

Stratford Landing Citizens' Association Newsletter

Stratford Landing • Mount Vernon District • Fairfax County • February 2006

Two Winter SLCA Meetings Feature Discussions on New Services and Housekeeping

Crew Building Update. West Potomac Crew Boosters, Inc has scheduled a series of meetings with Fairfax County officials to determine a final design for a storage building that they propose be built on the pumping station property. This action was taken with the understanding that SLCA membership would be required to vote on these final plans and that the crew team would store their crew shells on this site as a means to benefit this youth organization by avoiding the high costs of winter storage at Occoquan. The WPCB proposal was first made to SLCA in April 2005 and was discussed with the membership at the October 2005 meeting. A flyer with WPCB final plan information will be circulated in the neighborhood in March before scheduling a vote on their plan in April.

WHAT IS SLCA? Well, don't ask the State of Virginia. Celia Boertlein is leading an effort to re-apply for incorporation with the state of Virginia. In 2002, the SLCA's incorporation lapsed due to non-payment of annual fees. The State gave the SLCA time to pay the \$440 for back payments and three cheers to Celia for finding this problem and fixing it.

No Hunting Sign Reaches 65% of Goal. We are getting there. As of February 1, 2006, SLCA members have raised \$455 of the total \$700 goal for private donations for our neighbor, Mr. Jay Spiegel to help defray his \$3000 expense for a No-Wake, No-Hunting sign at the mouth of Little Hunting Creek. Members are encouraged to send Jay a donation as we continue to make progress towards this fund-rais-

ing goal. Other neighborhoods bordering the creek have already provided Mr. Spiegel with partial reimbursement for his expense.

Bylaws Committee. Jane Earley, Vice President, and Melissa Cramer, Parliamentarian, will co-chair meetings to consider bylaw changes made in 2003 and whether these changes have benefited the Board and SLCA. Other Board members will participate. Two issues under discussion are the status of appointed board members and a return to one-person, one-vote procedures.

Newsletter Ads Launch. Two advertisers have agreed to become the inaugural advertisers for the SLCA newsletter. One of the two is our own Bob Kuletz (on Stockton Parkway) and the other is Elizabeth Lucchesi of northern Virginia. Both are real estate agents and both are hereby congratulated as the newsletter's first advertisers. Anyone interested in advertising should email Tom Burgess, SLCA President, at tfburgess@aol.com to obtain the newsletter ad rate sheet. This new revenue stream now covers the entire cost of newsletter printing.

Pumping Station Meeting. President Tom Burgess and Vice President Jane Earley attended a meeting chaired by Supervisor Gerry Hyland to discuss the 9.5 acres of green space that houses the county's pumping station. County staff from public works and risk management delivered reports on the condition of the property and the county's continued

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Day Care Needed

There is a need for babysitting and day care providers in Stratford Landing. If you provide these services, please let us know and we can include you on the sweet list and promote your business. Send an email to Melissa Cramer at Melissa.Cramer@cox.net. Let her know if you provide this valuable service by-the-hour or full-time and whether it's at your house or on an in-home basis. Please copy tfburgess@aol.com on the email.

interest in the land surrounding the pumping station buildings. Mr. Hyland said the county's position should be that the entire 9.5 acre site should only be considered for public use. One interesting report from the county staff revealed that a large portion of the property is covered with cut-down juniper saplings that pose a danger for anyone on the property with or without authority. Mr. Burgess asked that these dangerous stakes be removed and the land cleaned.

Graffiti Hits. Over the holidays, several homeowners near or on Waterford Drive and the pumping station garage door were hit with spray paint. Some initials ("DF") were left apparently as a signature by the perpetrator. Any tips should be shared with the Mt. Vernon police substation. A white pickup and Berry Cordone's dock and boat were affected.

Leaf Removal for Stratford Landing. Sorry, not much to report this month, except that the county has not been forthcoming on the cost associated with county-provided leaf collection. We know that Stratford Landing is one of a few neigh-

borhoods eligible for this service and the coast is based on lot size. This would require a full SLCA member vote.

Affordable Housing Report. A report from Joan McLellan will be provided in April. One resident informs us that the North Hills parcel on Route 1, which was purchased with HUD funds, may be developed as a park, which is not its intended use. At the Board's February 14 meeting, the Board will be asked to support the parcels intended use, which is affordable housing.

New Neighbor Welcome Gift Proposal. On February 4, Vice President Earley held a meeting to explore how a new neighbor welcome gift package could become a reality. More on that in April.

Watershed Board. After lengthy discussion, the Board voted against creating a watershed committee, as such a body can be formed temporarily when issues related to the watershed or creek arise. All members of the Civic Association are encouraged to submit their ideas on improving our

neighborhood. Please email your ideas to the appropriated board member, based on the nature of your proposal. If you don't know who to send it to, please send it to the board secretary, Linda Sweeney at llsweeney@aol.com and copy the president, Tom Burgess and the vice president, Jane Early at tfburgess@aol.com and jane_early@yahoo.com.

County Pick-up Size Reminder

Kae Wells reports that some tree trimmers are telling customers that the county will pick up trees and brush regardless of size. **NOT TRUE!** Remember – no pile can be larger than 5' x 5' x 6' and logs cannot be larger than 6 inches in diameter or longer than 6 feet. Thanks, Kae!

Meet One Real Estate Professional
Committed to Going the Extra Mile and Then
One Step Further

When you think you've gone far enough, go one step further. That's Elizabeth Lucchesi's personal credo. Whether she's training for a marathon, pursuing ongoing education or helping her clients reach their real estate goals, it's a philosophy that guides her every action.

From consultation to closing, Elizabeth goes the extra mile and then a step further to ensure her clients stay ahead of the curve and get the best results. This means working hard to ensure every option is explored. If it's necessary to preview two extra properties to ensure her prospective buyers are happy, she'll do it. If it means making additional phone calls to find a qualified buyer for a seller, Elizabeth gets it done. So, if you're in the market to make a move, call Elizabeth Lucchesi today. She'll go the distance for you.

(703) 868-5676 • www.LizLuke.com

Childs Lane Street Lights on Dimmer

President Tom Burgess negotiated with some residents on Childs Lane between Porter and Stirrup Lane after being contacted by county engineers and Dominion Virginia Power engineers. The issue was that residents did not wish to grant easements to allow power lines to be installed in order to provide power to four street lights for this section of Childs Lane. All residents involved were visited by Mr. Burgess in their homes. "This was a real eye-opener," said Mr. Burgess. "With the clear support of our local police for more street lights, coupled with the fact that it took years to position county funds and engineers to install these lights, to have our residents object because an 18-inch ditch would be dug along the front of some properties, well, it's disappointing," he said. Residents on Childs Lane may pay for their own front yard light and also pay the additional charge on their Vepco bill. A very good example of this type of private light, which meets with police approval and support, can be found at Brad and Linda Brown's house at 2613 Childs Lane.

Meanwhile, residents living along Stirrup Lane from Porter Lane down to the end of the cul-de-sac, as well as a few residents on Childs Lane closer to Stirrup Lane will be getting their street lights installed in the relatively near future.

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Eagle Scout Andrew Weatherly a Real Hero

It's been in the papers, but worth re-telling! During a scouting visit to the Asateague Island National Seashore in 2004, Life Scout Andrew Weatherly was cool under pressure when friend and fellow scout John Warfle had a five-foot deep sand tunnel collapse on him. Andrew cleared the sand and kept the sand away from Warfle's face while other dug around him to free him. After 30 minutes of careful digging, Warfle was free enough for Weatherly and Katie Staples' dad to pull him from the sand pit. The first thing Warfle said? "I got sand in my pants!" Mr. Weatherly, the son of John and Beverly Weatherly, were present recently when their son was presented with the BSA's Heroism Award. What fine young fellow!

Celia Boertlein's Bottom Line

Balance on Hand as of January 28, 2006 is \$11,675.28. Receipts to date from yearly dues is \$6,805.00, accounting for 680 members. Notable disbursements since the beginning of the fiscal year include: \$1,030.05 for expenses related to newsletter printing; \$976.79 for community activities; \$582.00 for membership fees and subscriptions; \$600.00 for contributions to enrichment programs at Fort Hunt Elementary, Stratford Landing Elementary, and Carl Sandburg Middle School; a \$200.00 donation for the West Potomac High School Graduation Party; \$233.92 for other expenses, including website development.

The \$582.00 for membership fees and subscriptions includes \$440.00, not previously budgeted, to cover reinstatement fees, registration fees, and penalties for the years 2003-2006 for reinstatement of the SLCA as a registered corporation within the State of Virginia. The \$233.92 for other expenses includes \$128.50 fees for website development.

Charles Herrmann's Planning Zone

The legal battle in Hollin Hall over a developer's attempt to split existing lots into two lots based on plats from 50 years ago continues. Hollin Hall position is that this proposal would destroy the low density character of the community and create building lots that are non-conforming with current zoning standards. The County's determination is that the developer's proposal may be permitted under the Zoning Ordinance.

Mary Lou and "The Originals"

Mary Lou Hoffman has begun a search for those Stratford Landing neighbors who have, well, been here for a piece. She is looking for anyone who's lived here longer than 25 years to submit historical anecdotes or summaries to be published in the newsletter and perhaps compiled a history of our community. Sure enough, Rear Admiral Frank Corley on Blakiston contacted us and he has already begun a systematic effort to build this history. He and his lovely wife Jean have lived here since 1965 and they said there was an attempt to write a history 21 years ago.

An excerpt from the Admiral's draft history (1608-1800): "The field No. 4 at that place," wrote George Washington, "will require much aid of manure, and much labor to recover it from the gullied state in which it as when I viewed it last." Stay tuned. More to come!

Jack Shawn's Healthy Good News

Jack reported that the interim Administrator of Mount Vernon Hospital is "topnotch" and has really been a godsend for the facility and has helping to change the views of the community when in 2003 – 2004, the owner, INOVA system seemed ready to close the facility. Jack said that Mr. Arlen Reynolds, the interim administrator has been responsible for cutting the facility's losses from \$6 million to \$1.5 million in 2005; doubled the size of the Wound Healing Center and remains the only northern Virginia hospital staffed to accommodate psychiatric inpatients.

While Mr. Reynolds will be here only temporarily, Jack Shawn reports that the INOVA system is now planning on a 5,000-sq. ft. expansion to the Engh building, new scanners and electrocardiography equipment and additional beds. Even discussions of OB/GYN and pediatric services have surfaced for the first time at this facility in years.

Betsy Martin - Our Wonderful Clean-up Wiz

On April 8, from 9 AM – 1 PM, Betsy is helping to organize the Little Hunting Creek Cleanup at the intersection of Londonderry and Stockton Parkway. Cleanup volunteers should wear work clothes and prepare to get muddy. Those working from the water-side must bring their own canoes or kayaks and have paddling experience. The targets for removal will be trash and invasive exotic plants. Bags will be provided.

Stratford Landing Executive Board

The Board of Officers holds their regular meetings at Walt Whitman Middle School on the 2nd double-digit Tuesday of every month. The next meeting will be February 14, 2006.

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This newsletter is published bi-monthly (normally February, April, June, September, October, and December) by the Stratford Landing Citizens Association, Inc. for the benefit and information of its member residents. All members may submit items for inclusion in the "Other News" and "Personal Items" sections by submitting them to the president or secretary in writing by the 20th of the month preceding publication. Other contributions to this publication are welcome, subject to editing. Unless otherwise attributed, the president is responsible for the content of the newsletter.