

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SLCA ANNUAL MEETING

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 7:00 PM  
VIA ZOOM

### HALLOWEEN PARTY AND PARADE

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 3:30 PM  
STRATFORD LANDING PARK

### NVCT CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 3:30 PM

### SANTA ON A FIRETRUCK

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 3:00 PM

ISSUE SEPT-OCT 2022 • MOUNT VERNON DISTRICT • FAIRFAX COUNTY

# THE LANDING PAGE

The Official Newsletter of Stratford Landing

## SLCA Leadership

**Christopher Morgan**, President  
**Matt Dunne**, Vice President  
**Jarrett Brant**, Treasurer  
**Patricia Barron**, Public Safety  
**John Bioty**, Transportation  
**Nicole Vitale**, Recreation  
**Stori Zimmerman**, Membership  
**Leah Chapla**, Planning and Zoning  
**Glenn Ferri**, Historian/Website  
**Keith Kettell**, Rules

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.



## SLCA Annual Meeting

Our Annual Membership Meeting is Tuesday, October 25th at 7:00pm via Zoom. It's incredibly important for all paid-up members to attend the annual meeting. Please make every effort to do so. It's so important, we'll be sending out a few more emails about it closer to the date.

### Agenda:

Call to Order and Establishment of Quorum  
Approval of the Minutes from Last Year  
Highlights from the Year in Stratford Landing  
Finance Report  
Membership Report  
Report on Fundraising for Sign Repointing  
Election of Officers  
Vote on By-Laws Amendments  
Adjournment



# Halloween Happenings

Nicole Vitale, Recreation Chair

## Halloween Home Decorating Contest

Please participate in our first annual Halloween Home Decorating Contest!

Similar to our last Holiday Home Decorating Contest, entrants will need to opt-in by posting a picture of your house on the Stratford Landing Facebook page. There will be 4 categories: Scariest, Funniest, Most Creative, and a "People's Choice" which will be awarded based on which entry receives the most Facebook "Likes". The other categories will be judged by the SLCA Executive Committee. All entries must be submitted before 5pm on Friday, October 28th.

Thanks to an anonymous neighborhood donor for sponsoring this contest.

Our Facebook Page can be found here:  
<https://www.facebook.com/StratfordLandingCitizensAssociation>

## Halloween Party and Parade

Please join us for our Halloween Parade and Party on Sunday, October 30th at 3:30pm.

We begin at Cavendish and Camden, and will parade straight to Stratford Landing Park. A party will follow with games, candy, and good company.

Winners of the Halloween Home Decorating Contest will also be announced at the party following the parade. Please contact Nicole Vitale at [recreation@stratford-landing.org](mailto:recreation@stratford-landing.org) with questions or to volunteer to assist with the parade and party!

Thanks to the Alexandria Children's Theatre for helping to sponsor this event.

## Trick or Treating

Trick or treating is always October 31st throughout Fairfax County and we're looking forward to seeing all the ghosts, ghouls, witches, werewolves, and everything creepy that Monday evening in Stratford Landing.

Here are some tips to help enjoy the holiday.

- If you're distributing candy, we recommend, you place a table at the end of your driveway closest to the street. The added visibility is safer for younger children.
- Many neighbors traditionally hang out and may setup a fire pit, which is strongly encouraged. This evening is always a great time to see, chat, and visit with neighbors along with the trick-or-treaters.
- If you're not distributing candy this year, just keep your porch lights off.
- Trick-or-treating should end around 8pm



## NVCT Celebration

The SLCA along with the Friends of Little Hunting Creek, and the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust are hosting a celebration at the NVCT “parklet” at the intersection of Stockton Pkwy and Londonderry Rd. We’re celebrating the end of the sewer line construction, and the arrival of the new donated benches.

The event will be Saturday, November 5th at 3:30pm. Light refreshments will be served. This is a family-friendly event, and children of all ages are welcome.



## Looking for a New Visitor Experience?

Contributed by Leah Chapla

In Stratford Landing we are fortunate to be very close to the Mt. Vernon Estate and I'm sure everyone has visited there and taken our guests as well.

Did you know that we are also not far from the new National Museum of the United States Army located at Ft. Belvoir? It is open to all and easily accessed from the Fairfax County Parkway (west from Rt. 1 south) – via the Liberty Drive exit right before the Telegraph Rd. exit. Tickets are free and are available on the website, <https://www.thenmusa.org>. The museum is open from 9-5 every day except Christmas.

From history galleries to virtual reality to play areas for younger children there is much to see and experience and the museum is educational, awe-inspiring, meaningful and fun and a great place to visit without huge crowds. And because there is so much to see a return visit is expected!

# Flashbacks

Glenn Ferri, Historian

## Flashback - 1492

In October we celebrate Columbus Day / Indigenous People's Day. While Columbus never set foot in Virginia, the land on which Stratford Landing sits has a very long history of occupation by indigenous people.

Archaeological digs in our area have uncovered significant evidence of prehistoric habitation. Just some of the finds at River Farm include a white quartz, Halifax-style arrowhead at least 4,500 years old; a stone tool, classified as a knife or Savannah River-style point from around 3,000 B.C. (similar to those pictured); and stone flakes left behind from making stone tools.

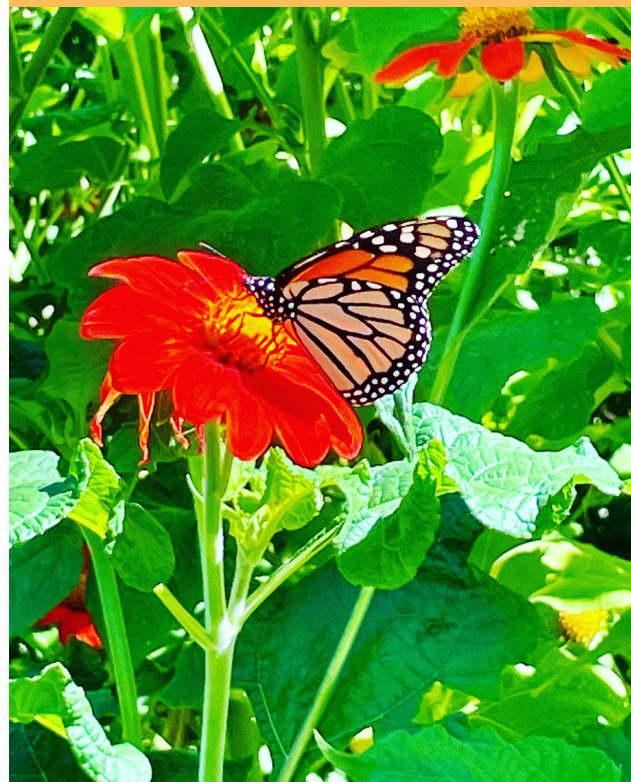
When Columbus arrived in the Americas, the area that is currently Stratford Landing was occupied by the Doeg (also called Dogues, Taux, Tauxenet) people. They probably spoke Piscataway, a dialect of Algonquin. Also pictured is a watercolor painted by John White depicting an Algonquian village similar to what would have existed here at that time.



## Flowers With Wings: What You Can Do To Protect Monarch Butterflies

Anne Holloway, Contributor

The monarch butterfly is easily recognizable with its brilliant orange-red wings, featuring black veins and white spots along the edges. While these magnificent insects used to be prevalent throughout our area, in recent years their numbers have diminished significantly. In fact, sadly, in 2020 the monarch butterfly was classified as "endangered". These tiny, delicate creatures are remarkable for their incredible journey-traveling nearly 3000 miles from the northern US and southern Canada to their overwintering destination in Mexico. Their seeming fragility belies their epic journey across the continent but they are no match for humans who have sadly had a hand in their listing on the endangered species roster. However, all is not lost and there is great hope that with careful planning and care the monarch butterfly will take flight in great numbers again. Success stories such as the previously endangered species listing of the osprey and bald eagle (seen in great numbers in our own community) are illustrations of how we can reverse these alarming trends and save these beautiful, invaluable creatures. And, everyone can play a part in this effort to save the monarch. No heroics necessary. All it takes is a spade and some monarch-friendly plants. Of course, there are more things you might consider that could help improve the future of the monarchs such as using environmentally friendly pesticides and herbicides or choosing not to use those products at all. But a great first step is planting monarch-friendly flora in your own yard. Known as "Monarch waystations" these butterfly-friendly gardens are designed to provide monarchs and other pollinators eco-friendly food, shelter, and breeding grounds. For monarchs, these little oases provide the necessary fuel to make the long trek across the continent. Simply by planting a milkweed plant or black-eyed Susan flowers you can make your own garden the perfect place to host these beautiful butterflies while helping them off the endangered species list. And, if you have children or grandkids around you can encourage them to engage in this project! They will delight in seeing these magnificent creatures floating around their garden creations with the added potential of witnessing a monarch's lifecycle as it goes from caterpillar to chrysalis to butterfly! To learn more about how you can help this endangered species please visit <https://www.americanmeadows>.



# Transportation Update

John Bioty, Community Improvements and Transportation Chair

The major Transportation issue (presently) is the GW Parkway and the continued confusion on right-of-way protocols at both Belle View Blvd and Belle Haven Rd Intersections. Accidents continue to happen and it has drawn the attention of our Virginia Congressional Reps. The National Park Service (who stated long ago) that if their GW Parkway improvements (to include the Road Diet) weren't working, they would fix it. To that end, the National Park Service has begun a re-engineering study for both Belle Haven and Belle View Intersections.

Our position: Something has to be done quickly to make Belle View and Belle Haven Intersections, "safer". If all else fails, return them to their original configuration.

## Are you Interested in Hosting Our Holiday Home Tour?

This December, we are interested in holding Stratford Landing's first Holiday Home Tour and we're looking for hosts.

A host would open up their festive and decorated homes on a predetermined date during a set window of time to host visitors from the neighborhood. Guests would be required to pre-register and don a sticker for entrance to ensure security. Registration would involve a small fee. Guests would be adult residents of Stratford Landing, but could potentially bring a friend who lives outside of Stratford Landing. Children would not be encouraged to attend.

If you would like to show off your home and meet new neighbors, please contact [president@stratford-landing.org](mailto:president@stratford-landing.org) so we may gauge interest in this new event.



## Phishing Scam - Don't Take the Bait

Recently, several neighbors have received fraudulent and suspicious emails from "SLCA President" or "Christopher Morgan". These emails have asked for gift cards or donations to select charities.

These emails are a scam.

Always check the sender's email address. All official emails will come from "president@stratford-landing.org" and may say "sent via mailchimpapp.net". If it is not from that address, it is likely fake.

A neighbor recently received an email from "<0\_w5@pjpolkecm.org>", which is a technique used by scammers. Always be alert on the Internet.

## 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.

# Contact Us

## Executive Committee:

**Christopher Morgan, President**

[president@stratford-landing.org](mailto:president@stratford-landing.org)

**Matt Dunne, Vice President**

[vicepresident@stratford-landing.org](mailto:vicepresident@stratford-landing.org)

**Jarrett Brant, Treasurer**

[treasurer@stratford-landing.org](mailto:treasurer@stratford-landing.org)

## Committee Chairs:

**Patricia Barron, Public Safety**

[publicsafety@stratford-landing.org](mailto:publicsafety@stratford-landing.org)

**John Bioty, Community Improvements and Transportation**

[biotyjr@aol.com](mailto:biotyjr@aol.com)

**Nicole Vitale, Recreation**

[recreation@stratford-landing.org](mailto:recreation@stratford-landing.org)

**Stori Zimmerman, Membership**

[membership@stratford-landing.org](mailto:membership@stratford-landing.org)

**Glenn Ferri, Historian/Website**

[webmaster@stratford-landing.org](mailto:webmaster@stratford-landing.org)

**Keith Kettell, Rules**

[kwk2325@aol.com](mailto:kwk2325@aol.com)

## Delegates to the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations:

**Patricia Barron, Public Safety**

[publicsafety@stratford-landing.org](mailto:publicsafety@stratford-landing.org)

**Leah Chapla, Planning & Zoning**

[leah.chapla@longandfoster.com](mailto:leah.chapla@longandfoster.com)

**John Bioty, Transportation**

[biotyjr@aol.com](mailto:biotyjr@aol.com)

**Christopher Morgan, Environment & Recreation**

[chair.er@mvrcca.org](mailto:chair.er@mvrcca.org)

## Advertise Here

Whole and partial-page advertisements are available for future editions of The Landing Page. Get your ad or special message out to a hyper-local audience bi-monthly.

Contact [treasurer@stratford-landing.org](mailto:treasurer@stratford-landing.org) for details.

