

UPCOMING EVENTS

6/11 SUMMER FOOD TRUCK

4:30-8:00 PM

FEATURING DOGS ON THE CURB
STRATFORD LANDING PARK

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
- 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

A huge Thank You to the families who have donated so far for the project to re-point and landscape our three entrance signs.

After a few short weeks, we did raise sufficient funds to begin the masonry work. On May 18th, the wood was removed for safe-keeping and the brickwork commenced the following morning.

As of May 25th, 68 neighbors have donated a total of \$5858.96

We are still seeking donations for landscaping, and long-term maintenance. Neighbors have been asking for years for more native shrubs and plants to be planted near the signs. We also would prefer plants that are both beautiful and have lower maintenance to ensure the signs stay looking great for years to come.

Donations can still be accepted electronically via this link: <https://www.stratford-landing.org/entrance-signs-project>



Thank You to Our Donors

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Aaron Gadbois | David & Maureen Cleveland | Jesse & Margaret Hernandez | Patricia Barron |
| Andrew Bauer | David & Sharon Timmons | John & Martha Bioty | Phil and Lisa Knight |
| Angela Stephan | Denton Family | John Horn | Robert Johnson |
| Ann Steck | Doug & Stori Zimmerman | Katherine Lehner | Scott Cullen |
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| Anonymous | Erika Freundel | Larwrence & Pamela Clark | Serena Lambert |
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| Billy & Heather Kendrick | Glenn Ferri | Levator Norsworthy Jr | Steven & Catherine Stebbins |
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| Brian Yeh | Ian Mandel | Marilyn & Robert Lewin | Terri Maloney |
| Christian Curran | Jack & Lynne Rhoades | Marjorie Jones | The Whaleys |
| Christina Diamond | James Daugherty | Meg & Jeff Pearson | Thomas & Anne Stapleton |
| Christopher Morgan | Janet Hurley | Mitchell Family | Thomas & Patricia Lavery |
| Cindy & Roly Diaz | Jeanne Ohara | Nancy Harrison | Vanessa Rodriguez |
| Cleve Lisecki | Jennifer Bahret | Nicole Vitale | Vicky Quinn |
| Constance Springer | Jennifer Parker | Patricia & Charles Parks | Victor Hoyos |

More Car Break-Ins

Neighbor Britt Patterson from the Hollin Hall neighborhood shared her surveillance video of her car being robbed at 3:30 am on June 1st. Three suspects can be seen, all coming from a moving vehicle traveling on Bunker Hill Rd. One suspect opened the front passenger door and went through the center console. The suspect in the vehicle can be described as a black man wearing a white tank top, a black ski mask, and black nitrile gloves. Later on in the video, the suspects are seen pulling out of the driveway in a car from a house across the street. That car was stolen from an elderly man.

It was also reported that several cars were broken into on Bluedale St, Camden St, and Stockton Pkwy in the early morning hours of June 2nd. Along with the robberies that occurred in December 2021, Stratford Landing is clearly on someone's target list.

What We Know

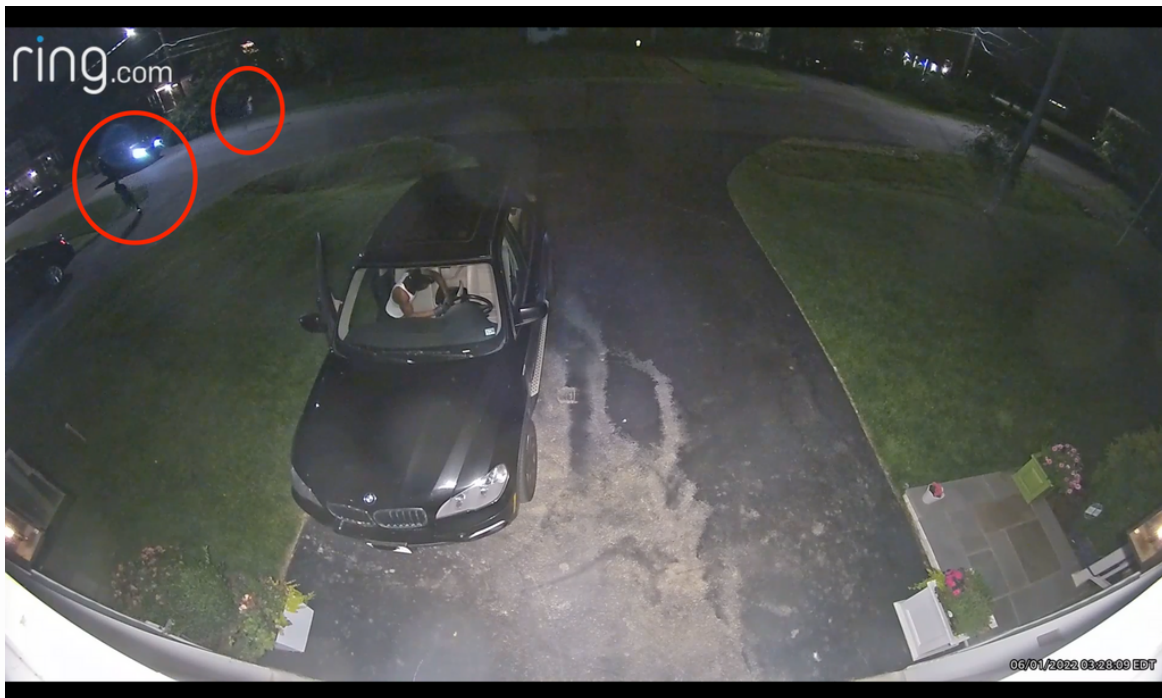
- This appears to be the work of an organized criminal group.
- They operate in teams of 3-4. They move in a vehicle down residential streets and the suspects get out, check car doors, open them if they can, and rummage for valuables.
- Several cars have been stolen as well.
- The raids are being conducted between 3:00 AM and 5:00 AM.
- Video surveillance shows the suspects are black males wearing facial coverings and gloves.

We hope everyone is remaining vigilant and following best practices to secure your vehicles.

The photo below shows a suspect rummaging through the center console of a neighbor's vehicle. The red circles highlight their vehicle and other dismantled suspects.

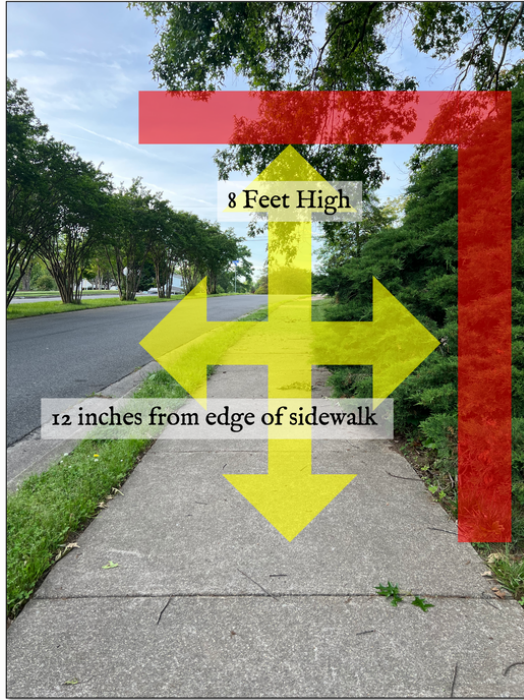
What You Can Do

- Lock your vehicle doors every night.
- Install cameras and share the footage.
- Write a letter -- *don't call, don't email* -- to Fairfax County Commonwealth Attorney Steve Descano at 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Suite 114 Fairfax, VA 22030 expressing your concern about the increase in street crime you're witnessing, and ask him what he's doing about it.
- File a Police Report using: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/howdoi/communityreportingsystem>. All datapoints are important to develop a pattern.



Neighborhood Notes

Please Help Keep Our Sidewalks Walkable



Let's keep Stratford Landing walkable, for residents, dogs, strollers, wheelchairs, and all pedestrians.


It's important to keep your sidewalks clear of foliage and obstructions.

Ensure there is 8 feet of vertical clearance, and no obstructions or plants within 12 inches of the sidewalk edge.

Firepit Safety

With the warm weather, many neighbors are enjoying even warming fires in the evenings. Here are some considerations to be mindful of as you enjoy your fire pits and grills.

Fire Pit Do's and Don'ts in Stratford Landing

 DO	 DON'T
 Always keep your fire 25 feet from any structure	 Avoid all flammable liquids and lighter fluids. They're technically against Fairfax Fire Prevention Code and produce a lingering odor
 Have a working extinguisher on-hand	 Don't burn treated wood or construction materials – They contain added chemicals
 Pay attention to wind patterns and be aware of where smoke and embers may travel	 Be careful with burning yard waste. Poison Ivy's active irritant will travel via smoke over your skin and into your lungs
 Teach any children to "stop, drop, and roll" in the event of an emergency	 Ensure the fire is never left unattended and that an adult is always nearby

A Guide from the Stratford Landing Citizens' Association
Christopher Morgan, President

Animal of the Month

Claire Kluskens, Contributor

Step outside your house and listen to the Green Treefrog in the morning or late evening! You will hear the male make his repeat his "advertisement call" up to 75 times per minute in order to attract a mate between April and August. Not sure what to listen for? Find two excellent recordings made at Huntley Meadows Park (and some from other locations) at <http://www.californiaherps.com/noncal/misc/miscfrogs/pages/h.cinerea.sounds.html>. Adults have green upper parts and white or light cream underparts. They're small, only about 2 to 3 1/2 inches in length, and have special toe pads and long legs that aid them in climbing and jumping on trees. Although adult treefrogs live in trees, they begin life as tadpoles in wetlands, where the adult female lays over 1,000 eggs, many of which are eaten by beetles and other insects. Frogs are free "pest control" – they use their long tongues and sticky saliva to catch flies, crickets, beetles, moths, and other small invertebrates. In turn, frogs are eaten by birds, snakes, and lizards. Learn more about frogs, toads, salamanders, lizards, snakes, and turtles at the Virginia Herpetological Society website at <http://www.virginiaherpetologicalsociety.com/index.html>.

Green Treefrog Photo Credit: Claire Kluskens

Washington's 'Field 4' Now Site of New Homes
The Washington Post and Times Herald (1924-1939), Aug 25, 1956.
ProQuest Historical Newspapers: The Washington Post
Pg. 42

Historic Land

Washington's 'Field 4' Now Site of New Homes

Colonial split levels and ranch homes are rising on "Field 4" of George Washington's original river farm, directly across Little Hunting Creek from historic Mt. Vernon, the Stratford Landing Building Corp. announced yesterday.

Model homes are now open just off Mt. Vernon Blvd. about 500 yards up Fort Hunt rd. Construction has begun on the first 110 homes.

The \$8 million development will cover about 150 acres of century-old timberland fronting the creek and overlooking the wooded shores of Mount Vernon.

Constructed by Long Island builders Ernest C. Beck and Walter Beck, the four-bedroom, 2½-bath, split-levels sell for \$24,000, and the three-bedroom, 2-bath ranch, for \$20,750.

The Stratford Realty Company is the exclusive sales agent. Public relations and promotion is being handled by George Waters, former Washington newsmen.

The homes are of all-brick construction with insulated walls and fir framing.

The first section of the creek-front development will be ready for occupancy during the late fall.

The homes will be erected on land upon which George Washington built a small community of slave dwellings and barns to serve his original river farm.

The Stratford Landing development, together with a neighboring project, Stratford-on-the-Potomac, have under construction at this time an initial group of homes valued at about \$3 million, the builders report.

To serve these communities, public utility companies have completed many miles of pipelines and conduits.

Librarians at Mount Vernon revealed that Washington made periodic trips across Little Hunting Creek on horseback through the heavily wooded land on which the Stratford Landing homes will rise.

Seine Point, a favorite fishing spot at the mouth of Little Hunting Creek in George Washington's day, still is the scene of active seine fishing today.

The creek has a nine-foot channel which runs along the development for almost a mile. Heavy barges bearing brick used to ply the creek to bring brick to the expanding young Nation's capital. In 1793 George Washington wrote that his river farm, upon which the new homes will be built, "afforded pleasant sites for building houses."

Cedar hedgerows and ditch banks built by George Washington to separate the individual fields are being utilized as part of the present landscaping plan.



Modern split levels now grace Washington's former farm.

Flashbacks

Glenn Ferri, Historian

Flashback - 1956

Not that long ago, Stratford Landing was nothing more than a wooded area with a railway line running through it. (More on that in another newsletter!) On August 25, 1956, an article appeared in the Washington Post and Times Herald announcing that two brothers from Long Island, NY - Ernest C. Beck and Walter Beck – were constructing new homes in this "timberland fronting the creek and overlooking the shores of Mount Vernon". Interestingly, the article claims that George Washington had built "a small community of slave dwellings and barns to serve his original river farm" and that he "made periodic trips across Little Hunting Creek on horseback through the heavily wooded land on which the Stratford Landing homes will rise".

The four bedroom, 2 ½ bath split level homes were selling for \$24,000. This is equivalent to around \$233,000 today. A real bargain!

Newsletter Delivery Update

Due to rising costs, we are no longer able to hand-deliver Newsletters to the fewer than 1% of the neighborhood requesting this service. If you are interested in self-paying for this service, please email president@stratford-landing.org or send a letter to 8701 Stockton Parkway Alexandria, VA 22308.

Transportation Talk

John Bioty, Community Improvements and Transportation Chair

Reprint from the Washington Post – May 18, 2022 by Antonio Olivo

Rebranded as “Potomac Banks,” the southeastern portion of Fairfax that is home to several historic sites is where County officials hope to add 10,000 new homes by 2030 with new Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) lanes on an expanded Richmond Highway.

Fairfax County officials recently unveiled a campaign to draw tourists to the County's historically rich southeast, a portion that includes George Washington's Mount Vernon estate and is set for a massive “Main Street” transformation.

The area recently rebranded as “Potomac Banks,” is situated along the Richmond Highway corridor, which once saw decades of neglect and spotty economic development. It currently features a mix of palatial homes and low-income apartments.

State transportation officials are working to expand about 1.5 miles of Richmond Highway, converting the often-clogged thoroughfare from four lanes to six. The county will also add rapid-transit bus lanes, plus bike lanes and walkways — part of a nearly \$1 billion “Embark Richmond Highway” plan to create a pedestrian-friendly neighborhood of restaurants, hotels, and as many as 13,000 homes in what is now mostly a canyon of shopping plazas and fast-food eateries.

With a 3.1-mile Metrorail Yellow line extension also planned and several residential developments being built, county officials hope to raise the area's profile by boosting tourism to the array of historic landmarks in southeast Fairfax County.

Supervisor Dan Storck (D-Mount Vernon) said the marketing blitz will add energy to a corridor that — while a short drive from the Mount Vernon estate — had long been associated with isolation: budget motels, old tire shops, and scrap yards. “This area has long been known as ‘down there,’” Storck said Wednesday, during a news conference at Mount Vernon. “Little by little, we’re making a difference. Little by little, we’re bringing folks together. Little by little, we are creating a true ‘South County.’”

Besides Mount Vernon, other historical landmarks include Washington's River Farm, George Mason's Gunston Hall, and Woodlawn Estate, once owned by Washington's nephew and step-granddaughter. The Woodlawn museum also hosts Pope-Leighey House, designed by legendary architect Frank Lloyd Wright.

County officials said the tourism campaign is meant to draw people to other area attractions as well — such as the Workhouse Arts Center, once the site of a mid-20th-century prison, and the 80-acre National Museum of the U.S. Army that opened at Fort Belvoir in 2020.

Threading together those sites under one campaign “is not just important for attracting tourism to Fairfax County,” said Jeffrey C. McKay (D), chair of the county's board. “It's important also to the people who live in Fairfax County and reside in this region because, tragically, too many people who have these assets in their backyard don't even realize that they have them.”

The revitalization effort has, for the most part, received broad support from local community organizations; some residents, however, have not been pleased with the development plans.

Re-Branding Richmond Highway Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) as “The One”

Earlier this year, the “future-planned” Richmond Highway Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) was officially named “The One”. The new name was developed with input from community members and stakeholders and occurred over the past three years. “The One” was selected because the BRT will service the Route 1 corridor beginning in 2030.

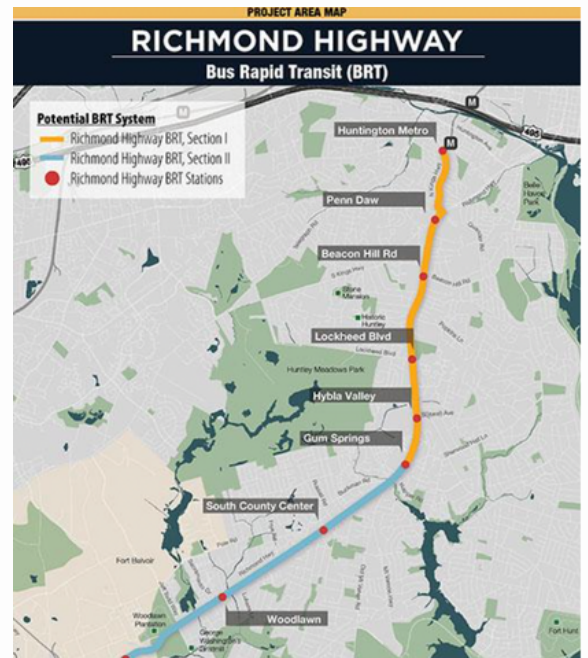
BRT is intended to be a high-quality public transportation system designed to be fast, reliable, and more convenient than traditional bus routes. It will operate much like rail service, with a dedicated transit way, but uses bus vehicles instead.

The proposed Richmond Highway BRT system will have nine stations, constructed in two sections, and will connect to major employment centers, shopping centers, and residential communities along the Richmond Highway corridor, from Huntington Metrorail Station to Fort Belvoir. The project will include pedestrian and bicycle facilities as well as other amenities to support the proposed system.

Although the BRT is a future system, it is a part of the “Embark Richmond Highway” Project which is currently being designed.

Embark Richmond Highway is a multiyear Fairfax County and state transportation project to transform about 7½ miles of Route 1 by widening it from 4 to 6 lanes, adding separate bicycle lanes and reserving the median for the BRT.

The original (2015) Embark Richmond Highway schedule indicated that (1) Studies & Funding were to occur from 2015-2018; (2) Right of Way Negotiations and Acquisitions from 2019-2020 with (3) construction commencing in 2023, and (4) Completion in 2026. Studies and Right-of-Way acquisitions, along with funding issues however, have delayed the project and it has slid to the right. Embark Richmond Highway will now complete closer to the end of the decade (i.e.2027-2030). SLCA updates will be provided when they become available.



Snow Cones at SRA

The SLCA sponsored snow cones recently at Stratford Recreation Associations' "Super Sunday" on May 22nd. This event is a pre-opening pool event to sign up for the swim teams, and volunteer for pool committees, and is an open-house event welcoming all. They had a food truck in the pool's parking lot, and now for the first time, snow cones.

President Christopher Morgan and Membership Chair Stori Zimmerman served up about 175 cones to kids and adults alike. There were 4 flavors — cherry, watermelon, blue raspberry, and pineapple, with many opting for "rainbow"— a mixture of each. We went through five 16lb bags of ice.

All adults were asked if they were SLCA members and where they lived. If they were potential members, they were given a newsletter, welcome letter, and paper membership form.

It's important to note that SRA has members from Stratford on the Potomac, Stratford IV, Williamsburg Manor, and more neighborhoods around the area, but it's the SLCA proving leadership and outreach to the broader community.

We were the first organization to ever offer snow cone sponsorship and in addition to the volunteer time, SLCA contributed \$200 to the SRA to be part of the event.



Summer Food Truck

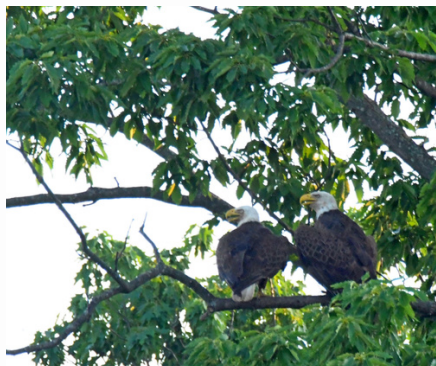
Nicole Vitale, Recreation Chair

SLCA is excited to announce a Summer Kick Off at Stratford Landing Park on June 11, 2022 from 4:30pm to 8:00pm featuring Dogs on the Curb food truck. Please join your neighbors for delicious food and celebrate the summer season. The Dogs on the Curb menu is available [here](#). If the community enjoys this event, we hope to bring food trucks to Stratford Landing on a more regular basis.

Check our Facebook page for more details as the event approaches.

The Eaglets Have Landed

Local Bald Eagles George and Martha have welcomed two eaglets, Liberty and Bell. Look to the trees around Little Hunting Creek for a peek at this majestic family. Eagle photos courtesy of Jeff at JSJ Photography. jsj-photography.myportfolio.com



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Contact treasurer@stratford-landing.org for details.

