of the property would be open space.

The concerns of the P&Z Committee were additional affordable housing within the Mt. Vernon District where there is already an abundance of affordable housing. The Wesley Housing representatives will reach out to the MVCCA Transportation, Environment & Recreation Committees and will return to the Planning & Zoning Committee.

Whole Blood Donation Explained

This is the most common type of donation received from our donors. The entire process takes about an hour and includes four simple steps:

1. **Complete a Donor Health Questionnaire**
2. **Mini-Physical Health Screening** One of our trained staff members will take your temperature, measure your blood pressure, measure your hemoglobin (iron) levels and ask questions about your form and answer any questions you have.
3. **The Donation** This part typically takes less than 15 minutes. Insider Tip: The donation will go faster if you are hydrated! Insider Tip 2: Please eat before you donate. There is no need to fast.
4. **Refreshments** We ask that you stay about 15 minutes and have some delicious snacks in our canteen area before leaving our facility.

A whole blood donation includes four components including:

- Red Blood Cells
- Platelets
- Plasma
- White Blood Cells

After your generous blood donation is received, it travels to our testing facility where the white blood cells are removed and the remaining components are separated into units of red blood cells, platelets and plasma. When a patient needs a transfusion, doctors typically prescribe platelets OR red cells OR plasma, which is why it is critical for the blood to be divided into the components before being shipped to patients in need. Each time you donate whole blood you can help save up to THREE lives.

Did you know? Fairfax County Leash Laws

There have been several posts on NextDoor in the past few months about dog attacks and unleashed pets. In light of that, we thought now may be a good time to post an abbreviated version of the Fairfax County law. The full version can be found on Fairfax County's website.

Section 41.1-2-4. Unrestricted dogs prohibited; leash law

(a) No dog shall run unrestricted, as defined in Section 41.1-1-1, in the County. This Section shall not apply to any person who uses a dog under his direct supervision while lawfully hunting, while engaged in a supervised formal obedience training class or show, during formally sanctioned field trials, while a dog is in an area owned, leased, controlled, or operated by Fairfax County designated by resolution of the Board of Supervisors as an off-leash dog exercise area, or while a dog is in an area owned, leased, controlled, or operated by the Fairfax County Park Authority and designated by resolution of the Fairfax County Park Authority as an off-leash or dog exercise area, or while a dog is in an area, leased, controlled, or operated by the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority and designated by resolution of the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority Board as an off-leash or dog exercise area, or if a dog is a service animal whose handler is unable because of a disability to use a harness, leash, or other tether, or the use of a harness, leash, or other tether would interfere with the service animal's safe effective performance of work or tasks, in which case the service animal must be otherwise under the handler's control (e.g., voice control, signals, or other effective means). It is a violation of this Section for any owner of a dog to place such dog or allow it to be placed into custody of any person not physically capable of maintaining effective control of restricting such dog.

Hi Neighbors,

We have welcomed many new neighbors to Stratford Landing in the last few months. Although it can be sad when long-standing neighbors move, it is exciting to make new friends. The membership committee will work to ensure everyone who should receive the 2017 Membership Directory and the March 2018 update receives his or hers in January or February. Please send your contact information updates to me if you want us to send the newsletter to a different email or mail it to a different address.

If you have questions about SLCA membership, please send me an email at member.stratfordcitizen@gmail.com.

Kathy Lehner
SLCA Membership Chair

Duxbury Place Candlelight Display

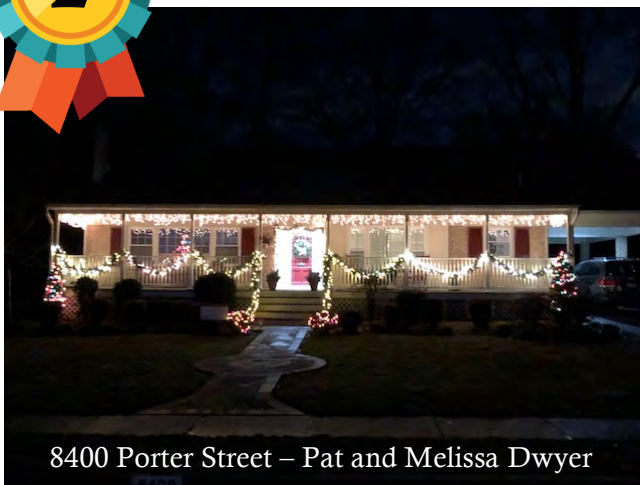


Thank you to our Duxbury Place Block Captain for the beautiful candlelight Christmas Eve display. We appreciate the hard work and yearly dedication.

It is such a nice treat for the neighborhood.



Congratulations to the 2018 Christmas Decoration Runners Up!



8400 Porter Street – Pat and Melissa Dwyer



8706 Waterford Drive – Doug and Tracey Scott

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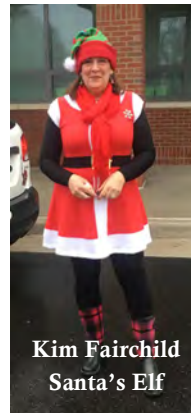
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Kim Fairchild
Santa's Elf



John Dickert



Santa on the Fire Truck