



# STRATFORD LANDING CITIZENS ASSOCIATION

Mount Vernon District, Fairfax County

## From the President

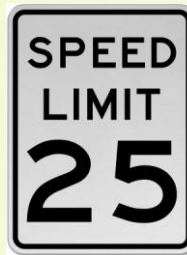
Hi, Neighbors.

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family healthy. The SLCA board members have been trying to provide you with relevant information during this time. Please continue implementing our new lifestyle of social distancing and let us know if you need anything.

I hope some of the younger members of your family enjoyed the revised egg hunt as you walked around the neighborhood the last 3 weeks. In this newsletter there is a Bird Search. The birds listed live in our neighborhood this time of year so have fun with your children looking for them. If you want to learn more about birds in our area a helpful website is eBird.org. The Bird Search includes a link so you can listen to the bird calls.

And finally, please remember to clean up after your dog and take it with you. Our children learn from us and if we don't teach them proper hygiene practices, which include using your trash bin not others, then who will?

## Please Be Cautious...



With kids out of school and many adults working from home, traffic is light and everyone may be tempted to drive a little faster on the nearly empty streets. According to local police, this has resulted in an increase in speeding. Please be respectful of the 25 mph speed limit on Stratford Landing streets and be extra cautious when driving in the neighborhood. Children are riding bikes and many neighbors are walking dogs. You never know when a child or a dog walker will pop out of a driveway or from between parked cars. Be careful out there!

## Blood Drive Update

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the INOVA Mount Vernon Blood Donor Center is closed. We'll keep you updated on when we can resume SLCA's Community Blood Drive. In the meantime, if you want to donate as an individual, please call 866-256-6372 and use Sponsor Code 3018.

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

# Virtual Easter Egg Hunt

## How Many Did You Find?





Following VA state guidelines and to ensure the well-being of our customers and staff, we are TEMPORARILY CLOSED.

If you have questions or concerns, please leave us a message at 703-549-0011 or email us at Kings609@aol.com.

Most importantly, we wish to express our appreciation and gratitude to those on the front lines of the COVID-19 crisis.

### 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Storewide Sale... Extended!

**Storewide  
20% - 40% Off  
Fine Jewelry, Watches & Giftware\***  
Now thru June 30, 2020



Please visit our website for details about our 65th Anniversary Storewide Sale.

[www.KingsJewelry.NET](http://www.KingsJewelry.NET)  
703-549-0011

609 King Street  
Old Town Alexandria

## Glass Recycling and Yard Waste Collection Changes Explained

Several changes to Fairfax County's solid waste collection requirements were made Friday, March 27. (news release). The changes, which went into effect Monday, March 30, are temporary and in response to the current public health emergency. There are several reasons why the changes were made, including:

- Protect the workforce to ensure that personnel remain available to collect trash and protect public health.
- Minimize workers' physical contact with surfaces where the coronavirus can survive for several days.
- Follow social distancing guidance by reducing crew sizes and using automated collection vehicles.

There has been a dramatic increase in trash, recycling, and yard waste because households are full of students and teleworking adults and spring weather has arrived.

The additional volume is straining the solid waste collection system at a time when there are fewer workers

available to collect, transport, and process the material.

Solid waste programs throughout the state and the nation are facing higher absenteeism due to the disruption caused by the coronavirus. Trash and recycling collection workers face the same challenges as everyone else, such as finding childcare and addressing family health concerns. This has caused a significant shortage of trained personnel to cover all the normal functions of solid waste programs. The remaining workforce is being deployed to provide only essential sanitation services – weekly trash collection, which can attract vermin and be a vector for disease if left uncollected. Yard waste collection and glass recycling are not essential to preserving public health.

### Glass Recycling

Temporarily removing the purple, glass-only recycling containers not only eliminates additional driving routes, it also eliminates a place where people may congregate during the Virginia Governor's stay-at-home order.

*(continued on page 4)*

*(Glass Recycling and Yard Waste Collection Changes Explained, continued from page 3)*

Glass can be stored at home until the purple containers return or placed in the trash.

### Yard Waste

The county's Solid Waste Management Program is no longer requiring licensed companies to collect yard waste separately. Yard waste can be placed in the trash can, but not left on the curb in bags or bundles. Residents are encouraged to manage yard waste on their property by mulching, backyard composting, or not generating yard waste at all if possible.

These changes are only temporary. Full service will be restored when the public health emergency is over. Thank you for your patience as we work to protect the men and women who keep Fairfax County's communities clean and healthy.

### Best Practices for Residents

Residents can help reduce the volume of trash and create safer working conditions for workers by following these best practices:

1. Reduce the waste households generate so the system isn't overwhelmed. (Postpone spring cleaning.)
2. Wipe and disinfect cart handles and lids.
3. Stop setting out yard waste at the curb. Implement mulching or backyard composting.
4. Seal sharp medical objects in a rigid plastic container with sturdy tape and label it "sharps."
5. Bag all trash to limit workers' exposure to harmful materials.

## Spring and Summer Storm Season

Do you know what to do in case of a tornado, wind storm or flood... what to have in an emergency kit... how to sign up for wireless emergency alerts? Check out these websites:

- ✓ <https://www.ready.gov>
- ✓ <https://www.vaemergency.gov/>
- ✓ <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergencymanagement/sites/emergencymanagement/files/assets/cerg%20final%20jan%2030%20final.pdf>



Get your kids involved by teaching them about weather prep through the [Smithsonian's "Disaster Detector" game!](#)

Don't forget about Wireless Emergency Alerting through your Smartphone network as well as signing up for Fairfax Alerts: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts/>

## Summer is Coming!



**In June 2019**, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved a zoning ordinance that allows people in the county to have fruit and vegetable gardens in the front yard of their homes on lots less than 36,000 square feet. The gardens must be set back 15 feet from the front lot line and be no more than 100 square feet.

**A big reason** for the change is to give people more opportunities to eat healthier. "It's a nationwide trend right now towards people growing their own food, knowing where their food is coming from, knowing that there are no chemicals on it, and showing their kids where their food is coming from," said Jennifer Josiah, representing Dept. of Planning and Zoning. This becomes especially important during the current coronavirus pandemic.

# Stratford Landing Scavenger Hunt



**A double acorn**  
(do 10 jumping jacks)

**A colorful bird**   
(sing like a bird)



**A maple copter**  
(jog in place for 15 seconds)

**2 animal tracks**   
(what animals made them?)



**A spider web**  
(spin 5 times)

**2 white flowers**   
(stand on one leg for for 20 seconds)



**A stick with a pinecone**  
(dance in place for 10 seconds)

**A heart rock**   
(get your heart pumping with your choice cardio)



**A colorful bug**  
(do 10 squats)

**A cloud shaped like an animal**   
(act like that animal)



**LEAVE NO TRACE:** Know your route before you go! Use the right path! Trash your trash! Leave what you find! Be careful with fire! Respect wildlife! Be kind to others!

## Stratford Landing Bird Search

How many of these birds can you find on your next walk?



Cardinal (male and female)



Osprey



Robin



Black-capped Chickadee



Parula Warbler



Great Heron



Goldfinch (male and female)



Downy Woodpecker

To learn about these birds and more:

<https://www.audubon.org/bird-guide>

Download the Audubon Bird Guide app:

For Apple and Android Devices

<https://www.audubon.org/app>

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