



From the President

It's membership time! I hope you will renew your membership with the SLCA. Our annual meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 26, 2021 at 7pm via Zoom and we will only send a link to members in good standing.

In the words of the great Roseanne Roseannadanna, "It has been an extreme pleasure, a thrill, a joy, an up, and a real snappy surprise," serving as your president. New officers will be elected at the annual meeting and I look forward to supporting them and their efforts on behalf of our community.

Annual Meeting

Tuesday, October 26, 2021
7:00pm - via Zoom (link will be sent closer to the date)

You must be a member in good standing to vote. The budget for 2021-22 will be presented and voted on as well as the annual election of officers. Nominations will be taken from the floor.

Nominating Committee

We are still looking for volunteers to serve as officers or chairperson for the standing committees. We still have a vacancy for a secretary and we need at least two (2) delegates to the MVCCA: Public Safety and Budget and Finance. Please let me know you are interested in these positions by sending me an email at president.stratford308@gmail.com.

Kathy Lehner
8810 Stockton Pkwy

Blood Drive Details

October 6th

While the donor center at Mount Vernon Hospital remains closed, we will host the Bloodmobile in the SRA Pool parking lot on Saturday, October 6th, from 7:00 AM - 12:30 PM.

If you have questions about eligibility, please contact Inova's Donor Advocate at 571-434-3628 or visit

<https://www.inovabloodsaves.org/>.

Donors can book online using Sponsor Code 3018 or searching by zip code. Thank you to SRA for hosting the drive, and thank you to our generous donors for making time to give the life saving gift of blood.

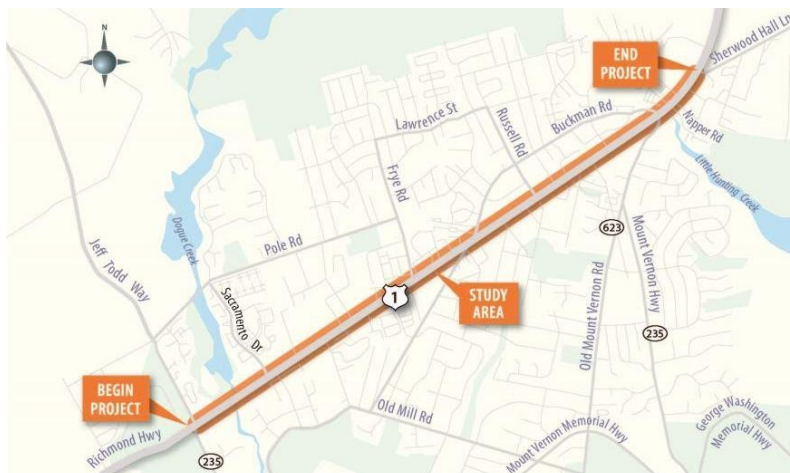
Stephen Schlacter
stephen.schlacter@gmail.com
703-587-5695

News You Can Use

If you stopped filling your bird feeder this summer to help stop the virus that was spreading throughout the avian community please click on this link and read the update on this issue.

<https://dwr.virginia.gov/wp-content/uploads/media/August-19-avian-mortality-event-update.pdf>

Richmond Highway Improvements Update



The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Association (MVCCA) Transportation Committee met on July 12, 2021 to receive an update from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) along with the Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) on planned improvements to Richmond Highway.

The briefing was led by Mr. Dan Reinhard, VDOT Senior Project Manager and Design Specialist for the Richmond Highway Improvement Project. VDOT's intent was to update the Committee on where the project stood at the moment. VDOT's presentation included an overview on Richmond Highway's:

- Widening (4 to 6 lanes)
- Safety Improvements
- Intersection Improvements
- 3 Bridge Replacements
- Utilities Location
- Storm Water Management, and
- Sound Wall (possible) incorporation

VDOT indicated that the Richmond Highway Project was divided into two phases; (1) the Southern Phase and (2) the Northern Phase. The Southern Phase begins at Jeff Todd Way and ends just north of Frye Road. The Northern Phase begins just beyond Frye Road and ends at Sherwood Hall Lane. Each segment is about 1.5 miles long. Actual construction work on the southern phase is planned to begin in 2025 and end in 2027. Construction work on the Northern Phase is planned to start in 2028 and end in late 2028 or early 2029.

Richmond Highway would realize three (3) travel lanes in each direction with a center median reserved for Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). VDOT's website at <http://www.virginiadot.org/richmondhighway> as a means

to stay connected to the Richmond Highway Improvement Project.

During the MVCCA meeting, discussions became rather controversial. MVCCA members felt that there was a divide between FCDOT and VDOT's intentions with respect to the future of Richmond Highway. It was thought that FCDOT was working toward a more "Main Street" approach for Richmond Highway with lowered speed limits, i.e. a place where residents could comfortably live, shop, entertain and dine. VDOT's presentation was more of a thoroughfare with a 6-lane super highway plan.

VDOT's Senior Project Manager, Mr. Reinhard, fielded questions on the disparity of the two points and noted that Richmond Highway is currently the biggest traffic issue in Fairfax County. Changes are needed to alleviate interim problems prior to long term solutions such as an extended Metrorail system. He stated that VDOT was focused on "Benefits to all Users" and although changes could still be made in planning, funding those changes was another issue.

On July 27, 2021, the Mount Vernon District Board of Supervisors (BOS) met to discuss Richmond Highway issues. The Board endorsed Preliminary Design Plans for the community, supporting 6 travel lanes, 2 Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) lanes, bike and pedestrian trails for the Richmond Highway Project. However, the Board identified that VDOT's proposed intersection designs were not acceptable. Supervisor Storck commented that for many years, he has advocated that "Richmond Highway is our main street and must be designed and built to support our residents, businesses and communities". He further stated that he was committed to making sure that Richmond Highway improvements are built right. He vowed to continue community engagements with VDOT and FCDOT until it is.

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Little Hunting Creek Construction Update

On Wednesday, August 18th, a community meeting was hosted by Fairfax County to discuss the ongoing construction within Little Hunting Creek.

Fairfax County began operations to install a replacement gravity sewer line under the creek in early July.

Currently, the project is conducting "water side" operations. Three barges have been shipped containing a large crane, an excavator, and construction equipment. Initially, the excavator was used to dredge a wide channel connecting the established navigable channel to the shoreline near 8700 Stockton Pkwy. Following that, the barges containing the crane and materials were pushed in and moored near the shore.

The dredged material is currently piled up across the creek and will eventually be placed back. Prior to the dredging, a yellow buoyant turbidity curtain was laid across the creek to prevent items floating outside the construction area.

Waterside operations are expected to conclude around November. At that time, land operations will begin. Residents should expect that Stockton Parkway will be closed to non-residents and limited to 1 single lane for travel between Turbridge Lane and Waterford Road sometime in November. Land operations will involve massive digging near the

road and are expected to be conducted until around February.

During the meeting, Matt Doyle from Fairfax County's Wastewater Department explained the project milestones and fielded questions.

Residents expressed concern that the turbidity curtain did not cover the entire creek, and alerted the county that a buoy had been damaged by one of the incoming barges. Additionally, residents from the Wessynton / Woodland Park neighborhoods were concerned that the dredging project they completed this winter could be impacted by the construction. There was concern that the barge containing the excavator had been propelled by dragging and pulling its boom, but it believed that method causes less disturbance than traditional prop wash. In addition to answering questions, the County plans to install an information sign, update the project website, and host periodic Zoom meetings for residents.

A county representative will make a presentation and answer questions about the project at the Annual SLCA Meeting on October 26th.

Contributed by Christopher Morgan
christopher.t.morgan@gmail.com
 808-366-9175

NVCT's Little Hunting Creek Preserve - Fall 2021 Update



The Northern Virginia Conservation Trust (NVCT) has partnered with the Stratford Landing Citizens Association (SLCA) and the Friends of Little Hunting Creek (FOLHC) to make improvements on the NVCT's Little Hunting Creek Preserve property over the course of the next few years. This Preserve protects two acres of tidal wetlands, located just south of the Pumping Station on Stockton Parkway. It is NVCT's vision that this property be well-known and well-used by neighbors for the enjoyment of nature.

(continued on page 5)

NVCT's Little Hunting Creek Preserve - Fall 2021 Update - *continued*



On August 14, 2021, volunteers from the SLCA and FOLHC community met with NVCT staff at the NVCT's Little Hunting Creek Preserve. Our mission was to spend the morning clearing pathways and spreading mulch. The NVCT had hired Bob Merki to remove invasive trees, providing 10 cubic yards of wood chips that enabled us to transform the pathway from an overgrown thicket into an incredible pathway. Thanks go to – Alyssa Hemler and Rentz Hilyer (NVCT), and neighbors Celia Boertlein, Betsy Martin, Randy Myers, Yoryi Roque, Paul Siegel, and Matthew Tyler. Special thanks also to Matthew's wife who provided us with lots of ice water! Please enjoy the attached before and after photo and the group photo taken at the conclusion of our most recent efforts.

Planned Improvements:

Improved Signage: Right now, there are two small signs on the property indicating that the land is conserved by NVCT. NVCT has ordered and will install a larger sign that welcomes people onto the property, shows a map with boundaries of the property, and describes guidelines for public use. Partial funding by FOLHC.

Trail Improvement and Maintenance: The existing trail becomes quickly overgrown and is steep in places. A maintenance plan has been put in place to include regular trimming, removal of nonnative, invasive plants and trees (notably porcelain berry, mimosa, tree of heaven, Japanese stilt grass, and others). and mulching.

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. The benches have been partially funded by the SLCA and will be purchased and installed by NVCT in the near future.

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.

Contributed by Celia Boertlein



2021-2022

Join or Renew your Stratford Landing Citizens Association (SLCA) Membership Today!

SLCA is NOT a homeowners' association. We are a 100% volunteer-led, membership organization that exists to serve our community by providing a forum for sharing information, connecting neighbors, promoting activities & fostering civic engagement for those who live here.

Your \$10 household SLCA membership provides you with:

- Nonpartisan advocacy with the Fairfax County Government: the SLCA delegates sit on numerous Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations committees, where important policy decisions & recommendations are made that affect local school planning, zoning, public safety, housing, human services & more.
- A bi-annual candidate forum which brings out both state & local candidates for elected office to share their ideas & field your questions directly.
- Family fun activities including the annual neighborhood Halloween Parade, Easter Egg Hunt, Santa on a Firetruck, Community Yard Sales, an Earth Day event & more!
- Promoting volunteerism including clean-up of Little Hunting Creek & supporting the "Jack & Betty Shawn" INOVA Blood Drives.
- Regular newsletter, email, web & Facebook updates about news & happenings in our community.
- Support for general administration including website hosting, newsletter printing, & community-based advertising, insurance & licensing.

Two simple ways to join SLCA or renew your annual membership:

- **Online** via Stripe at <https://www.stratford-landing.org/aboutslca/> (a \$0.61 processing fee will be assessed). Forms can also be downloaded from the same web address.
- **Check or money order.** Please make checks payable to: SLCA. Drop-off or send to: SLCA/ ATTN: Stori Zimmerman, 8812 Stockton Parkway, Alexandria, VA 22308. ***Whether you are a NEW or RENEWING MEMBER, PLEASE RETURN A COMPLETED MEMBERSHIP FORM – this is the best way to ensure that our records are accurate.***

Your membership, ***paid by October 1, 2021,*** would be greatly appreciated. The annual meeting and candidates' forum are scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 26, 2021, details regarding this year's meeting location/logistics to follow. Only members in good standing can vote on next year's budget and officers.

For inquiries regarding membership please **email SLCA Membership Chair, Stori Zimmerman,** at ***membershipchair.slca@gmail.com.***

2021-22 Stratford Landing Citizens Association Membership Form

Please complete this form in its entirety & return no later than October 1, 2021.

Checks should be made payable to: SLCA

Drop-off or Mail to: SLCA/ ATTN: Stori Zimmerman, 8812 Stockton Parkway, Alexandria, VA 22308

Membership type (Please circle): New Membership Renewing Membership

Primary Contact (*required):

First Name

Last Name

Primary Address(*required):

Example: XXXX Childs Lane, Alexandria, VA 22308

Primary Phone Number (*required): _____

Primary Email Address (*required):

To receive the Newsletter & other important notifications for events & happenings

Secondary Contact:

First Name

Last Name

Secondary Phone Number: _____

Secondary Email Address:

If you would like correspondence also sent to a second email address

Would you like your information included in a directory update (name, address & phone number only)? Yes No

I am interested in volunteering with SLCA (check all that apply): SLCA Board

Representative to MVCCA Help w/ Neighborhood Events Block Captain

Other (Please specify area of interest): _____

Watch for Me in September!

Stratford Landing hosts a wide variety of bird species due to Little Hunting Creek and the mature trees and other foliage in many of our yards. These are the 81 avian species that can be expected during September:

Waterfowl, Shorebirds, and others found near water: Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, American Black Duck, Killdeer, Spotted Sandpiper, Laughing Gull, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Caspian Tern, Forster's Tern, Double-crested Cormorant, Great Blue Heron, Great Egret, Green Heron, Belted Kingfisher, and Red-winged Blackbird.

Raptors: Black Vulture, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, Bald Eagle, Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-tailed Hawk, and Barred Owl.

Woodpeckers: Yellow-bellied Sapsucker, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Hairy Woodpecker, Pileated Woodpecker, and Northern Flicker.

Warblers: Black-and-White Warbler, Tennessee Warbler, Nashville Warbler, Common Yellowthroat, American Redstart, Northern Parula, Magnolia Warbler, Yellow Warbler, Black-throated Blue Warbler, Palm Warbler, Yellow-rumped Warbler, and Black-throated Green Warbler.

Others: Mourning Dove, Common Nighthawk, Chimney Swift, Ruby-throated Hummingbird, Eastern Wood-Pewee, Eastern Phoebe, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Kingbird, White-eyed Vireo, Warbling Vireo, Red-eyed Vireo, Blue Jay, American Crow, Fish Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, Northern Rough-winged Swallow, Tree Swallow, Barn Swallow, White-breasted Nuthatch, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, House Wren, Carolina Wren, European Starling, Gray Catbird, Brown Thrasher, Northern Mockingbird, Eastern Bluebird, American Robin, House Sparrow, House Finch, American Goldfinch, Song Sparrow, Common Grackle, Scarlet Tanager, Northern Cardinal, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

More information, including photos and sound recordings, can be found at allaboutbirds.com and eBird.org. The direct link to the Stockton Parkway eBird "hotspot" is <https://eBird.org/hotspot/L269761>.

Contributed by Claire Kluskens



Image by Ryan Schain via <https://eBird.org/hotspot/L269761>

Red-Eyed Vireo

Plain olive-green above and whitish below with no wingbars. Red eye of adults is not always easy to see; immatures have brown eyes. Dark stripe through and above eye. Larger and thicker-billed than warblers. Breeds in mature deciduous forest. Often sings nearly nonstop throughout the day; listen for repetitive musical phrases coming from the treetops. Often with flocks of chickadees and warblers during migration. Winters in South America, where it could be confused with the very similar Chivi Vireo. Best distinguished by voice.

Source: <https://eBird.org/hotspot/L269761>

Stormwater Survey from the MVCCA

In the spring of 2021, the MVCCA established the Special Committee on Stormwater. The committee has pursued a better understanding of stormwater issues in the Mount Vernon District. Aiming to rectify existing problems, to forestall current construction efforts that worsen issues, and to pursue changes to existing laws, regulation, and "best practices" to avoid future issues, the committee has heard from State and County staff on its areas of responsibility and the problems it faces, and taken independent subject matter experts on a tour of several properties experiencing stormwater problems. Through these learning efforts, committee members have found that the stormwater problems result from many causes and have various solutions.

If you would like to participate in a survey to help the committee collect specific data on this issue you can use this link: https://bit.ly/MVCCA_Survey

And, if you have any questions you are encouraged to contact Leo Milanowski, the MVCCA Stormwater Special Committee Co-chair at specialcommittee@mvcca.org.



Follow Stratford Landing Citizens Association on Facebook to get more neighborhood news!
[Facebook.com/StratfordLandingCitizensAssociation](https://www.facebook.com/StratfordLandingCitizensAssociation)

Officers

President: Kathy Lehner
president.stratford308@gmail.com

Vice President: Matthew Dunne
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Treasurer: Celia Boertlein
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Secretary: Vacant

Standing Committee Chairs

Community 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
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Delegates to MVCCA

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

Budget & Finance: Vacant

Planning & Zoning: Leah Chapla
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Public Safety: Vacant

Transportation: John Bioty
j.bioty@cox.net