



STRATFORD LANDING

Mount Vernon District, Fairfax County

November & December, 2020


From the President

I want to thank the members who participated in the annual meeting last week. It was great to have a diverse mix of new and longtime members involved in the business of our community.

I am a president of few words because the newsletter has all the important information regarding the discussion at the annual meeting. However, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the executive committee for all of the work each member has done this year.

Thank you to Matt Dunne, Jody Nyalko and Celia Boertlein, who are the other officers of the SLCA. Thank you to our standing committee chairs: Stori Zimmerman (Membership), John Bioty (Transportation and Community Improvements), Emily McAsey (Recreation) and Keith Kettell (Rules). And, thank you to our delegates to the MVCCA: John Bioty (Transportation), Leah Chapla (Planning and Zoning), Matt Dunne (Education) and Chris Morgan (Environment and Recreation).

I also want to thank Glenn Ferri for taking on the jobs of database manager and webmaster, and Anne Holloway for assuming the lead role of providing news and updates on our Facebook page.

Finally, thank you Claire Kluskens! For 10 years, Claire served on the board and as a delegate to the MVCCA. We are grateful for your commitment to the SLCA and look forward to seeing you around the neighborhood. 

Room for More on Our Team

The SLCA needs 2 more volunteers. We need a delegate to the MVCCA's Public Safety Committee and a Neighborhood Watch Coordinator. If you think one of these positions might be interesting to you and would like to learn more please reach out to Kathy Lehner at president.stratford308@gmail.com.

- Kathy Lehner

Blood Drive Update

Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the INOVA Mount Vernon Blood Donor Center is still 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.

We are scheduled to hold a Blood Drive on Saturday, February 6, 2021 at a location to be determined.

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



With generous contributions from the SLCA Board and membership, we are planning to replace the entrance signs to Stratford Landing. See page 2 for details.

Mark Your Calendars

- November 3rd - Election Day
- November 11th - Veterans Day
- November 14th - Diwali
- November 26th - Thanksgiving
- November 27th - Native American Heritage Day
- December 10th - Hanukkah Begins
- December 24th - Christmas Eve
- December 25th - Christmas Day
- December 26th - Kwanzaa Begins

Stratford Landing Entrance Sign Improvements

To enhance the beauty of our community, the Stratford Landing Citizens Association (SLCA) is pleased to announce improvements to the entrance signs on Cavendish Drive, Wittington Boulevard, and Camden Street. Because this is a once-in-a-generation project, the SLCA is soliciting donations to fund the replacement and installation costs.

The existing signs were constructed by the original developer in or about 1960. After 60 years of service, the brick pillars are in need of repair, and the wooden signs need to be replaced due to their deteriorated condition. Over the past six months, the SLCA Board undertook a comprehensive analysis of signage options. They considered the use of different materials (specifically, metal, foam, and wood) and design elements (to include artistic renderings and sign shapes). The Board also considered the inclusion of particular verbiage ("Welcome to...") and information (such as the SLCA website). To determine the best course of action, the SLCA Board evaluated the entrance signs to neighboring communities, so our signage would be consistent with other signage in the surrounding area. In addition, the Board evaluated materials and options for their durability and appeal over time.

The existing signs were made of redwood, but the

new signs will be made of cedar. The signs will be uniform in appearance: rectangular with a white border, with "Stratford Landing" in raised white lettering against a wood grain background. The Camden and Wittington signs will be approximately 86 inches wide by 30 inches high, and the Cavendish sign will be approximately 86 inches wide by 24 inches high (because the brick pillars on Cavendish are shorter than those on Camden and Wittington).

The total estimated cost of the project is \$9,115. Matt Dunne, SLCA Vice President, presented the recommended course of action to the general membership on October 20, and it was unanimously approved. The general membership approved a \$2,500 contribution from the Association, and SLCA Board members have already pledged \$4,100. We are seeking additional donations to fund this project. If you wish to make a financial contribution you may drop off a check in the locked box at Celia Boertlein's home, 8815 Stockton Parkway, or email her at cboertlein@aol.com if you have donation questions.

We'd like to ask that all donations be made by November 20 so we can meet the project completion date of January 15. If you have any questions about the planned signage, please do not hesitate to contact Matt Dunne at mdunne@gmail.com.



The recommended course of action is to:

1. Repair the brick pillars;
2. Remove the existing wooden signs; and
3. Purchase and install new wooden signs on Cavendish Drive, Wittington Boulevard, and Camden Street.



Stratford Landing Citizens Association Annual Membership Meeting

The Stratford Landing Citizens Association (SLCA) held its Annual Membership Meeting, via Zoom, on Tuesday, October 20. More than 40 people attended. Two special projects were approved as part of the 2020-2021 SLCA annual budget: a donation to the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust (NVCT) for improvements to its property on Stockton Parkway, and new entrance signs for the neighborhood at Wittington Boulevard, Cavendish Drive, and Camden Street. Articles elsewhere in this newsletter provide further details.

The following people were elected to the Executive Committee for the coming year:

Officers

President: Kathy Lehner, president.stratford308@gmail.com

Vice President: Matthew Dunne, mdunne@gmail.com

Treasurer: Celia Boertlein, cboertlein@aol.com

Secretary: Jody Nyalko, jnyalko@gmail.com

Standing Committee Chairs

Comm. Improvements & Transportation: John Bioty, j.bioty@cox.net

Membership: Stori Zimmerman, membershipchair.slca@gmail.com

Recreation: Emily McAsey, emily_mcasey@yahoo.com

Rules: Keith Kettell, Kwk2325@aol.com



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NVCT's Little Hunting Creek Preserve Fall 2020 Planning Submitted by Celia Boertlein

The Northern Virginia Conservation Trust (NVCT) is a nonprofit land trust that has protected more than 7,000 acres of urban and rural places in the shadow of the nation's capital since 1994. The NVCT currently holds 115 conservation easement agreements and owns and manages 20 nature preserves throughout Northern Virginia.

The Little Hunting Creek Preserve in Fairfax County protects two acres of tidal wetlands, located just south of the Pumping Station on Stockton Parkway. This nature preserve contains a short trail that is open to the public, and NVCT has partnered with Friends of Little Hunting Creek to conduct numerous invasive plants pulls over the years. Despite these efforts, there is still work that can be done on the property to make it more inviting and user-friendly for the community. This property was donated to NVCT by 36 former neighbors for the benefit of the community. It is NVCT's vision that this property be well-known and well-used by neighbors for the enjoyment of nature.



To that end, a committee of neighbors and NVCT staff has been formed with the goal of making this property more accessible and inviting for people to use. There are a number of improvements that have been discussed so far, including improved signage, better trail maintenance, and the addition of a bench or two. NVCT will partner with the Stratford Landing Citizens Association (SLCA) and, perhaps, the Friends of Little Hunting Creek (FOLHC) to make some or all of these improvements on the property over the next few years.

Improvements Under Consideration:

Improved Signage: Right now, there are two small signs on the property indicating that the land is conserved by NVCT. NVCT would install a larger sign that welcomes people onto the property and describes guidelines for public use.

Trail Improvement and Maintenance: The existing trail is beginning to become overgrown and is steep in places. A maintenance plan would include regular trimming and evaluate the potential for the installation of steps in the future.

Benches: A couple of benches would make this property more inviting. The committee has discussed a bench along Stockton Parkway at the start of the trail, and one along the trail with a view over the wetlands and Little Hunting Creek.

These ideas are by no means the only improvements that can be made on the property and other ideas for making the property more accessible and beneficial to the community are welcome.

How can the SLCA contribute to this project:

1. The SLCA has included in its 2020-2021 budget, up to \$2,000 to pay for up to two benches (materials and installation) on the property. One bench would be located up at the street level and, thus, would be accessible to anyone walking along Stockton Pkwy. The second bench would be installed at the Creek level, location to be determined, but whose purpose would allow walkers to rest, have views of the Creek, and enjoy the nature associated with the location.
2. Provide publicity encouraging neighbors to consider the property as a benefit to the neighborhood and take pride in it.
3. Volunteer events with approval of the NVCT for cleanups, construction, etc.



"Autumn is a second spring where every leaf is a flower."
-Albert Camus

Mount Vernon Fireworks

Mount Vernon recently acknowledged the negative feedback they received after a fireworks show on September 30. Although it was the same format as other shows at the estate, the weather conditions that evening made the impact greater than normal. As a result, they are making adjustments to their practices; making changes to the selection of shells and making modifications to accommodate for wind and air density. In the past Mount Vernon has posted notifications of fireworks shows in the Gazette, but will now also be posting on NextDoor.

If you would like to receive advance notifications of fireworks and other special events, please email events@mountvernon.org and request to be added to the advance notification list.

SCLA Annual Halloween Costume Parade - October 25th

The rain stopped falling just in time for some of our youngest community members to show off their costumes at the SLCA annual Halloween Costume Parade. Neither the weather nor the health and safety protocols dampened the spirits of our neighborhood's ninjas, wizards, princesses, dragons, dinosaurs, skeletons, sleuths, mermaids, astronauts, and superheroes who paraded down Wittington Blvd and took some treats home. A fun time was had by all. SLCA thanks President Kathy Lehner and Treasurer Celia Boertlein for helping to make our event a success. 🧛 🎃



Follow Stratford Landing Citizens Association on Facebook to get more neighborhood news!

[Facebook.com/StratfordLandingCitizensAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/StratfordLandingCitizensAssociation)

Veterans Day - November 11th

Veterans Day is observed annually on November 11th, honoring military veterans and marking the anniversary of the end of World War I. November 11, 2020 marks the 102nd anniversary of the end of WWI.

Today there are nearly 22 million veterans of the United States Armed Forces living among us and chances are good that at least one of these American heroes are a family member or close friend of ours.

Take every opportunity to thank a Veteran for their service to our Nation.



Holiday Decorations and Santa on a Fire Truck

SCLA's holiday plans are in the works! Please check your email and our community Facebook page for more information about our annual holiday decorations contest and Santa on the Fire Truck.

 [Facebook.com/StratfordLandingCitizensAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/StratfordLandingCitizensAssociation)



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Membership: Stori Zimmerman
membershipchair.slca@gmail.com

Recreation: Emily McAsey
emily_mcasey@yahoo.com

Rules: Keith Kettell
Kwk2325@aol.com

Delegates to MVCCA

General Council: Kathy Lehner
president.stratford308@gmail.com

Education: Matthew Dunne
mdunne@gmail.com

Environment & Recreation: Christopher Morgan
christopher.t.morgan@gmail.com

Budget & Finance: Vacant

Planning & Zoning: Leah Chapla
leah.chapla@longandfoster.com

Public Safety: Vacant

Transportation: John Bioty
j.bioty@cox.net

"Winter is not a season, it's a celebration."
-Anamika Mishra