



From the President

Why Should I Get Involved with the Stratford Landing Citizens Association (SLCA)?

We bring different life experiences to Stratford Landing, so our priorities may vary when it comes to community involvement. Our jobs and families put demands on our time in different ways and imagining time for one more volunteer position in your life may seem impossible.

However, let me pitch the importance of the SLCA with the hope that some of you might decide to give it a try. Many of us think that the pool (SRA) is the backbone of our community as it provides opportunities to socialize and build friendships with families. I would argue that the SRA is the playground, which has an important place in every community, but the SLCA is the foundation of the community. The SLCA is the lifeline to all the decisions that are made about the quality of life we enjoy. Our representatives to the Mt. Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations (MVCCA) are engaged in the discussions that shape policy decisions that impact our schools, plans for Route 1 development as well as additional building along the creek and more. If the SLCA doesn't show up – our neighborhood doesn't have a voice or a vote. The MVCCA works directly with Fairfax County staff and our elected officials. We even found *(continued on page 2)*

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 or contact Inova's Donor Advocate at 571-434-3628.

SLCA Membership Drive

Sept. 1 – Oct. 15, 2020

As always, there will be an email alert in late August or early September to remind you to renew your membership in the SLCA. I hope you will continue to support our neighborhood citizens' association and get involved with the work that we do. *(Please read Why Should I get Involved in the SLCA).*

News You Can Use

These 9 Hand Sanitizers May Contain a Potentially Fatal Ingredient, FDA Warns

<https://www.newsbreak.com/news/OPPUIOEg/these-9-hand-sanitizers-may-contain-a-potentially-fatal-ingredient-fda-warns>

Field Guide to Mosquito Control

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news2/your-field-guide-to-battle-mosquitoes/>

Homeland Security Drone Questionnaire

The Department of Homeland Security is accepting comments on the use of unmanned aircraft systems (drones) by First Responders during emergency events. You can access the form by clicking on the "COMMENTS" tab at the web site below. This is not a questionnaire; you enter your comments as text. <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=DHS-2019-0057-0003>

(From the President, continued from page 1)

ourselves working at the state level to secure the ban on hunting in Little Hunting Creek.

Decisions are being made that will impact the Mt. Vernon area for generations. We need residents who are interested in the long-term future of Stratford Landing to be a part of the decision-making process. Those of us who are close to retirement (or have retired) may have a short-term point-of-view that won't help those of you with long-term plans to stay here.

Generally speaking, the time commitment is 2-3 hours/month. We have monthly SLCA board meetings and if you represent Stratford Landing on a MVCCA committee then you will also attend that committee's monthly meeting.

Think about it. And let me know if you have any questions or are ready to get involved. Thank you.

Kathy Lehner, SLCA President

Speaking of Volunteers...

Needed: Membership Chair and committee members

At last October's annual meeting I was elected President of the SLCA. (I was desperate to get home to Game 1 of the World Series and reluctantly accepted the nomination from the floor if it meant I could leave to watch the game. Until that moment I was ready to serve another term as the membership committee chair.)

Our 2020-21 membership drive begins on September 1st. It would be helpful to have a new chair in place to take the lead on this important job. I can share an outline with you about outreach to our block captains and you can take it from there.

If you don't like the idea of being the face of membership how are your database skills? We have 2 outstanding volunteers who have built the database and keep it current but they're also holding additional board positions. From September 1 – November 1 you will have to update the database as members renew their memberships in the SLCA or new members join. The rest of the year there are occasional updates as people move in or out of the neighborhood.

Please let me know if you are willing to help us with this important work.

Environment & Recreation Representative

Are you interested in and concerned about the environment? Would you like to get more involved in environmental issues affecting the Mount Vernon district? Please consider volunteering to serve as Stratford Landing's

representative to the Environment and Recreation (E&R) Committee of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations.

The E&R Committee meets monthly, at 7:15 pm on the first Wednesday of each month, for 1 ½ to 2 hours. It hears presentations from county staff, developers, environmental experts and others on a variety of topics. Examples of topics from past meetings: plans to develop particular parcels that may have an environmental impact, plans to replace sewer lines underneath Little Hunting Creek, air and water quality in the county, FCPA budgets, tree preservation and the county's tree policy, changes in the county's recycling and trash management, climate change, etc. The committee occasionally initiates resolutions recommending the county adopt, reject, or modify certain plans or policies or development proposals, which are forwarded to the MVCCA General Council for a final decision to forward to the supervisor. MVCCA resolutions carry a good deal of weight with the Mount Vernon Supervisor.

The E&R representative also attends monthly meetings of the Stratford Landing Citizens' Association, to report back on what's happened in the committee and solicit neighborhood input on issues of the day. These meetings are the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 pm and last 1 to 1 ½ hours.

Consider volunteering! You will learn a lot, and find rewards in being civically involved on local environmental issues. If you're interested, please send a brief description of your interest and why you think you'd be a good representative to Kathy Lehner at president.stratford308@gmail.com. *(continued on page 4)*



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(Speaking of Volunteers, continued from page 2)

SLCA Facebook Page Manager

The SLCA Facebook page provides information to the community. There is no need to post every day or even every week to avoid fatigue both to the manager and the community.

The SLCA Facebook page has a focus in this order: (1) SLCA and Stratford Landing neighborhood news and information; (2) Mount Vernon area news and information; (3) Fairfax County news and information; and (4) Virginia news and information. Appropriate Mount Vernon, Fairfax County, and Virginia information may include, for example, items relating to the weather, schools, traffic, governmental information or decisions, emergency situations, and so forth. Commemorative posts may be made (but are not required) for holidays such as New Year’s Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Veterans’ Day, Christmas, Hanukkah, and so forth.

The Facebook manager also takes and posts photos of SLCA events (such as the Halloween and Easter Egg Hunt events) and the community (such as the changing of the seasons on

Little Hunting Creek, street artwork, flowers in bloom, holiday Christmas lighting on homes, and so forth). Everybody loves photos.

The Facebook manager will also attend monthly meetings of the Stratford Landing Citizens Association Board to keep informed on activities and decisions of the SLCA Board. SLCA Board meetings are the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. and typically last one hour.

The Facebook manager will receive support and training from the current manager to allow for a smooth transition. The current manager will stay on as an assistant for a few months.

It’s not a hard job. It’s not time consuming. You can do most of it at home at your convenience.

Consider volunteering! You will learn a lot, and find rewards in being civically involved. If you’re interested, please send a brief description of your interest and why you think you’d be a good Facebook manager to Kathy Lehner at president.stratford308@gmail.com.

8726 Stockton Pkwy Update

Those of you who walk or bike along the creek have probably noticed the stakes in the ground on the creek side property on Stockton Pkwy near Wittington Blvd. The owners of the two lots are planning on building a home on the lot closest to Wittington and leaving the adjacent lot undeveloped. As they work through the approval process there will be an opportunity for public comment. We’ll keep you updated.

Jeff Todd Way Now Policed by Fairfax County



In the past, many Fairfax County residents have complained about the speeding and reckless driving on Jeff Todd Way. At least one fatal accident has occurred on

Virginia Department of Transportation. This comes nearly six years after the roadway was officially opened. Jeff Todd Way was previously owned and patrolled, on a limited basis, by Ft Belvoir Military Police. Fairfax County Police will now be empowered to conduct traffic enforcement on the roadway. The effort to gain Fairfax County law enforcement on Jeff Todd Way is a last step in a long saga to get that road built. State Senator Scott Surovell posted a “Thank You” to everyone involved in getting the roadway turned over to Fairfax County especially Supervisor Dan Storck and Congressman Don Beyer. All Stratford Landing residents, as well as others, are advised to abide by posted speed limits when utilizing Jeff Todd Way.

that roadway. After Stratford Landing Citizens Association and Mount Vernon Council of Citizens’ Associations (MVCCA) endorsed the recommendation, this month Governor Northam signed a retrocession agreement with the U.S. Army so that Jeff Todd Way is now owned by the

John Bioty, SLCA Representative, MVCCA Transportation Committee

July 2020 Environment & Recreation Committee Report



committee) voted for a resolution supporting implementation of a county project to restore streams in two Hollin Hills parks. Serious erosion has downcut the streams, undermining a sanitary sewer line, sending excess sediment into Paul Spring Branch, and threatening public safety. The streams in the Little Hunting Creek watershed are in the lowest 15th percentile in the county in terms of water quality, and these projects were recommended by the county's Little Hunting Creek Watershed Management Plan in 2005 to reduce sediment flowing into the creek. The county has responded to residents' concerns by reducing the footprint and minimizing tree loss, and will remove invasive exotic vegetation and replant the area with native trees and plants. The Civic Association of Hollin Hills supports the project. The resolution also called for Hollin Hills residents to work with the county to adopt practices to reduce the stormwater runoff that causes stream erosion. Update: The resolution was approved by the MVCCA General Council on May 24.

The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations (MVCCA) Environment and Recreation Committee members (including the SLCA representative to the

Betsy Martin, SLCA Representative, MVCCA Environment & Recreation Committee

Officers

President: Kathy Lehner
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Vice President: Cole Smith
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Education: Matthew Dunne
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Budget & Finance: Claire Kluskens
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Public Safety: Cole Smith
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Transportation: John Bioty
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Standing Committee Chairs

Membership: Vacant

Rules: Keith Kettell
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Comm. Improvements & Transportation: John Bioty
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Recreation: Emily McAsey
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Newsletter Editor: Rebekah Nyalko



CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2020!



Stratford Landing Citizens Association

May 29 at 8:48 PM · 🌟



Thank you to everyone who participated in the Parade of Graduates! WOW! it was wonderful to see so many people turn out to celebrate our young people's accomplishments. Our hearty congratulations to them - and our best wishes for the next phase of their lives!



See more photos celebrating our 2020 graduates on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/StratfordLandingCitizensAssociation>