

# Stratford Landing Newsletter

*Stratford Landing Mount Vernon District Fairfax County April 2011*

Bimonthly Newsletter

**PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE  
STRATFORD LANDING SPRING  
FLING AND EGG HUNT!**

**SATURDAY, April 9<sup>TH</sup> 2:30-4:30**



Line up for the parade at 2:15 on the corner of Camden Street and Cavendish Drive.

After the parade, we will have an egg hunt, activities, and refreshments at Stratford Landing Park.

**If you plan to participate in the egg hunt, please RSVP by completing the form on page 7 and contribute filled eggs to match your children/guests.**

In the past, we have requested 20 filled eggs per child. We realize that the packages of filled eggs come in different sizes. We also realize that a 15-month-old egg hunter might pick

up 5 eggs, while a 10-year-old will attempt to have an overflowing basket. 20 eggs is the recommendation. However, we welcome larger contributions to help make up for those who forget to RSVP, and we are fine with smaller contributions to accommodate differing package sizes and for those with very young children. Please use your judgment, and ask your children to do the same. We just want everyone to have fun!

We will hope for good weather. If we are unlucky with that, then the rain date will be Sunday, April 10<sup>th</sup> at the same time. If it is questionable, please call Heather Westphal at the number on the RSVP form. We will also try to get it posted to the website.

## **LITTLE HUNTING CREEK CLEANUP 9 a.m.-noon April 9<sup>th</sup>**

Friends of Little Hunting Creek invite you to help clean up the creek as part of the Potomac-wide cleanup sponsored by Alice Ferguson Foundation on Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>.

We'll pick up trash and pull invasive English ivy at the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust site (at the inter-

## **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training**

Beginning Monday April 4, 2011 from 7:30pm – 9:30pm, training will be held in Community Rms #2 and #3 at the Mount Vernon Governmental Center. There will be seven additional sessions held on the following Mondays at the same time (for a total of eight sessions). The training is open to Fairfax County residents who are at least 18 years of age. It is free of charge. Applicants should send their name, address, telephone number, by email to Dana Powers at: [Dana.Powers@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Dana.Powers@fairfaxcounty.gov).

Interested in learning more about CERT – follow the link to the County website - <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/citizencorps/cert.htm>

If you sign up and are accepted please notify Tony Magro,

703.780.7480, [tmagro10@gmail.com](mailto:tmagro10@gmail.com).

section of Londonderry and Stockton Parkway). Gloves and trash bags will be provided. Loppers are helpful for removing invasives. Community service credit is given to students.

If you want to pick up trash out on

## Leah Chapla

703.929.4875 (cell phone & voice mail)

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Old Town Historic District  
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the creek, bring your canoe or kayak, paddles, and life vests to launch from 8706 Stockton Parkway in late morning, when the tide is rising. You must have paddling experience. Call the number below in advance to arrange.

Sites are muddy, and some areas have poison ivy--volunteers should wear long pants and sleeves and sturdy (rubber?) boots. Gloves and trash bags will be provided.

For more information, contact Betsy Martin at 703-360-0691 or email [betsy@folhc.org](mailto:betsy@folhc.org).

If you're interested in checking out other sites, go to [http://www.ferguson-foundation.org/trash\\_initiative/trashathon.shtml](http://www.ferguson-foundation.org/trash_initiative/trashathon.shtml). Additional sites on Little Hunting Creek and in the Potomac watershed, need your help!

**Celebrate Earth Day in the Mount Vernon area, on Saturday April 23rd!**

Visit some of our local natural trea-

[www.stratfordlanding.org](http://www.stratfordlanding.org)

tures (Dyke Marsh, Huntley Meadows) in the morning to see raptors and champion trees, and in the afternoon go on a self-guided Eco-Tour to learn about some environmental challenges our area faces, and steps your neighbors are taking toward a more sustainable future, including eco-friendly landscaping, eco-friendly energy use, and stewardship lessons for youngsters.

Contact [betsy@folhc.org](mailto:betsy@folhc.org) for more info; after April 1, check [www.mvcca.org/](http://www.mvcca.org/) for a program and tour map.

**Volunteer to help Mount Vernon students plant trees on April 20th from 10am-4pm!**

The Mount Vernon High School Ecology Club is organizing "211 in 2011," to plant 211 trees on school grounds to honor Earth Day 2011. Volunteers of all ages are needed--bring your family, friends, and if possible a shovel and gloves! For more information about this event please contact Matt Thompson at [mjthompson@fcps.edu](mailto:mjthompson@fcps.edu). Thank you and we look forward to seeing you at our event!

**The next Betty & Jack Shawn Stratford Community Blood Drive** is on Saturday April 2nd at INOVA Mt Vernon Hospital. Call Jack Shawn at 703-780-4752 for further information. Mark your calendars now for future drives in 2011:

June 4  
August 6  
October 1  
December 3

### **Report Those Pot Holes**

Now that the weather is getting nicer and the rains keep coming, our roads are showing the wear and tear. And, as we all know, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has little or no money to repave our streets and byways, however, they have committed to filling potholes. So, we need to help each other here in Stratford Landing by reporting all potholes immediately. There are several ways to do this but the best, and most successful, is to go to the VDOT website <http://virginiadot.org/travel/citizen.asp> and fill out the specifics. The connection to this reporting window is on the SLCA website. All you have to do is go there and click. VDOT requires only who is reporting it and where it is. Alternatively, you can call **800-367-7623**.

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## **COMMUNITY BINGO at West Potomac High School, Sunday, April 3rd (2-5 pm)**

Come join a fun afternoon and win fabulous prizes at the "Community Bingo" fundraiser at West Potomac High School, 6500 Quander Road, Alexandria, VA 22307. The cost, payable at the door, is \$20.00 for 20 games, \$15.00 for students. Prizes from our local businesses will be offered (e.g., restaurant certificates, entertainment, home & garden consulting, tourist events, and home/kitchen/car/health & beauty care items). Raffle tickets, food and beverages will be available for purchase. All proceeds will benefit the West Potomac High School All Night Graduation Celebration for our community high school graduates! Monetary donations can be made at [www.wphs2011langc.org](http://www.wphs2011langc.org). For questions, contact Christian Reynolds, 703-799-2609.

## **Nominating Committee Forming**

It is time again to start looking for candidates to run for SLCA Executive Committee offices. A nominating committee of neighbors will form to comb the community for folks who are willing and able to give of their time and serve in some capacity on the committee. So, if you are interested in any of the elected or appointed positions, keep an eye out for the contact point or give Ken a call or email. Among the vacant positions will be the office of president. Carolyn and Ken will be embarking on the next phase of their lives and will be placing their house on the market in April. When it sells, they will be heading south toward family.

## **STRATFORD LANDING ROCKS, BUT WE NEED YOUR FRESH IDEAS TO KEEP IT FUN!**

Do you enjoy our neighborhood events? Do you like meeting new people? Then join the Recreation Committee! We have had a lot of fun planning events for the past few years, but we are ready for some new ideas. We are happy to provide information to all interested community members. All of our contact information is at the end of the newsletter. Thanks from your Recreation Committee Co-Chairs-- Heather, Dana, and Angela.

## **Farewell to Joan McLellan**

After many years of living and serving in Stratford Landing, Joan McLellan and her husband, John, have departed the community. Moving to the next phase of their lives they will be nearer family 'down state'. Joan, a

stalwart advocate for affordable housing, served the less fortunate in our county through both church and civic organizations. She will be sorely missed by the SLCA Executive Committee as well as by MVCCA. We wish Joan and John the very best in the future. Godspeed!

## **Budget Discussion from our Delegate to the Budget & Finance Committee, Chad Coneway**

The Fairfax County Board of



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# Stratford Landing

Supervisor's released the FY 2012 Advertised budget on March 15, 2011. The following is quoted from the "FY 2012 Advertised Budget Plan Citizen's Guide to the Budget":

The FY 2012 budget recommendations present a balanced, no expansion budget. The FY 2012 budget recommendation includes no tax rate increase. Instead, the moderate growth in the revenue base is sufficient to cover operational requirements. The County has held spending to a minimum, covering only required increases, and allowing for no compensation increases and only limited infrastructure investments. This is a barebones budget which fulfills minimum fiscal obligations and ensures the funding of essential services and core functions necessary for the continuity of operations. The result of these recommendations is an available balance of \$30 million. This proposal includes a number of recommendations for the use of this balance, including retaining it for use in the FY 2013 budget.

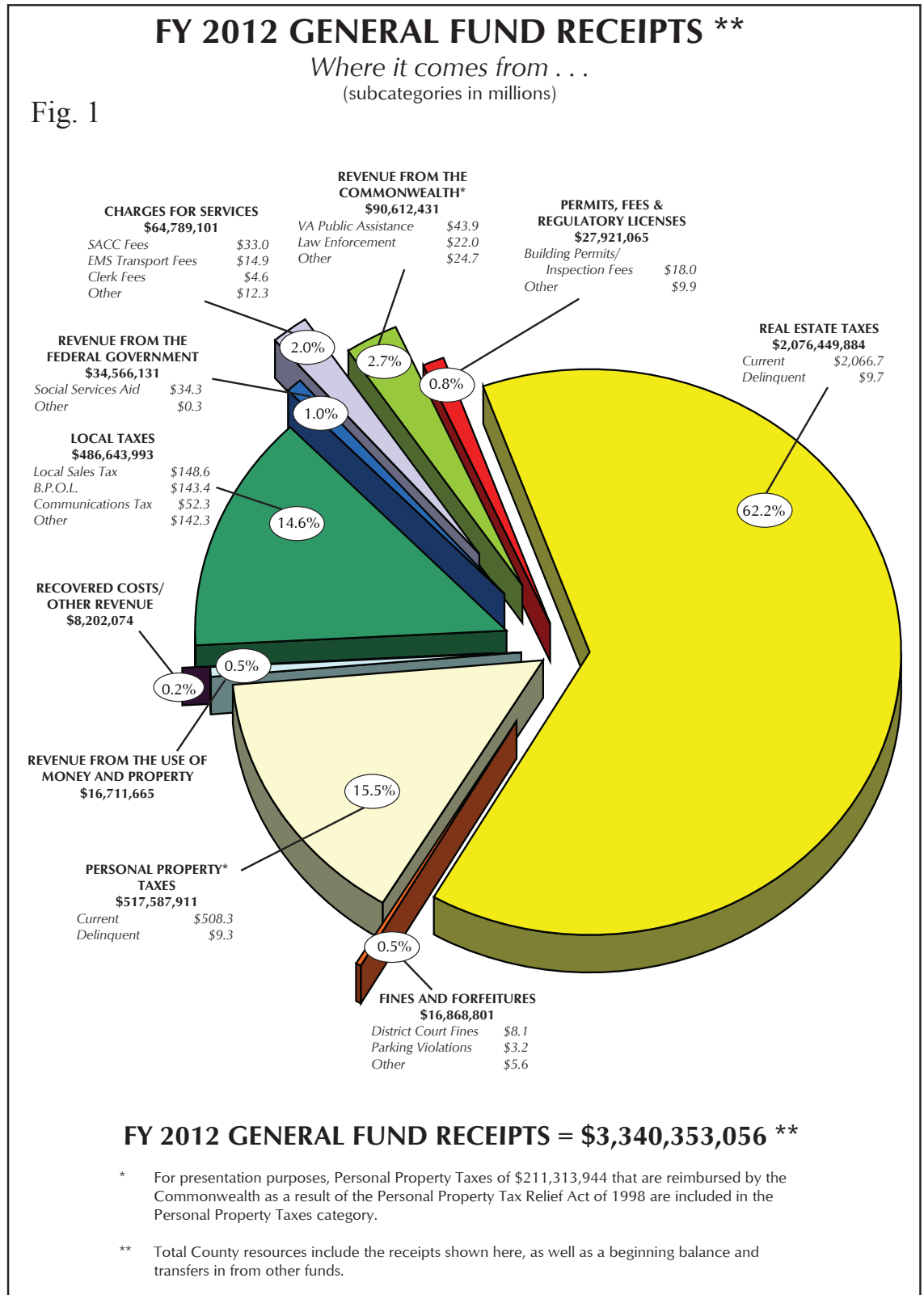
Figures 1 shows where the revenue comes from and Figure 2 on pg. 5 shows where the revenue goes.

While there are many issues to consider in every budget, there are a couple worth noting:

1. FCPS transfer: The Fairfax County School Board approved a \$2.2 billion advertised budget for FY 2012 that would provide employee raises, add more positions to addressed increased

enrollment, maintain class sizes and necessitate a \$1.659 billion transfer, or 3 percent increase, from the County to the Schools. This would require a 3 cent real estate tax increase

which was not included in the County's Advertised budget. The County transfer to Schools remains at the FY 2011 level of \$1.61 billion. FCPS staff projects there



will be approximately 2,120 additional students in the system in FY2012, which is the equivalent of adding enough students to fill another high school. Needless to say, FCPS staff and School Board will need to prioritize some of the

- expanded services proposed under the School Board Advertised Budget.
- The tax rate will remain at \$1.09 per \$100 of assessed property value. Real estate values have stabilized and FY 2012 budget reflects a 2.34%

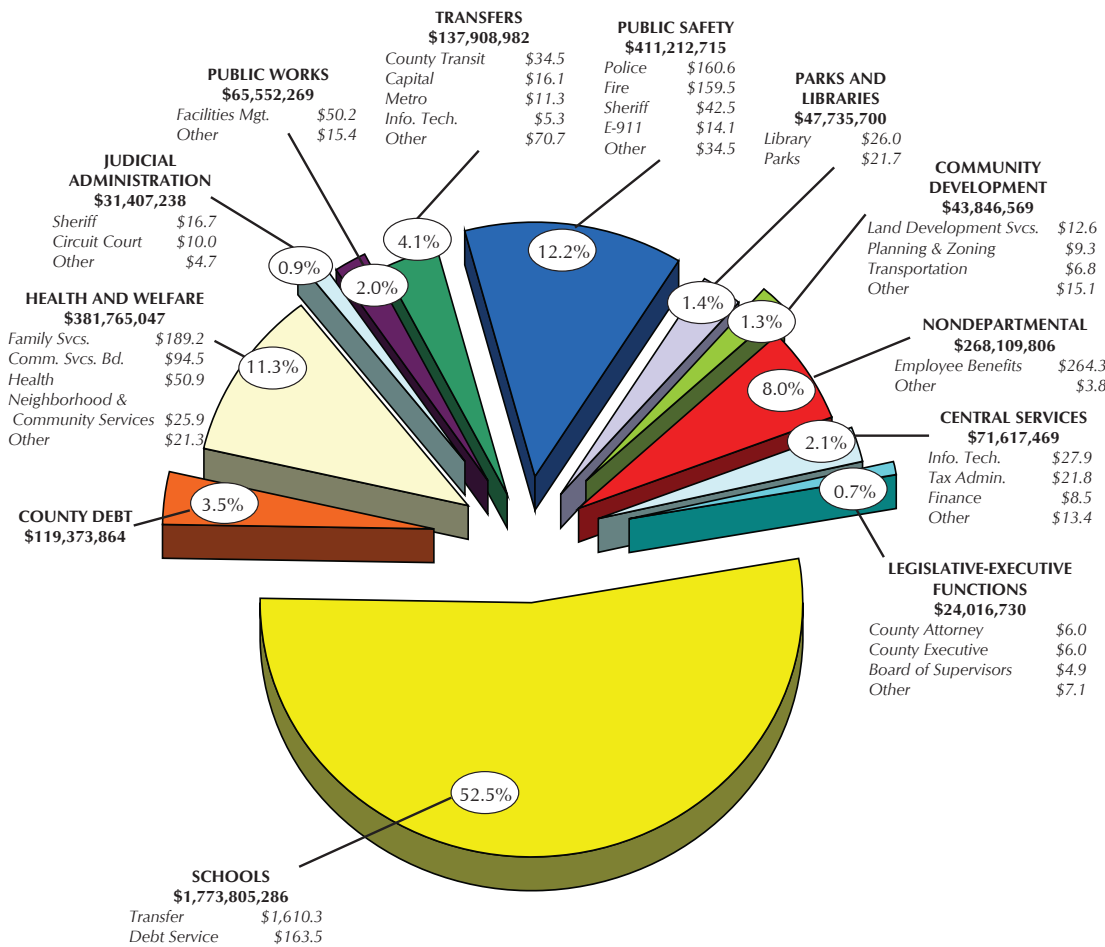
increase in revenue from residential property taxes and a 3.73% increase in revenue from non-residential properties. Despite the tax rate remaining flat, on average the typical taxpayer will see an increase of about \$110 on their tax bill.

- The County Advertised budget proposal has a \$30 million available balance. The budget recommends it be used for one of the following initiatives:
  - Employee compensation increase/ bonus
  - Increase General Funds transfer to FCPS
  - Reduce the Real Estate Tax
  - Use it make up for potential loss in revenue from the Commonwealth or State authorized revenue resources
  - Fund other priorities or unfunded initiatives
  - Fund the required payment to complete FOCUS project
  - Save it for upcoming critical needs in FY2013

## FY 2012 GENERAL FUND DISBURSEMENTS

Where it goes . . .  
(subcategories in millions)

Fig. 2



**FY 2012 GENERAL FUND DISBURSEMENTS = \$3,376,351,675**

In addition to FY 2012 revenues, available balances and transfers in are also utilized to support disbursement requirements.

Upcoming dates: There will be public hearings on the budget March 29 – 31. The budget will be marked up April 12, 2011 and the Board of Supervisors will adopt the budget on April 26. For citizen's interested in additional detail on the FY 2012 please visit the Fairfax County Department of Management and Budget website at: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/>

## “55 ALIVE”

Arrangements have been made for presenting AARP’s course, “55 ALIVE”, an eight-hour course to be held in the Conference Rooms at the Government Center, 2511 Parkers Lane. The driver training materials are aimed at, but not confined to, the needs of seniors. Stratford Landing residents will be given preference. Outsiders will be enrolled if the limit of 40 has not been reached.

The course will be presented from 6 to 10 pm on Wednesday, May 25th and Thursday, May 26th. The cost is \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for non-members. This course for our residents was previously held in 2002, 2005, and 2008. Most insurance companies allow some rate reduction on presentation of a Certificate of Completion, which requires attendance on BOTH evenings. The reduction is provided for three years.

If you are not familiar with this well-known course and have questions, or wish to reserve a space, call Jack Shawn at 703-780-4752 by Monday, May 23rd. Mark it down. We cannot estimate the level of interest, but the enrollment cut-off number is 40.

## Got History?

SLCA Secretary Claire Kluskens would like to compile a complete run of SLCA Newsletters. Why? To preserve our neighborhood history. Many other Fairfax County communities have a set of their back newsletters permanently deposited in the Virginia Room of the Fairfax County Public Library for use by future local historians. We should have a set there also. If you have any back issues, please call Claire at 703-780-3282 or email [ckluskens@verizon.net](mailto:ckluskens@verizon.net).

## Feathered Friends

Spring is here--the Ospreys are back! During February-March, 43 species of birds were seen in Stratford Landing, including Canada Goose, Wood Duck, Mallard, Common Merganser, Great Blue Heron, Turkey Vulture, Osprey, Sharp-shinned Hawk, Cooper’s Hawk, Ring-billed Gull, Herring Gull, Mourning Dove, Barred Owl, Belted Kingfisher, Red-bellied Woodpecker, Downy Woodpecker, Northern Flicker, Eastern Phoebe, Blue Jay, American Crow, Fish Crow, Carolina Chickadee, Tufted Titmouse, White-breasted Nuthatch, Carolina Wren, Winter Wren, Golden-crowned Kinglet, American Robin, Northern Mockingbird, European Starling, Cedar Waxwing, Fox Sparrow, Song Sparrow, Swamp Sparrow, White-throated Sparrow, Dark-eyed Junco, Northern Cardinal, Red-winged Blackbird, Common Grackle, Brown-headed Cowbird, House Finch, American Goldfinch, and House Sparrow. For more information about birds in our area, visit [www.eBird.org](http://www.eBird.org) and [www.allaboutbirds.org](http://www.allaboutbirds.org).

## Save The Date.

**Celebrate! Mount Vernon At Home Gala will be held from 4: 30 to 7: 00 pm on Thursday, May 19, 2011 at River Farm.**

Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland will be unable to attend as our keynote speaker but he managed to engage Sharon Bulova to do the honors. Members, and Mount Vernon families and neighbors, are invited to enjoy the second annual Gala, while savoring hors d’oeuvres, beverages, music, and panoramic views of the Potomac River. In addition, this year we will also host a silent auction and raffle a Kindle!

Mount Vernon at Home member tickets are \$ 30 each and non-members tickets are \$ 35 each.

Tickets may be purchased by mailing payment to Mount Vernon At Home, PO Box 7493, Alexandria, VA 22307 by May 5th, and will be held at the desk for your arrival. For further information, call 703-303- 4060 or go to [www.mountvernonathome.org](http://www.mountvernonathome.org).



# Stratford Landing

## Treasurer's Report from Celia Boertlein

Balance on hand 03/25/11 = \$2,083.02

Primary source of receipts for this fiscal year has been \$6,410.00 from member dues.

Primary sources of disbursements (\$6,607.28) for this fiscal year have been:

\$1188.84 for communications (newsletter printing, website development and maintenance)

\$1,237.44 for community activities (annual meeting, fall festival, winter coffee, holiday decorating, sign maintenance)

\$102.00 for membership in the MVCCA

\$3,294.00 for Director's and Officer's Insurance (approx. \$806 less than last year)

\$ 785.00 To Zurich North America for Liability insurance

### Neighborhood Notices

Seeking in-home after-school care for 3 elementary age kids for 2011/2012 school year. Approx 8-10 hours per week. Perfect for teens or neighbors looking for something close by. If interested, please contact [ddeighton@live.com](mailto:ddeighton@live.com).

### STRATFORD LANDING EGG HUNT RSVP FORM

**Please return this form along with approximately 20 filled eggs per child to the blue Rubbermaid bin in the carport of 2417 Stirrup Lane by Sunday, April 3rd.**

FAMILY NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

Age of Child 1: \_\_\_\_\_

Age of Child 2: \_\_\_\_\_

Age of Child 3: \_\_\_\_\_

Age of Child 4: \_\_\_\_\_

Age of Child 5: \_\_\_\_\_

Questions? **Contact Heather Westphal at [hlw1421@yahoo.com](mailto:hlw1421@yahoo.com) or 703-360-5258.**

# Stratford Landing

## Stratford Landing Executive Committee Officers

Ken Pribyla, President  
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### Committee Chairs

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