

STRATFORD LANDING

Mount Vernon District, Fairfax County



From the President

When I volunteered to become the membership chair 2 years ago, I didn't foresee a "promotion" in my future. I would like to thank Kim Fairchild for her service to our community as the SLCA President for 4 years. She worked tirelessly on behalf of all us to ensure Stratford Landing felt like a welcoming community to our new neighbors and inclusive to all of us.

We had a great turnout for our Candidates Night last night and I want to thank all of the candidates who showed up: Delegate Paul Krizek and candidate Richard Hayden as well as School Board member Karen Corbett-Sanders and school board candidate Steve Mosley. We had a lively discussion about issues that impact our community after each candidate gave a brief presentation.

A huge thank you to Emily McAsey for volunteering to organize the Halloween Parade. As the new Recreation Chair, Emily will close out 2019 with our traditional holiday decorations contest and Santa riding through the neighborhood on a fire truck.

It is my hope that we can find a way to grow interest in the SLCA. Our citizens association is the backbone of the community. This is where the work of the community takes place and if our concerns are going to be heard in the discussions about Parkway safety, Route One redevelopment and school performance then we have to be engaged. We need more members of the SLCA participating on our behalf. PLEASE, if you have an hour or 2 a month, consider volunteering with the SLCA. Come to a board meeting (we meet the 2nd Tuesday of the month) and give us a try. Maybe, you want to be the new membership chair!

Save the Date!

SLCA Blood Drive at Inova Mount Vernon Hospital

Saturday, December 7, 7:30 am - 12:30 pm

Appointments available at www.inovabloodsaves.org/ using Sponsor Code 3018, or contact Stephen Schlacter, 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.

Holiday Decorations Judging

Saturday, December 14

Santa on the Fire Truck

Sunday, December 15, 2:00 pm



SLCA Annual Meeting and Candidates Night

The evening began with presentations from School Board candidates Karen Corbett Sanders and Steven Mosley, and State Delegate candidates Paul Krizek and Richard Hayden. This was followed by a lively question and answer session providing everyone an opportunity to learn more about the candidates and their platforms. Don't forget to vote on November 5!

We quickly dispensed with the official obligations of the business meeting so everyone could get home for the World Series Game One. The 2019-2020 budget was approved as presented by Treasurer Celia Boertlein. The slate for the Executive Committee for the coming *(continued on page 2)*

SLCA Halloween Parade and Party

Fifty children and adults had a ghoulishly good time at annual SLCA Halloween Parade and Party on Sunday, October 27, 2019.

The parade on Camden Street included a sidewalk stop at a house set up "early" for Halloween. At the party at Stratford Landing Park, the children enjoyed crafts, games, snacks, and the ever popular playground equipment. It was fun to see all the little princesses, superheroes, firemen, witches, and other cute costumes.

Thank you, Emily McAsey, for superbly planning and accomplishing this event! Enjoy more Halloween Parade photos on page 5.



(SLCA Annual Meeting and Candidates Night, continued from page 1)

year was presented. Kathy Lehner was nominated from the floor to fill the vacant position of President and she accepted. A motion was made and seconded to approve the slate by acclamation and the motion carried. Please see the list of Officers, Standing Committee Chairs and Delegates to the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations elsewhere in the newsletter. The last order of business was to thank Kim Fairchild for her four years of leadership as President of SLCA. It was the best attendance at an annual meeting in recent memory. Thank you!

Emily McAsey was appointed as Recreation Chair in the days following the meeting. If you have an interest in/questions about any of the vacant positions, please contact a member of the Executive Committee.

End-of-Year Reports

Budget and Finance Committee

The MVCCA Budget and Finance Committee (B&F) met with the MVCCA Education Committee during most of 2019 because the B&F Committee does not have a chair. Since about half of the County's budget goes to our schools, this made great sense. However, there are other County budget issues worth investigating and educating ourselves about, and a chair is needed to provide direction and leadership. As I understand it, any dues-paying member of a MVCCA member association can serve as a chair, so if you're interested in learning more about Fairfax County's budget, this opportunity is for you. The B&F Committee meets once a month. More information about MVCCA can be found on its website, www.mvcca.org. I am willing to serve as SLCA's B&F delegate for the coming year, but I want to pass the torch to someone else by next October, *(continued)*

since I have served on the SLCA Board for more than 10 years and it's time for "the next generation" to step up to the plate. Thanks. —From Claire Kluskens, Delegate to the B&F Committee.

SLCA Facebook Page

The SCLA Facebook page is an excellent way to learn important, timely, and interesting information about our community and the immediate area. If you're a social media maven who loves Facebook, you could use your talent in this fun way as an admin on the SLCA Facebook page. This would be perfect for a busy person who'd like to get involved in the community, but doesn't have much time. I'd love for others to contribute. —From Claire Kluskens, one of the SLCA Facebook administrators.

Membership

I want to thank the Block Captains who worked very hard to get our neighbors to renew or join the SLCA this year. We have 52 blocks, 7 do not have block captains. As of Oct. 9 we had 322 members.

Environmental News and Updates

2019 Mount Vernon District Environmental Expo: What YOU Can Do to Act on Climate Change,

Saturday, November 16, from 8:00 am to noon, at Walt Whitman Middle School, 2500 Parkers Lane. Workshops will teach you more about the problem and possible solutions, and exhibitors will provide practical tips and strategies to reduce your carbon footprint and make other environmental improvements. You can learn which local areas will be most affected by sea level rise (the Mount Vernon district will have greater impacts than any other part of Fairfax County). This free event is organized by Supervisor Storck's office and members of his Environmental Advisory Committee. *(continued on page 4)*

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Little Hunting Creek Sewer Line Replacement

The County will replace a sewer line running underneath Little Hunting Creek because it is sagging, posing environmental risks and causing high maintenance costs. Permits for the project were delayed due to the government shutdown last January, and there were delays in obtaining needed easements. The project is now on track to be bid in late 2019 or early 2020. Traffic on Stockton Parkway east of Waterford will be restricted (probably for a couple of weeks) while pipes underneath the street connecting to the sewer line are replaced, and will be restricted to one lane during the construction project.

See <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/capital-projects/little-hunting-creek-sanitary-sewer-replacement-project> for updates, maps, and detailed plan information.

Rule Change for Curbside Recycling

As of October 1, the county no longer accepts glass in curbside recycling containers. Glass breaks and contaminates other valuable recyclables (such as cardboard and metal) and reduces their value, and it damages machinery. Instead, bring your glass bottles and jars (no light bulbs, mirrors, windows, or sheet glass) to one of the 21 purple dumpsters located around the county, including one at the Mount Vernon Government Center on Parkers Lane. (You can also throw your glass in the trash, but please recycle instead.) The county has procured a glass crusher, and other local jurisdictions are sending their glass to it, too. The crushed glass is used in county construction projects.

County Efforts on Litter Control

The county has begun a 4 month Litter Removal Pilot Project. The program provides part-time, temporary work to guests of county shelters. Participants earn \$10 an hour to pick up litter in and around streams and to remove invasive plants. This project is a win-win--it helps improve water quality in streams as well as provide dignity in work to people experiencing homelessness. The team of up to 10 people is out working every weekday so they can get through a lot of trash. In fact, the county is running out of sites to clean up! The county has requested help from the Friends of Little Hunting Creek and other friends groups to identify "high value" trash sites. We visited a couple of the trashier sites we clean up every year on Little Hunting Creek (near Janna Lee Avenue bridge, and at Shaw Park Court), and they were cleaner than we've ever seen them. The county crew had clearly just picked up the Shaw Park Court site, because there was a big pile of bags and debris. [If you know of trashy sites in or near streams, please email \[betsy@folhc.org\]\(mailto:betsy@folhc.org\) with your information and I'll pass it along to the county.](mailto:betsy@folhc.org)

Trash Trap

The county is installing a trash trap on Little Hunting Creek behind the Hybla Valley mall. This project has been in the works forever, but we hope it will finally be operating in the next few months—and that we'll see less trash floating down the creek as a result.

The next Little Hunting Creek cleanup is March 28, 2020. Save the date, details to follow.



**"Autumn, the year's last, loveliest smile."
-William Cullen Bryant**



Officers

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Neighborhood Watch: Cole Smith
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Standing Committee Chairs
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Rules: Keith Kettell
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Comm. Improvements & Transportation: Vacant

Recreation: Emily McAsey
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