

# THE LANDING PAGE

The Official Newsletter of Stratford Landing

## SLCA Leadership

**Christopher Morgan**, President  
**Mateo 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

*"Just because you do not take an interest in politics doesn't mean politics won't take an interest in you."*

-Pericles

This summer, I hope you and your families are enjoying the beautiful weather, having some great BBQs, and maybe getting some time at the pool. I hope that you also take the time to appreciate the great neighborhood we call home.

Throughout the year, there is much work behind the scenes conducted solely by volunteers in the neighborhood to keep up our great quality of life. The work behind the events we hold is obvious, but less visible are the meetings with officials and staffers, the email threads, and the evening presentations. As changes are planned and implemented which will affect our quality of life, it's important for our community to have a seat at the table. Whether it's the inclusion of higher-density zoning, the removal of old-growth trees, administration changes in our schools, or lane reductions on our highways, we want to ensure the best option for Stratford Landing occurs.

Stratford Landing has always been home to community-oriented leaders and 2023 is no exception. Currently, three members of our executive board are actively seeking roles in public office. While our organization is non-partisan and will not make any endorsements, the outcome of the election on Nov. 7 may have an impact on volunteer availability. If you are reading this and interested in stepping up and serving on our executive board, now is the time to make your intentions known!

If you are willing to join us and take a seat at the table in order to be more in control of your destiny and your family's quality of life, now is the time.

I'll conclude with a quote from a more contemporary time, which I personally admire:

*"Let us not seek the Republican answer or the Democratic answer, but the right answer. Let us not seek to fix the blame for the past. Let us accept our own responsibility for the future."*

John F. Kennedy

With your help, we can find these answers and, more importantly, discover great solutions for Stratford Landing's future.

## Neighborhood Watch

Several neighbors have inquired about a Neighborhood Watch program. In the past, when asked to volunteer, it's been difficult to get people to commit. If you are interested, please contact [publicsafety@stratford-landing.org](mailto:publicsafety@stratford-landing.org)

## Donation to West Potomac Class of 2023

On your behalf, the SLCA made a donation to the West Potomac Class of 2023.

Photo from left: Fletcher Condon, Logan Condon, Nick Castrilli, SLCA President Christopher Morgan, SLCA Vice President Mateo Dunne, Lucy Temple, and Mary Temple. Photo credit: Heather Condon



## Please DON'T Light Up the Night

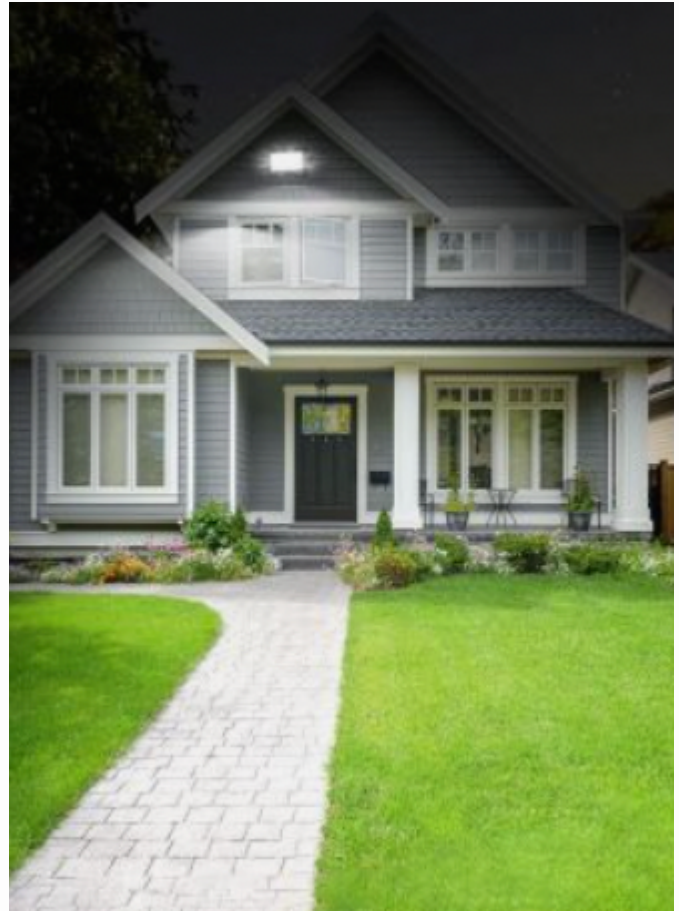
Leah Chapla, Contributor

In walking or driving around Stratford Landing (or other neighborhoods in the area) at night you may think that many people believe that bright outdoor lighting protects their properties from the proverbial and elusive burglars. Actually, FBI data says that most break-ins occur during the day between 10 am and 3 pm. And LED spotlights and porch lights which emit white light are not only unpleasantly bright for neighboring homes but are damaging to birds and predators that migrate or hunt at night, fatal to insects that are drawn to artificial light (which negatively affects species that rely on insects for food) and even make it easier for the criminal to see his way around.

If you use outdoor lighting, please be sure to use yellow or red bulbs and make sure your lights face down, rather than out toward your neighbors. And consider switching to motion-detector lighting which has the added benefit of saving energy.

For more information from the International Dark Sky Association go to [darksky.org](http://darksky.org)

Please consider implementing changes at your home to help to make our community an even better place and a good role model for other neighborhoods.



# Top 10 Reasons Why You Should be a Mount Vernon Neighborhood Friend

Barry and Tracy Hutchison, MV Neighborhood Friends Steering Committee Members and Past Chairs



If you haven't taken the short trip down the Parkway to visit Mount Vernon to experience the new exhibit entitled, "Mount Vernon: The Story of an American Icon," you need to go. After one of our recent visits to the Estate, we got to talking about why more of our neighbors are not supporting this iconic 18th-century home by joining the Mount Vernon Neighborhood Friends. By living in the Stratford Landing neighborhood, you are living on the historic River Farm, one of George Washington's original five farms. As a result, you are eligible to join Mount Vernon and become a Neighborhood Friend. No matter what membership level you join, you will automatically become a Neighborhood Friend because you live on one of the original five farms. Here are the Top 10 reasons why we think you should consider joining Mount Vernon's Neighborhood Friends:

10. They are open 365 days a year. Yes, you can even send your relatives to walk off their turkey on Thanksgiving Day.
9. They have great programming including a lecture series highlighting top historians and authors.
8. They have a one-of-a-kind Birthnight Supper & Ball (a black-tie dinner and auction) to celebrate the birth of the Father of our Country.
7. They host the free Family Night Picnic which brings us all together to be with other neighbors under a beautiful setting.
6. They host the Christmas Illuminations event so we can all see how the General and Lady Washington celebrated the season.
5. They host annual Revolutionary War Reenactments that people from around the world come to participate in and see.
4. As a member, you get the opportunity for advanced and discounted tickets to programs and events, and discounts at the Mount Vernon Inn and the Shops. Including early access to their sold-out wine and beer festivals.
2. US and world leaders make a point to visit Mount Vernon (including recently President Biden and the National Governors Association, President Zelensky of Ukraine, and President Macron of France), and it is all in your backyard.
2. Harry, the bartender at the Mount Vernon Inn, is a person you need to know.
1. As a member, you get to work with the world-class team that CEO Doug Bradburn has put together to run this neighborhood treasure.

Much like Washington, our love for this land near the Potomac and our membership at Mount Vernon reflects the special relationship between present-day residents of the original five farms and the Mount Vernon Estate. Thank you to those neighbors who are already members. To the others, we hope you will consider joining Mount Vernon this summer and we hope to see you walking around the Estate. [Click here for more information on membership.](#)

### THE STRATFORD POOL

It all began in the summer of 1965  
A house to house canvas started the drive.  
The Community Pool now was beginning to jell  
So out we went with 400 memberships to sell.

Negotiations had been concluded for a 5.75 acre plot  
Plus a contract for pool construction on this lot.  
Construction was to start later that fall  
So that next summer, members could have a ball.

The 400 family membership drive began  
And through diligent effort proceeded according to plan.  
And thanks to the early joiners of this drive  
The Stratford Community Pool was kept alive.

The construction began and the opening date was set  
An abundance of memberships and funds were met.  
On August 14, 1966, the kids made a mad dash  
And the Stratford Pool opened with a resounding splash.

The initial facilities were now complete.  
An olympic size "2" shaped pool to beat the heat.  
A large bath house to change in and shower  
And a pool for tots to wade in and cover.

The 1967 swim season we did meet  
The our membership was still not complete.  
Improvements and needs were taken in hand  
To enhance the swim area and land.

The 1968 season was one for us to yell  
For the 400th membership we did sell.  
This plus improvements and a new swim team  
Brought to reality the 1965 Stratford Pool dream.

Plans for the 1969 season are in the mill  
With further grading and seeding of land and hill.  
Work on the parking lot and entrance way  
Undertaken to be completed on opening day.

Tennis court construction plans have already begun  
Boring for compaction tests have been run.  
More swim party dates have been set aside this year  
For adults, teens, tots, and their guests, far and near.

The swim team ranks this year will swell  
And like last year, will do very well.  
Plans for a diving team are in high gear  
And we hope for a good turnout this year.

Now those things were able to come to pass  
Because of the workers and members we did miss.  
Thus thanks to them all - each and everyone  
Whose participation, a community pool has won.

As in the past years, there are a few  
Members of the pool who must say adieu.  
For they are moving on to new and brighter things  
Which this present day life of ours often brings.

Besides many friends, they also leave in their wake  
A pool membership of which they did partake.  
So now other residents are able to sign  
Thus hurry before we reach a full membership line.

Now in closing it is with this we do repeat  
The community has a pool to help beat the heat.  
A place each summer for fun and relaxation  
So don't hold back - get in that application.

## Flashbacks

Glenn Ferri, Historian

### Flashback - 1966

Now that summertime is approaching, many of us will be enjoying our neighborhood pool – the Stratford Recreation Association. The Little Hunting Creek Citizens Association Newsletter of March 1969 includes this loving ode to the pool by a member named Jack Bentley.

This poem describes the initial drive to secure the 5.75 acre plot, negotiate the construction contracts, and meet the target of 400 memberships. Opening Day for the pool was August 14, 1966. The poem goes on to describe the ongoing efforts at that time to further develop and improve the facilities. Interestingly, the vision included: a swim team (started in 1968), a dive team (in planning), tennis courts (constructed shortly after), and “swim party dates ... for adults, teens, tots, and their guests”. Not so different from today!

The pool has provided enjoyment for countless families over the decades, undergoing many upgrades and improvements over the years. I think the author of this poem should be very proud and happy to see the pool today.



## A Reminder About Fireworks

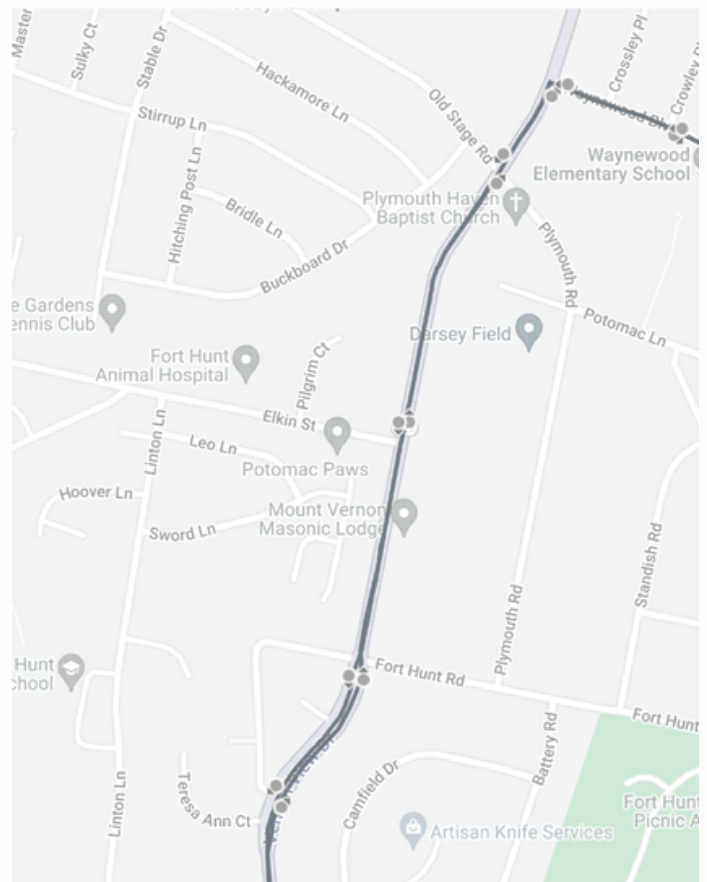
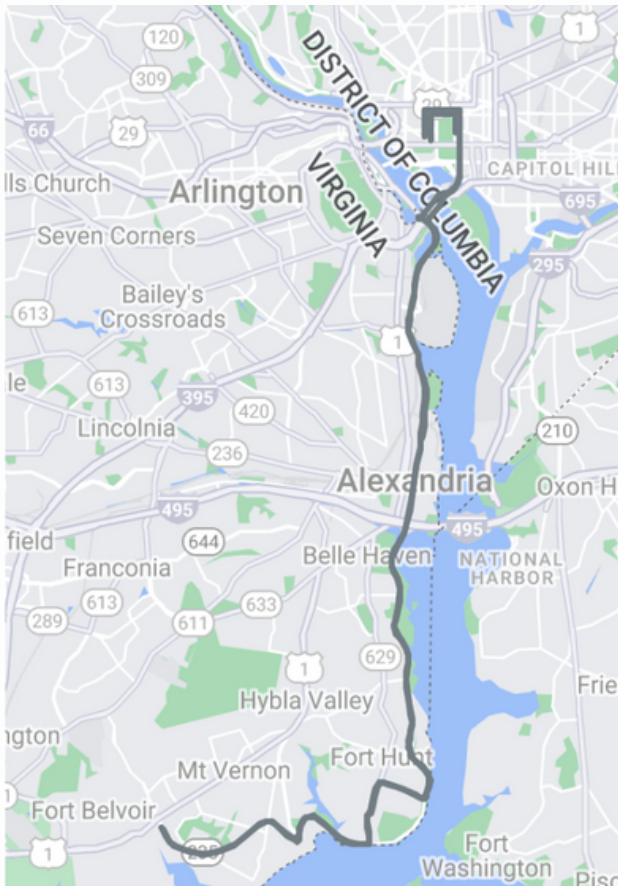
As a reminder, many people are injured each year in Fairfax County due to fireworks. Some are injured seriously and left with permanent damage. Any firework, which explodes, emits a flame or sparks higher than 12 feet, or performs as a projectile is prohibited by the Fairfax County Fire Prevention Code.

# Transportation Talk

John Bioty, Community Improvements and Transportation Chair

## MetroBus Update

The 11Y “Mount Vernon Express” bus route has recently resumed service. This is the only local line with direct access into the District from the Fort Hunt area. The closest bus stop is on Fort Hunt Road near Elkin St. See <https://buseta.wmata.com/m/index?q=11Y> for more information.



## Vehicle Break-Ins and Thefts

Unfortunately, during the last week of June, multiple cars were stolen from their driveways and multiple other vehicles were entered and had their contents stolen. Here’s what we know:

- The vehicles did not have their keys inside and were stolen from within driveways.
- Based on camera footage, the thefts took place between 2:45am and 3:15am.
- A group of 5-6 African American males wearing masks and hoods were observed moving together, entering onto several residential properties, and testing car door handles.
- The vehicles stolen were located on Londonderry Rd, Creek Dr, and Bluedale St.
- At least one of the vehicles was later recovered.
- Credit cards stolen from the vehicles were used several hours later in MD.
- The police have been notified and provided surveillance footage.

It’s important everyone remain vigilant.

## Update from NVCT

The following letter was sent from Alan Rowsome, Executive Director of the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust (NVCT).

*Dear Stratford Landing residents, community, and neighbors,*

*Northern Virginia Conservation Trust acquired a half-acre property located at 8724 and 8726 Stockton Parkway in December 2022. Since the time of that acquisition, NVCT has solicited and tracked feedback from residents, community, neighbors, and interested parties about ideas and concerns for the property and its use. We received wide-ranging input from many people, and we greatly appreciate everyone's thoughtful input.*

*As a conservation organization, our first priority is and always has been ecological restoration of the property. To that end, multiple areas of the property have been roped off as "Natural Habitat Areas." These are no-mow zones where the natural seedbank will be allowed to grow and expand. In the fall of 2023, NVCT will work to further enhance these natural areas with supplemental native plantings.*

*We received a wide variety of thoughts regarding access to the property, including access to the water using the existing dock. Because of a number of concerns that were raised, we are approaching access carefully and incrementally.*

***NVCT will not be allowing open, public access to Little Hunting Creek using the dock on 8724 Stockton Parkway.***

*Access and use of the land will be permitted only with explicit permission from NVCT. This will allow us to fully and accurately convey rules and expectations for use of the property, as well as limit the total number of users so the property and the surrounding areas are not overwhelmed. Signage to this effect explaining the process for getting permission to use the property will be installed. This approach also allows us to gauge general interest in the property to inform future management and access decisions.*

*Thank you again to everyone who contributed input so far. We will continue to track interest and ideas and can be reached at [stewardship@nvct.org](mailto:stewardship@nvct.org).*

**We are continuing to collect citizen feedback. Please email your thoughts to [president@stratford-landing.org](mailto:president@stratford-landing.org).**

## Welcome

### Stratford on the Potomac and Stratford IV Residents

At the previous SLCA General Membership meeting in October, we amended our by-laws to allow people who technically don't live within the historic Stratford Landing boundaries to join as Associate Members.

This makes many more families eligible to join, receive our newsletter, and participate in our events. Visit [www.stratford-landing.org](http://www.stratford-landing.org) for more information.



## Contact Us

### Executive Committee:

**Christopher Morgan, President**

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**Mateo Dunne, Vice President**

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### Committee Chairs:

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**John Bioty, Community Improvements and Transportation**

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**Stori Zimmerman, Membership**

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**Keith Kettell, Rules**

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

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