

12/04 BLOOD DRIVE

7:00 AM - 12:30 PM
INNOVA MT. VERNON PARKING LOT
2501 PARKERS LANE
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22306

12/12 SANTA PARADE

3:00 PM

12/20 HOLIDAY HOME DECORATING CONTEST

SUBMISSIONS DUE BY 12 NOON
[FACEBOOK.COM/
STRATFORDLANDINGCITIZENSASSOCIATION](https://www.facebook.com/stratfordlandingcitizensassociation)

THE LANDING PAGE

The Official Newsletter of Stratford Landing

SLCA Leadership

Christopher Morgan, President
Matt Dunne, Vice President
Celia Boertlein, Treasurer
Emily McAsey, Recreation
John Bioty, Transportation
Keith Kettell, Rules
Stori Zimmerman, Membership
Leah Chapla, Planning and Zoning
Glenn Ferri, Historian/Website
Anne Holloway, Social Media

The Stratford Landing Citizens' Association is a not-for-profit, non-partisan team of volunteers founded in 1959 to promote the civic interests and general welfare of the residents of the Stratford Landing community. Membership is open to all who live within Stratford Landing and leadership opportunities are currently available.

Visit: <https://www.stratford-landing.org> or scan the code below to join today.



A Letter from the President



I'm convinced that with its rich history, abundant natural beauty, convenience to the entire capital metro area, and friendly residents, Stratford Landing is the finest place to live and raise a family. That was true in 1957 and it's true in 2021.

It's more important than ever to preserve the values and quality of life elements that make our community great as everything evolves with the modern times.

Neighborhood meetings are over Zoom now by default. This year marks the first time in history that SLCA Board members have official email accounts for communication and continuity. Our bi-monthly newsletter is edited digitally and designed to be published as such.

The balance of preservation and improvement begins with you.

I hope that you continue to take care of your homes, engage with your neighbors and wider communities, and contribute back in any way you're able. Together we'll continue to keep Stratford Landing great.

Christopher Morgan, President

Blood Drive Update

Greetings Fellow Blood Donors. The SLCA has teamed up with Inova Blood Donor Services to host a blood drive and would like to take this time to ask you to donate blood.

Donating blood is safe, simple and only takes about one hour.

There is no substitute for blood; it can only come from a volunteer blood donor. Currently, less than 38% of our population is eligible to try to donate blood. If you are eligible to donate blood, please click [HERE](#) or go to <https://www.inovablood.org/donate-blood/make-an-appointment/> to make your appointment today. If you have any questions, or issues booking an appointment, please reach out to me via email or phone. Hope to see you there!

Stephen Schlacter
stephen.schlacter@gmail.com
703-587-5695
Sponsor Code: 3018

Christmas Event

It's the most wonderful time of the year ... time for the SLCA Santa on a Truck Holiday Parade! This year's event will be Sunday, December 12th at 3 pm. We hope our Stratford Landing neighbors will join us along the parade route for this annual holiday tradition.

Again this year we are asking our Stratford Landing neighbors to join in the merriment and to decorate their vehicles in the spirit of the season and join the parade with Santa on a truck. Though registration is not required, for planning purposes, please complete the decorated vehicle entry form [HERE](#). Please contact EmilyMcAsey20@gmail.com with any questions. Thank you for helping to make the season merry and bright for your Stratford Landing neighbors!

Follow us on Facebook for parade route information and look inside this newsletter for information on the home decoration contest.

Share Your Expertise

We're looking for leaders to volunteer and help us raise the bar. If any of these positions excite you and you're ready and willing to jump in and get started, please send an email to both president@stratford-landing.org and treasurer@stratford-landing.org explaining (1) why you want the job and (2) what the neighborhood will gain with you serving in the position.

Secretary

The Board Secretary is an Executive Committee position and one of the strategic leaders of the SLCA. Responsibilities would include the curation and distribution of Board meeting minutes and other business, drafting messages to the membership and certain articles for the bi-monthly newsletter, in addition to other initiatives. The ideal candidate would be highly organized, an excellent communicator, and strongly vested in Stratford Landing.

Military Family Liaison

This is a newly created position to engage the sizable military community living in Stratford Landing and serve as a sort of Block Captain at Large. I believe the ideal candidate would be the spouse of a senior active duty service member. Currently, we're seeing a low engagement from many of these families and we'd like to see this group become more activated and more involved with events and volunteer opportunities. Since this is a new role, many of the specifics would be up to your discretion. It's also completely acceptable if you're only able to commit to a term measured just in months.

Environment & Recreation representative to the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations

The E&R Committee serves in an advisory capacity to both our District Supervisor and Fairfax Count Board of Supervisors on matters of lifestyle issues. The committee is asked to weigh in on large construction projects in the district, changes to the Comprehensive Plan and County Code, parks projects, and legislative issues. Recently, they've addressed stormwater issues and infill development, shoreline protection issues, and trail improvements. Fortunately, the representative from Stratford Landing would be in good company as our SLCA President chairs the committee.

Recreation Committee Chair

The SLCA has historically hosted various community events throughout the year. These include the Easter Egg Hunt, Halloween Parade, and Santa on a Firetruck, but it doesn't have to stop there. As Chair of this committee, you would be taking the lead on planning, preparing, and running events that make sense for the members of our community. The ideal candidate wants to get to know members of the community and has a penchant for working together and motivating team members to achieve a common goal.

Halloween Parade - a Spooky Success

Once again the streets of Stratford Landing served as the avenue for a troupe of ghouls, ghosts, superheroes, literary characters, and more as the SLCA hosted our annual Halloween Parade on the afternoon of Saturday, October 24th.

Children from all over the neighborhood descended upon the intersection of Camden and Cavendish before marching in proud, yet creepy, fashion to Stratford Landing Park. There they were greeted with sweet treats before promptly being directed to burn off that excess sugar energy on the playground equipment by eager parents.

The beautiful warm afternoon served as a preamble to the excitement families would have the following weekend on Halloween proper as they explored our lanes and cul-de-sacs in search of favorite sweets, treats, and, of course, the occasional scare.

A big thank you to Emily McAsey and the Recreation Committee for making this year's event a treat for our neighborhood.



A doe searches for food near Stratford Landing Elementary School



Children of the neighborhood beginning their Halloween Parade

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OFF \$2000+



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Mon - Fri 10a to 8p Sat 10a to 6p
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A Great Blue Heron on Little Hunting Creek. Photo Credit: Claire Kluskens

Animal of the Month

Claire Kluskens, Contributor

The Great Blue Heron is one of the most noticeable birds of Little Hunting Creek. Blue-gray in color, they stand nearly 4 feet tall. Their outstretched wing reaches 6 feet wide when flying. Often seen standing in the water when the tide is low, they wait patiently for a long time, watching the water—then they strike like lightning to grab a fish.

Surprisingly, these lanky birds actually nest high in trees. The male collects much of the nest material, gathering sticks from the ground and nearby shrubs and trees, and presents them to the female. She weaves a platform and a saucer-shaped nest cup, lining it with pine needles, moss, reeds, dry grass, or small twigs. Nest building can take from 3 days up to 2 weeks.

Although each bird fishes by itself, they are social birds, nesting in colonies of a few to 500 pairs. There is even a small colony of about six nests on the west side of Little Hunting Creek during the breeding season (warm weather months). Great Blue Heron can be seen here year-round, and being so big, they are easy to spot!

For more information about the birds in our neighborhood, visit <https://ebird.org/hotspot/L269761/>.

Flashbacks

Glenn Ferri, Historian

Flashback 1608

Did you know that the legendary John Smith, usually remembered for his leadership role in the Jamestown colony (as well as his historically dubious connection to Pocahontas), sailed right by our neighborhood?

From June 2 – July 21, 1608, Captain John Smith and a crew of 14 traveled up the Chesapeake Bay and up the Potomac River to explore the area and search for a passage to East India. This was the first of two such voyages he made that year.

Historians reconstructing Smith's explorations suggest that he spent June 20-July 1 in the upper Potomac between Occoquan and Great Falls, traveling through the area that would later house Mount Vernon, Fort Washington, the City of Alexandria, and the District of Columbia.

The National Park Service map shows the route Captain John Smith and his men traveled during this voyage.



The route taken by Captain John Smith around Virginia

Call for Submissions

What would you like to contribute to our bi-monthly newsletter?

The content of this and future editions of The Landing Page come from neighbors like you.

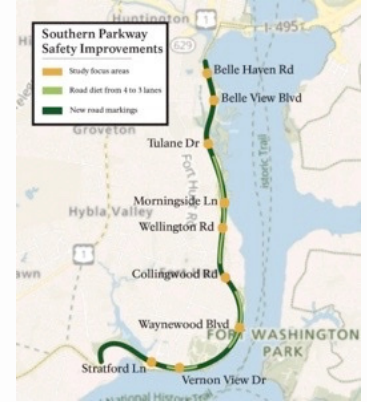
What are you willing to create and share? Can you write Foliage of the Month? Share your favorite seasonal recipes? Do you have a penchant for creating crossword puzzles or sharing snaps of the area? Reach out today and let us know what talents you want to showcase to Stratford Landing and beyond.

Transportation Talk

John Bioty, Transportation Chair

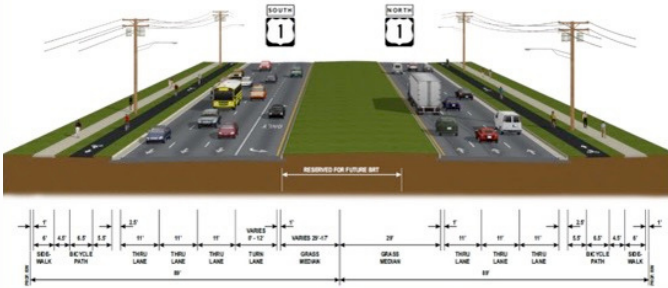
George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP) Update - If you've been traveling the roads around Mount Vernon, you may have noticed that remarking work has begun on the Parkway. The National Park Service (NPS) is implementing modifications that were recommended in the GWMP (Southern Section) Safety Study. The study itself is in the form of a 304 page "GW Parkway Traffic and Safety Context Sensitive Solution Assessment Final .pdf" accessible online at: <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?parkId=186&projectID=89079> The 304-page report is accompanied by six appendix documents.

The most controversial recommendation in the Study is the application of a "Road Diet" in the southbound lanes. As mentioned in the April/May 2021 SLCA Newsletter, the "Road Diet" involves reducing the Parkway to one southbound "through lane" between the Tulane and Stratford Landing intersections for "Traffic calming". Stated another way, moving southbound, the Road Diet begins at the Tulane intersection and continues past Morningside Lane, Wellington Road, Collingwood, Waynewood Boulevard, Vernon View, Lucia Lane and opens up at Stratford Lane. The lane configuration at Stratford Lane is not impacted by the Road Diet. The right lane, closest to the curb, is the through lane. The overall intent of the Road Diet is to increase safety. Speeding and reckless driving on the southern section of the GWMP (Old Town to Mount Vernon) is getting worse instead of better. It is not uncommon to witness vehicles traveling at 70mph. Several vehicles have been clocked at speeds of 100 mph.



The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens (MVCCA) Transportation Committee has reported to SLCA that staffing levels for the United States Park Police (USPP), responsible for enforcement, are at the lowest levels that they have been for years. Much needed patrolling on the Southern Section of the Parkway is not likely to happen anytime soon. MVCCA is researching other options that may assist the Parkway Police to conduct enforcement operations in our area such as 'speed cameras'. With the holidays upon us, it is a time to enjoy the company of family and friends not visit them in hospitals. Please drive carefully when utilizing the GWMP and obey the speed limits. It will enhance safety for all of us.

Richmond Highway (US Route 1) Update – The average daily volume on RT-1 is approximately 38,000/Day; 52,000 has been recorded. EMBARK Richmond Hwy (i.e. RT-1) is an initiative focused on creating a multi-modal future for the Richmond Hwy. The sponsors for this plan are the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT, Dept of Rail & Public Transportation and, the Office of Intermodal Planning and Investment as well as the Counties of Fairfax & Prince William. The objective is to : (1) Widen RT-1 from 4 to 6 lanes (2) Add separate Bicycle Lanes and (3) Reserve the median for Fairfax County's dedicated Bus-only Lanes Bus Rapid Transit. Widening is estimated to cost \$805 million. Current planning, however, has divided RT-1 widening into (1) a Northern phase and (2) a Southern phase. The southern phase extends from "Roy Rogers" up to the Government Center; the Northern phase extends from the Government center north to Costco).



The current "planning" schedule shows that RT-1 "Design" commenced in late September of 2020; Phase 1 relocations are planned for 2023; Phase 1 widening is also planned for 2023; Phase 2 relocations will occur in 2024 and constructions of Phase 2 is estimated to begin in the 2028 -2029 timeframe. The Speed Limit Issue for Richmond Highway is raising much discussion on widening efforts. Two views currently exist (1) keep the speed limit at 45 mph so that Richmond Highway will continue to be the thoroughfare it currently is, or (2) reduce the speed limit to 35 mph and allow Richmond Highway to be a place where people live, entertain, shop and dine.

Mount Vernon Supervisor, Dan Storck, announced at the October 2021 MVCCA General Council Meeting that VDOT was planning on using a lowered roadway speed limit of 35 mph for the Richmond Highway widening project. He believed that 35mph should reduce the need for sound walls along Richmond Highway. Supervisor Storck assured the group that the Richmond Highway "planning" design would be based on a 35 mph limit, stating, however, that the final decision on the speed limit for Richmond Highway has yet to be made.

VDOT will hold a virtual public meeting on Tuesday, November 30 to assess the 45 mph speed limit on Richmond Highway between Belvoir Road/Meade Road and I-95/I-495 (Capital Beltway) to improve safety for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, drivers, and transit users. If you missed the virtual meeting, residents can still provide their comments by December 10, 2021 (by mail) to Ms. Tien-Jung "Tina" Ho, P.E., Virginia Department of Transportation, 4975 Alliance Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030, or by email to meetingcomments@VDOT.virginia.gov. Please reference "Richmond Highway (Route 1) Speed Limit Study in Fairfax County" in the subject line.

Annual Meeting Recap

Celia Boertlein, Treasurer

SLCA Annual Meeting – October 26, 2021

Via Zoom

The evening began with a presentation and update on the sewer replacement project actor Little Hunting Creek. In attendance were : Amin Hameid (Engineer, Wastewater Design and Construction Management, Fairfax County Department of Public Works), Amy Linderman (also, Fairfax County), Gary Allen (Inspector of the project), and Owen (Garney Construction). Mr. Hameid reported that this is an \$8 million project which replaces a 12-inch pipe that goes 800 feet, crossing Little Hunting Creek from the community of Woodland Park to Stockton Parkway. The project is currently in the “marine phase” which should finish up in February 2022. Then they will move into the inland phase” to connect the new pipe to the pumping station. The target date to finish is June 2022. Currently, the marine portion is 17 percent completed with 140 feet of pipe replaced. A Fairfax County sign located at the project site has a QR code on it. Scan the QR code on your phone to get an update. The SLCA business meeting was then called to order by the President, Kathy Lehner. There were 38 households in attendance on the Zoom call and an additional 4 households were proxied. A quorum was present.

The 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes, which had been provided to the membership prior to the meeting, were approved.

The 2020-21 Finance statement was presented by Treasurer, Celia Boertlein.

A motion was made and approved to dispense with the various Committee reports.

Election of Executive Committee members.

The following is your new Executive Committee:

- President – Christopher Morgan
- Vice President – Matt Dunne
- Secretary – this position remains vacant
- Treasurer – Celia Boertlein

Celia Boertlein presented the recommended budget from the Executive Committee to the members for Fiscal Year 2021-22. There was some discussion about an increase in communication costs as well as a need for another capital campaign to repoint the 6 brick pillars at the 3 entrances to the community as well as landscaping at the Wittington/Elkin sign. A motion was made to accept the budget as presented and seconded. The budget was approved.

The meeting ended with a brief discussion about reminding neighbors of some of the standards and courtesies that as neighbors we should keep mindful – when to take trash bins to the curb as well as removing them, excessive noise, and fire safety.

Holiday Home Decorating Contest

We’re bringing back the neighborhood Holiday Home Decorating Contest.

To enter, you must post a photo of the decorated exterior of your home as a comment on the SLCA Facebook post about the contest before December 20th at noon.

Our Executive Committee will judge homes on:

- Most Festive Overall
- Best Nighttime Decor
- Best Daytime Decor
- Most Humorous

Judging will be based on how your home is decorated in person, so don't fret too much on your entry photo. Prizes will be awarded to the winners in each category and include Village Hardware gift cards. Winners will be announced on the SLCA Facebook page.

Contact Us

Executive Committee:

Christopher Morgan, President

president@stratford-landing.org

Matt Dunne, Vice President

vicepresident@stratford-landing.org

Celia Boertlein, Treasurer

treasurer@stratford-landing.org

Committee Chairs:

Emily McAsey, Recreation

EmilyMcAsey20@yahoo.com

John Bioty, Community Improvements and Transportation

biotyjr@aol.com

Keith Kettell, Rules

kwk2325@aol.com

Stori Zimmerman, Membership

membership@stratford-landing.org

Glenn Ferri, Historian/Website

webmaster@stratford-landing.org

Anne Holloway, Social Media

anneholloway@gmail.com

Delegates to the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations:

Leah Chapla, Planning & Zoning

leah.chapla@longandfoster.com

John Bioty, Transportation

biotyjr@aol.com

Christopher Morgan, Environment & Recreation

chair.er@mvcca.org

Advertise Here

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Contact treasurer@stratford-landing.org for details.

