

Stratford Landing Citizens Association



President's Letter

Clairvoyant Rodents, Taxes, And An Early Spring

I grew up in Pennsylvania. As I sit looking out the window at the snow and sleet falling, it makes me wonder how a round rodent from the Marmot family came to be considered an expert on the weather anyway. "Phil" called for an early spring this year after failing to

"see" his shadow. However, given the weather, I am really beginning to question his expertise. Since I am stuck inside for the day and facing the fact the next thing on my to-do list is taxes, I decided to research the history of

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Saying Goodbye

SLCA honors former resident and U.S. Army veteran, George Wesley Wood.

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Hunting Creek, Or Not?

Residents, hunters and legislators continue to debate hunting rights in Little Hunting Creek.

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Environmental News

Learn about Senator Surovell's efforts to stop "cart dumping," and how you can volunteer to serve on the MVCCA.

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Fairfax Alerts

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Mount Vernon Advisor and Board of Supervisors Brief

The Mount Vernon Advisor is published monthly containing information pertinent to Mount Vernon District residents, communities and businesses. In addition, the BOS Brief is published following each Board of Supervisors' meeting highlighting issues and topics from that meeting that pertain to the Mount Vernon District. IF you don't receive these e-newsletters, you may sign up below:

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

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/>

OBITUARY

George Wesley Wood

AUGUST 2, 1934 – NOVEMBER 9, 2018

A former resident of Stratford Landing passed away in November 2018. He and his wife, Diane, who died in 2002, moved to the neighborhood in 1977 after George retired from the U.S. Army. George lived here until 2012 when he moved to Georgia to be close to his family.

A visitation is scheduled for Monday, March 11, 2019 from 12:00 – 2:00pm and 5:00 – 7:00pm at Demaine Funeral Home, 520 South Washington Street. A Funeral Mass is scheduled at

Fort Myer Old Post Chapel on Tuesday, March 12, 2019 at 10:45am with interment following at Arlington National Cemetery. For additional details, please visit:

<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/alexandria-va/george-wood-8055895>



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Groundhog Day. The story is actually quite interesting and filled with fun facts. In any case, it is difficult to think about spring on a day like today. But we know it is just around the corner! In this edition of our newsletter, we have tried to provide you with information on some of the upcoming local events. Also, we are hoping to schedule our annual Easter Egg Hunt, and Spring Yard Sale. We only need a few volunteers to help! If you have questions or would like to assist, feel free to contact me at slcanewpres2015@gmail.com. I will happily answer any questions. We are still working on getting the entrance signs cleaned and repaired, and looking for reasonable estimates to trim trees at Whittington. If you have a recommendation, please contact me. I think a few years back we had a considerable amount of snow on Saint Patrick's Day. Here's hoping Punxsutawney Phil's predictions hold true!

- SLCA President



The Fairfax County Code of Ordinances Section 41.1-2-6

It shall be unlawful for the owner of any animal or animals to keep such animal or animals in such a manner as to cause unsanitary conditions. The owner or custodian of any dog shall be responsible for the removal of excreta deposited by such dog on the property of another, including public places.

In addition, waste left near waterways is known to cause the existence of bacteria in public streams and the Potomac River and ultimately in our drinking water.

As another reminder, dogs must be on a leash and are not permitted to trespass onto private property.



NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH

If you would like more information about the Stratford Landing Neighborhood Watch (SLNW) program, please email Cole Smith, SLNW coordinator at:

StratfordLandingNW@gmail.com.

Traffic Calming Study

We would like to thank all those who worked so diligently to complete the Traffic Calming Study. Many thanks to John Bioty, John Horn, Shawn Gee and Chris Bahret for their committee work and all those residents that help get the word out to their neighbors to help get the study completed.

Environmental News

Senator Surovell's Shopping Cart Bill:

Members of the Friends of Little Hunting Creek travelled to Richmond (twice) to testify in favor of SB1553, Senator Surovell's bill to allow Fairfax County to hold retailers responsible for retrieving shopping carts that leave their lots. The County would notify the retailer when a cart was found, and the retailer would have 10 days to retrieve it. If the cart was not retrieved, the County could declare it abandoned property and bill the retailer for the cost of retrieving and disposing of it. The purpose of the bill is to increase the incentive for retailers to keep their shopping carts on their lots. Shopping carts do not belong in creeks. They tear up stream banks and get buried in mud and are extremely difficult to remove. They create dams that collect trash and debris, and can cause flooding. Every year, volunteers retrieve a dozen or more at various sites along the creek. In 2012 close to 200 Wal-Mart carts were pulled out of the creek -- likely not deposited by individuals, but improperly disposed of by Walmart itself. Stray shopping carts are a problem as well in neighborhoods in the Springfield area. The president of the Springfield Citizens' Association testified in favor of the bill, as did Fairfax County's lobbyist. The retailers' lobbyists argued that it was unfair to penalize retailers when they were victimized by people removing carts from their lots. They argued that people who



took the carts should be arrested and charged with larceny. It was pointed out that police do not have the resources or time to patrol for people removing shopping carts, and that proving larceny requires proving a person intended to deprive the store of the property, which is often not the case—they just want to use the cart to transport their purchases.

SB1553 passed the Senate, but failed on a tie vote in a House subcommittee.

MVCCA Environment and

Recreation Committee has not met due to lack of a chair, although a new chair has been identified and a meeting is scheduled for March.

Little Hunting Creek Cleanup is Saturday April 13

Mark your calendars! Do you have a particularly trashy spot you'd like to clean up? Contact betsy@folhc.org to arrange for a supply of bags and gloves and trash pickup on April 15.





Dear Stalwart Cleanup Leaders,

The 18th Annual Little Hunting Creek Cleanup is just around the corner! This year it is scheduled for Saturday, April 13. Low tide that day is 8:56am; high tide is 2:47pm. Please let me know if you are up to being a cleanup site leader this year. Also, let me know the number of bag and gloves you would like. If it is the same as last year, just let say that. I will also need the address where you would like the trash picked up. It would be great to hear from you as soon as possible.

The drill is the same as usual. Clean up is 9:00am to 12:00pm (or any other time that weekend, if desired). I will order bags and supplies from Alice Ferguson and you can pick those up at the Mount Vernon Government Center. If you are unable to pick up the supplies, I can deliver those to you. I will arrange for the County to pick up the trash on the morning of Monday, April 15. If you plan to conduct your cleanup another weekend, please let me know, so we can arrange your trash pick up and other logistics. For those of you who are Fairfax Master Naturalist, the Little Hunting Creek Cleanup is service project S046 and your hours count as FMN service hours.

Thanks so much, as ever, for your stewardship and hard work!

- Betsy



SLCA Blood Drive

The next SLCA Blood Drive will be Saturday, April 13, from 7:30am to 12:00pm.

The following Drive will be Saturday, June 8, from 7:30am to 12:00pm

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/bloodsaves or contact Inova's Donor Advocate at (571) 434-3628.

Little Hunting Creek Duck Hunting Debate Goes to Richmond

More than 15 years ago, hunters wanted to hunt on Little Hunting Creek (LHC). For safety reasons, Hunting was not acceptable to our community. Due to the efforts of Stratford Landing residents and our sister neighborhoods, the issue was put to rest when Fairfax County enacted a prohibition codified in Fairfax County Code Section 6-1-2. The Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF) duly marked the prohibition on its paper maps and no permits to hunt in LHC were issued until the fall of 2018.

Over Columbus Day weekend (October 6-8, 2018), two SLCA board members and several residents of Stockton Parkway became aware that hunters had been issued a state permit and believed hunting was authorized in the creek. Two weeks later, the hunters returned to with a DGIF sign. They returned a third time several days afterwards to put up camouflage netting in preparation for the next hunting season, which began November 21, 2018.

Meanwhile the same SLCA residents and board members were busy researching applicable laws, regulations, and federal land boundaries on the creek; obtaining allies; communicating with appropriate local and state government officials; and monitoring events on the creek. Mount Vernon Supervisor Dan Storck obtained unanimous approval by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for his "Board Matter of November 20, 2018," which authorized "the County Executive to petition the State Board of Game and Inland Fisheries [BGIF] to adopt ... a regulation forbidding the placement of

blinds, whether stationary or floating, within Little Hunting Creek and forbidding hunting migratory waterfowl within Little Hunting Creek." The County's legal department determined that this approach—adoption of a state regulation—would provide a permanent solution.

On November 26, 2018, Fairfax County submitted a petition to the BGIF to adopt a regulation prohibiting hunting in Little Hunting Creek. On January 24, 2019, Deputy County Attorney Erin C. Ward traveled to Richmond, Virginia, to make a formal presentation to the BGIF on behalf of this proposal. On the same day, SLCA members Randy Myers and Claire Kluskens also traveled to Richmond to speak in favor of the County's petition. In addition, the SLCA President Kim Fairchild, H. Jay Spiegel, the Wessynton HOA, Paul Siegel and Betsy Martin, Claire Kluskens, and a resident of Stratford on the Potomac submitted letters of support.

On March 21, 2019, the BGIF will hold a meeting to hear public comment on pending proposals to decide whether to kill proposed regulations or to proceed with publication of notice in the Virginia Register. If the BGIF votes favorably on Fairfax County's proposal, the public can submit written comments from April 1 to May 15. On May 29 and 30, the BGIF will review staff recommendations, hear public comment, deliberate, and finally vote on whether to adopt new or amended regulations. If adopted, the ban on hunting on Little Hunting Creek would become effective on August 1, 2019, in time for the fall hunting season.

Officers

President: Kim Fairchild

SLCAnewpres2015@gmail.com

Vice President: Cole Smith

stratfordlandingnw@gmail.com

Treasurer: Celia Boertlein

cboertlein@aol.com

Secretary: Jody Nyalko

jnyalko@gmail.com

Standing Committee Chairs

Membership: Kathy Lehner

member.stratfordcitizen@gmail.com

Rules: Keith Kettell

Kwk2325@aol.com

**Comm. Improvements & Transportation:
Vacant**

Events: Vacant

Delegates to MVCCA

General Council: Jody Nyalko

jnyalko@gmail.com

Education: Matthew Dunne

mdunne@gmail.com

Environment & Recreation: Betsy Martin

betsy@folhc.org

Budget & Finance: Claire Kluskens

birdlady2011@icloud.com

Planning & Zoning: Leah Chapla

leah.chapla@longandfoster.com

Public Safety: Cole Smith

stratfordlandingnw@gmail.com

Transportation: Vacant

Neighborhood Watch: Cole Smith

stratfordlandingnw@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor: Rob Snyder

Slcaeditor@gmail.com

Webmaster: Sarah Linden

Sarah.artuso@gmail.com

Stratford Landing Citizens Association
8815 Stockton Parkway
Alexandria, VA 22308