

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### 2/4 SLCA BLOOD DRIVE

8 AM - 12:30 PM

The Dean Law Firm

1302 Lafayette Drive, Alexandria

# THE LANDING PAGE

The Official Newsletter of Stratford Landing

## SLCA Leadership

**Christopher Morgan**, President  
**Matt Dunne**, Vice President  
**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.



## A Letter from the President

Christopher Morgan, President

I hope everyone is enjoying this unseasonably warm, albeit wet, winter of 2023.

Looking back a year ago, if you recall I set 4 new years resolutions for the neighborhood. Let's review how we all did.

Resolution 1: "Activating the NVCT land for better citizen use." This definitely happened. With the addition of two new benches, new signage, and far fewer invasive vines on the trees and path, the conservation parklet at 8610 Stockton Pkwy is better than ever. We even held a celebration at the site in early November attended by our local county supervisor. Progress such as this would not be possible without neighbors volunteering their time and energy and working with groups such as the Friends of Little Hunting Creek

Resolution 2: "Updating our by-laws to improve business efficiency." After some engaging debate at our annual meeting in October, we passed two amendments to our by-laws. One creates an Associate category of membership, and the other updates the fee language. We can count this as another win.

Resolution 3: "Increasing our membership numbers." Unfortunately, our membership has remained stagnant. SLCA is optional to join, but we certainly hope neighbors see the value provided in our events, announcement, advocacy, and service and dig deep, deep down to find that \$10 annual membership fee.

Resolution 4: "Doubling down on our local history initiatives". Another success, and especially thanks to our Historian Glenn Ferri. All six newsletters of the previous year have included Flashback articles, and we've added even more scanned historic newsletters to our website. Even while we look forward, we are maintaining the elements that Stratford Landing was built upon and are mindful of how we arrived at where we are today.

We're already off to a great start in Stratford Landing for 2023. Where do we want to go next?

1. Smart Use of NVCT Lands. In addition to the conservation parklet you all know, recently two additional lots were donated to the NVCT. SLCA is working with that organization on smart and acceptable use. In the coming months, we'll have more to share on the progress.

2. Traffic Calming Initiatives. As many of our blocks lack full sidewalks, many residents walk, job, push strollers, and take dogs in our streets. Unfortunately, speeders exceeding the 25 mph limit have caused stress and problems. We will be working with Fairfax County and VDOT this year to plan and install vehicle calming measures.

3. More Engagement. SLCA needs you involved. We need you as a member. We need you as a Block Captain. We need you to recruit your neighbors. We need you to serve on the Executive Committee. This year, we require more engagement to this all-volunteer organization.

I hope you enjoy the remainder of winter and look forward to seeing you all in the spring and throughout 2023 in Stratford Landing.

## Volunteers Still Needed

We are again looking for a Secretary and Treasurer to serve on the SLCA Executive Committee. The two individuals who had volunteered in October have left without a continuity plan or backfill. As an all-volunteer organization, our programs and activities are only possible because neighbors are willing to step up. The time commitments are minimal, and we need people that will follow through on their commitments.

## Holiday Home Decorating Contest Winners

Thank you to everyone who entered this year's Holiday Home Decorating Contest. Check out all of the festive entries on the Stratford Landing Citizens Association [Facebook page](#). Congratulations to this year's winners!



Best in Daylight - John and Patricia Fowler, 2104 Wittington



Most Humorous - Jennifer and Billy Parker, 2323 Wittington



Best Traditional - Anne and Frank Clay, 8701 Yardley



Best at Nighttime: Dorene Sapp and Justin Keister, 2317 Creek

## NVCT Parklet Preserve Clean-Ups

Every Sunday afternoon from 1-3pm, the NVCT and Friends of Little Hunting Creek are hosting community clean-ups and vine removal at the parklet preserve at 8610 Stockton Pkwy. Please wear weather-appropriate clothing, garden gloves, and bring your own loppers or clippers if you have them.

This area is adjacent to Little Hunting Creek and is an open preserve for native vegetation and wildlife, as well as neighbors. This is the season to remove the invasive vines, English Ivy, Japanese Honeysuckle, and Winter Creeper, Porcelain Berry, and other bad plants.

Coming out on Sunday afternoons is a great way to spend some quality time outdoors and children are welcome to come out to help as well.

For more questions, contact Betsy Martin at [betsy@folhc.org](mailto:betsy@folhc.org).

## Santa on a Firetruck

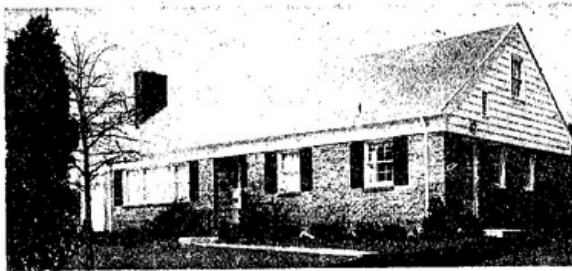
Santa made his annual stop in Stratford Landing to celebrate the season on December 18. Residents lined the streets to greet Santa as he made his way through the neighborhood on a Firetruck accompanied by some friendly neighborhood elves. He distributed candy and treats to many children along the parade route. This annual event is supported by SLCA membership dues and through the work of our neighborhood volunteers.



Display Ad 136 -- No Title  
The Washington Post, Times Herald (1959-1973); Mar 10, 1962;  
ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Washington Post  
pg. D9

## INNER-SPACE IS A SCIENCE TOO!

Outer Space might be making the headlines,  
but here at Stratford on the Potomac we've developed  
an important contribution for your family's comfort  
and happiness . . . a truly spacious home!



The GRAMERCY . . . \$27,990

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A Fully Air-Conditioned home that can be utilized  
as a 3-, 4-, or 5-bedroom residence. Includes 3  
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FULLY EQUIPPED G.E. KITCHENS CONTAIN:  
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• automatic range • Formica Formica  
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DIRECTIONS: Out Mt. Vernon Memorial  
Highway, through Alexandria to Strat-  
ford Landing. Call SOults 5-4730.

## Flashbacks

Glenn Ferri, Historian

### Flashback - 1962

By 1962 the Beck brothers (the original developers in Stratford Landing) weren't the only ones building and selling houses in our neighborhood. Keen Homes, Inc. introduced the "Gramercy" model in "Stratford on the Potomac", boasting such modern amenities in the GE kitchen as a refrigerator/freezer, dishwasher, garbage disposal, automatic range, and lifetime formica kitchen cabinets. The sales price back then equates to roughly \$275,000 in today's money.

This ad appeared in the March 10, 1962 edition of the Washington Post and Times Herald, on page D9. The reference to Outer Space making headlines probably refers to John Glenn having been the first American to orbit the earth just weeks earlier (Feb. 20, 1962). Hailed as a hero, John Glenn went on to serve as U.S. Senator (D-Ohio) for over 25 years. The Gramercy homes continue to serve our neighborhood to this day.

And today (2022-2023) the Gramercy sells for \$900,000+

## Feeding the Neighborhood Foxes

Nicole Vitale, Contributor

We live on Londonderry Rd. We have had a fox family live and have babies under our front porch for both springs we've lived here, despite my husband's best efforts to block off the space and use humane deterrents. They haven't been aggressive per se, but living so close to humans, they certainly become desensitized to us and it can be unnerving, especially when we think about our kids and dog. The babies in particular were not at all naturally afraid of us.

We never fed them (because it is illegal and we wanted them to leave!) but I would not be surprised if people do. We saw hot dog buns, dog bones, empty fast food containers, and empty cans of cat and dog food in our yard that they had dragged in there. It is also possible and perhaps more likely that they are going through the trash. Either way, there are measures people could take to cut off their human-related food source.

The winter is currently their mating season and we have also noticed more activity around the neighborhood. They actually smell like skunks so if you think you have a skunk, it may be a fox. This is what happened to us the first winter we moved in. The county won't remove them unless they are injured, aggressive, or potentially rabid, and if you pay someone to do it, they will likely euthanize them, so we have just dealt with them when the babies are super small and then sent them on their way. Fun facts -- you can buy wolf urine at Village Hardware and they don't like sprinklers!

***As with all of the wildlife that shares Stratford Landing with us, feeding them is illegal and potentially dangerous for both humans and the fox. Please don't leave out food, and please secure your trash and bins to prevent entrepreneurial wildlife from helping themselves.***



# Transportation Talk

John Bioty, Community Improvements and Transportation Chair

## **Mount Vernon Trail Widening – Old Town Alexandria to Rosslyn, Virginia!**

First opened on April 15, 1972, the Mount Vernon Trail spans over 18 miles from George Washington’s Mount Vernon to Theodore Roosevelt Island near Arlington. The narrow but popular Mount Vernon Trail from Old Town Alexandria to Rosslyn could be widened as soon as 2026.

The seven-foot-wide trail was built in the 1970s when few standards existed for building paved multi-use trails. Fifty years later, it’s exploded in popularity with more than a million users a year. The crush of crowds leaves it too cramped for two people to walk side by side with others passing the other way. A National Park Service (NPS) survey on whether to expand the trail noted 225 bike and pedestrian crashes between 2006 and 2010 mostly due to crowding and insufficient trail width. NPS officials are seeking to widen the trail another four feet for a five-mile stretch from Rosslyn to Old Town Alexandria.

The Virginia Commonwealth Transportation Board was briefed on the project and was supportive of this initiative. The project will also rebuild and widen three trail bridges, realign four intersections and fix a tight “s” curve at Dangerfield Island. Virginia is paying \$29 million of the project’s estimated \$33 million price tag. The rest will be paid for by NPS for the portion of the trail on Columbia Island – the area with the traffic circle outside of Arlington Cemetery – which is technically inside the District of Columbia.

## **Improvements to the Southern Section of the Mount Vernon Trail and George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP).**

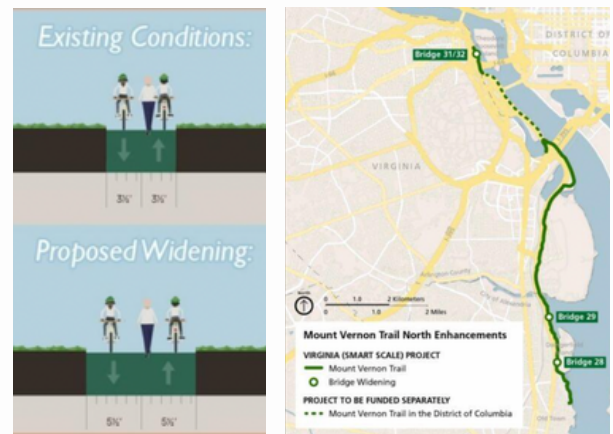
During November 2022, the NPS announced that it was seeking public comment on improvements to the Southern Section of the GWMP and Mount Vernon Trail. The project, NPS stated, would improve safety and address maintenance needs along the Parkway and the trail. Public comments were accepted through mid January 2023.

NPS claimed that road and trail improvements would enhance the visitor experience for drivers, pedestrians and cyclists. Potential improvements to the road include the implementation of a new road diet (reducing lanes through pavement striping to improve safety) in some areas, new crosswalks and intersection changes. Potential safety enhancements for the trail would include trail widening, bridge repair and intersection improvements.

The Southern GWMP project area includes the southern portion of the 15.2-mile Parkway from Arlington Memorial Bridge to Mount Vernon. It also includes the majority of the 18-mile Mount Vernon Trail, which extends from Theodore Roosevelt Island and the intersection with the Custis Trail in Arlington to Mount Vernon. The portion of the Parkway and trail within the City of Alexandria would not be part of this project.

To this end, NPS held a virtual public meeting on Tuesday, December 6, at 7 p.m., to discuss the proposed plan. NPS’ PowerPoint Presentation can be viewed at the following website: <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?documentID=124907>

As part of NPS’ public outreach for comments, SLCA did respond by providing a community letter and proposed resolution addressing recommendations, issues and concerns to both the Mount Vernon Trail and GWMP. SLCA will report on NPS’ findings and outcomes when they become available.



## Elkins Street Calming

The Riverside Gardens Citizens Association (RGCA) is currently working with VDOT and Fairfax County to install 4 speed tables on Elkin St. between Fort Hunt Road and Riverside Rd. They are currently working on receiving written permission from any property owners who would have a speed table installed in front of their lot. Subsequent steps would include a mailed ballot for neighbors within a certain radius to show their support for the traffic calming measures.

## Cigarette Butts

A friendly reminder that disposing of cigarette butts on the streets and sidewalks is littering and that is not acceptable in Stratford Landing. If you're going to smoke outside in the public space, make sure you take your charred butts back home with you.

Section 33.1-346 of the Code of Virginia makes littering or dumping trash a Class 1 misdemeanor, punishable by up to 12 months in jail and/or a fine up to \$2,500.

If you capture any litterbugs on your personal security cameras, please contact [publicsafety@stratford-landing.org](mailto:publicsafety@stratford-landing.org), and we can assist in engaging law enforcement.

## Membership Renewals

If you have not enrolled or renewed your membership for 2023, please do so ASAP so we may budget accordingly for the year. Contact [membership@stratford-landing.org](mailto:membership@stratford-landing.org) with any questions or if you are interested in joining SLCA for the first time.

Please note that due to the fact we do not have an active Treasurer, we are currently not accepting cash. We are still accepting checks and online payments via Stripe. This is simply an auditing control we are putting in place temporarily to ensure a proper paper trail.

Membership dues remain at \$10 per household per year and provide for our programs, activities, and capital improvements to the neighborhood.

## Finance Reports

Total Cash on Hand: 14,376.26

Recent Deposits:  
Member Dues \$40  
Donations: \$25

Recent Expenses:  
Liability Insurance (1H 2023): \$602  
D&O Insurance (2023): \$1000  
Halloween Home Decorating: 110.73  
Christmas Parade: 124.06  
Newsletter Printing: 61.23

## Open Board Meetings

The SLCA Executive Committee holds monthly meetings the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm via Zoom. Members are always welcome to attend and observe, but may only speak during the Citizen Time portion of the agenda. If you have questions, concerns, or suggestions, feel free to join.

The Zoom link is available below:  
[shorturl.at/aghshz](https://shorturl.at/aghshz)

**Stratford Landing Citizens Association Inc.**  
**Blood Drive**

**WHEN:**  
**Saturday, Feb. 4, 2023**  
8 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**WHERE:**  
**The Dean Law Firm**  
1302 Lafayette Dr.  
Alexandria, VA  
*The Inova Blood Donor Services Bloodmobile will be parked in the parking lot.*

**Every Drop Counts. Donate Blood.**

**Book Your Appointment Today**  
-Visit <https://bit.ly/SLCA0204>  
-Call 1(866) 256-6372, use Sponsor Code 3018  
-Contact Stephen Schlacter (703) 587-5695 - [stephen.schlacter@gmail.com](mailto:stephen.schlacter@gmail.com)

**INOVA**  
Blood Donor Services  
[inova-blood.org](http://inova-blood.org)  
Photo and registration materials required. Surgical face masks will be provided if needed. Allow 15 minutes for your donation.

## 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)

### 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

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

