



Mount Vernon Civic Association, Inc.

Fall 2021

www.MountVernonCivicAssociation.org

Belle Rive • Ferry Landing Estates • Ferry Landing Villa • Ferry Point Estates • Mount Vernon Forest • Mount Vernon Grove • Mount Vernon Park • Oxford • Riverbend • Riverwood • Vernon Square • Washington Woods • Westgate • Wycliffe on the Potomac • Yacht Haven Estates

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear MVCA neighbors:

Below are eight important notices. Please take the time to read all of them.

1st: Next MVCA Meeting, Wednesday, October 13 to Focus on Disaster Preparedness: What would happen if flood water rose to over 20 feet in our community? A few weeks ago, it happened in New Jersey. Or the Potomac overflows? Or a tornado strikes us, like the recent one in Maryland? To answer these questions, MVCA has invited Courtney Arroyo, Community Engagement Manager for the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to speak at our next membership meeting. This will be a virtual meeting, accessed by Zoom # 634-598-1220 and pass code 743225, and we urge all of you to join us that evening. Courtney will tell us what disasters are most likely to occur, what the possible damage might be, and how we should prepare.

The following will help all of us meet the important goal of preparedness in our community:

- Please check the Emergency Preparedness List on **Page 2** to see what you may be lacking.
- On Saturday morning, October 16, we will place preparedness reminder signs in our neighborhoods. This would be a good deadline to set for your household to purchase and assemble any of the items you do not have on your list.
- Later this month, MVCA will drop off an Emergency Preparedness Packet at your home. Please review and use the information and items in that packet.

2nd: Our **MVCA 2021-2022 MVCA Membership Directory** delivery is delayed. After the hard work of Luigi, Lisa, Jeannine, Jori and the Block Captains to put our new edition together, I was surprised to learn that printers are struggling to complete orders and we will have to wait before we can deliver them to your home mid-October. My apologies.

3rd: While all 951 residents in the Mount Vernon Civic Association community receive our newsletters, only those of you who are members and have paid the annual \$25 membership fee, will receive the **MVCA Directory**. If you are not yet a member and want a copy of our 112-page Directory, go to mountvernoncivicassociation.org and join.

4th: Street Parking is not storage. County regulations approved in 2008 for the Mount Vernon Community Parking District restrict vehicles, boats, trailers, etc. from being parked long-term on roads. Temporary parking is allowed for up to 48 hours. If you must leave a vehicle longer or have one on the street now, please move it onto your property, driveway or garage. Further, the most frequent complaint I have received in recent months is about street-parked vehicles that hinder access to driveways and crosswalks. Please remember to be considerate of neighbors.

5th: If you have **storm water run-off** problems on your property, contact Leo Milanowski at the Mount Vernon Council of Civic Associations at: specialcommittee@mvcca.org. Leo has been asked to determine the extent of the run-off in the Mount Vernon District and what might be done about it.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Continued from Page 1

7th: The **George Washington Parkway Traffic Calming** effort is starting. To slow traffic down on the Parkway, the Parkway roads will be restriped, in some places even reducing the current two lanes to one lane each way. This effort is new for many of us, please drive carefully.

8th: A long-term partner of MVCA, The Yacht Haven Garden Club is presenting their 37th annual fund-raising Fashion Show and Luncheon - *Bewitched, Bothered and Bedazzled* - Thursday, October 28, 2021, 10 a.m. at the Mount Vernon Country Club in Alexandria. Fashions will be provided by Bloomingdale's Tysons Corner.

Yacht Haven Garden Club works to further education in horticulture, floral design and conservation among its members and surrounding communities. To achieve these goals, their proceeds are divided among the following organizations and projects: the Friendship Garden and Fern Valley at the National Arboretum, the Honey Bee Project at the University of Maryland, the Mount Vernon Yacht Club and Sherwood Hall Library seasonal annuals and the Yacht Haven neighborhood entrances. In

prior years, they have supported the Wounded Warrior Healing Garden at Fort Belvoir and foundation plantings at Mason Neck Wildlife Refuge State Park.


Tickets are \$50. Make checks payable to YHGC and mail to Rhea Killinger at 510 Tennessee Avenue, Alexandria, VA 22305. For more information, email: rgkmsbell@hotmail.com. Reservation deadline is October 15.

Tom Russell
President, MVCA

Emergency Preparedness Kits Check List:

- Make several kits, one each for home, car, and work
- Have at least 3 days of supplies in case of an emergency
- Have copies of your family's vital records
- Keep electronic devices charged and backup chargers
- Update your kits every six months
- Items for your Basic Emergency Kit
- Water/Canned Food/Can Opener/Snacks
- Personal Hygiene Products/Toilet Paper
- Trash Bags/Gloves/Tools
- Battery Powered Weather Radio/Batteries
- Blankets
- First Aid Kit/Protective Mask
- Medications/Glasses/Contacts
- Backpack
- Important Documents for your Family
- Family Contact List
- Map of Surrounding Area
- Solar Device Charger
- Flashlight
- Pet Supplies/Medications
- Paper/Pen
- Tissues/Anti-Bacterial Wipes/Hand Sanitizer

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MATT MATHES

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

You may have heard news of booster vaccines and breakthrough infections, but you may be less familiar with the changes in COVID-19 related hospitalizations and new cost to patients. Here, I'll give a 30,000-foot view to update you on these important pandemic topics.

Pfizer booster vaccines were approved by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) on September 24th. The Virginia and Fairfax County Health Departments (VDH) began administering booster doses to eligible residents on September 28. Check the CDC website or chat with your primary care doctor to learn if you are eligible. In general, those that *should* receive the booster include: individuals older than 65, those living in long-term care settings, and those 50-64 with complex medical conditions. Individuals under 50, and those that work in hospitals or similar settings, *may* receive the booster. We anticipate an updated recommendation for Moderna, J&J, as well as vaccines for children 5-12 soon.

As of September 18, over 5 million Virginians have been fully vaccinated against Covid19. Breakthrough infections, defined by a SARS-CoV-2 infection that develops despite completing the initial vaccine series, have occurred in approximately 0.5% of Virginians. Of those, 0.021% (1,053) have been hospitalized and 0.0054% (254) have died. These cases are largely due to viral variants, commonly delta.



Breakthrough infections, while rare, are most frequently mild. Symptoms including headache, cough, low-grade fever, and muscle aches. Vaccination has proven to be the most effective method to prevent new variants, serious illness, and the spread of COVID-19. VDH has implemented a QR code for vaccine status- check out vaccinate.virginia.gov to download yours.

Finally, it may be of interest that the billing for COVID-19 testing and treatment has changed. Previously, federal rules ensured that testing and treatment were free to patients. However, as we move forward, tests for monitoring (ie: pre-travel tests) are unlikely to be covered. You may receive a bill for \$10-200. It has been reported that COVID-19 hospitalizations are not likely to be fully covered for patients, both vaccinated and unvaccinated, as federal rules loosen and health plans change coverage. Patients may have a typical co-pay and deductible as well as additional costs for testing and hospitalization. The average total cost for a COVID-19 inpatient stay is \$40,000. Early research suggests that patients pay about \$3,800 out of pocket for hospitalizations with insurance covering the remainder.

Alison Huffstetler, MD
Health & Human Services Chair

EDUCATION REPORT

MVCA is very thankful for the Fairfax County taxpayers, Supervisors, School Board and Administrators who have made it possible for the \$20,000,000 renovation of Washington Mill Elementary School.

We are also very grateful for the residents that live near the school – especially on Cherrytree and Continental Drives – who have endured construction demolition noise, dump trucks, sand and rocks in the streets, huge machines that shake homes, overflow parking from construction workers and the noise of building - sometimes occurring seven days a week, starting at 6 a.m. going to 8 p.m.. We are also very grateful for WMES Principal Brad Bennink and FCPS Construction Supervisor Jack McClanahan who have worked closely with us to mitigate any issues and keep us informed of their progress.

As a way of thanking MVCA residents, on Tuesday, September 14 from 7:45 a.m. to 8:15 a.m., Mr. Bennink held a Principal's Coffee and Donuts gathering where he and Mr. McClanahan took 10 of

our MVCA residents on a tour of the new school construction and answered questions. A lot of progress has been made but a lot of construction must continue well into 2022.

Tom then met with our residents who are very concerned with the speeds at which individuals drive vehicles down both Cherrytree and Continental Drives and spoke of why the effort to get speed humps approved in the past had failed. In order for Fairfax County to consider speed humps, residents along those two roads must first approve of the traffic calming, then there must be a speed limit of 25 miles per hour, a traffic volume of between 500-6,000 vehicles in a 24 hour period and 85% of the cars are traveling at least 35 MPH in at least one direction.

If you are interested in leading this study, please contact Tom Russell at (703) 360-0257.

Public Safety

School is OPEN, please be careful re students, family vehicles and school buses.

Please consider wearing reflective outer clothing or vests on walks/runs and bike rides as the seasons move to darker late afternoons.

Carry a cell phone, whistle and ID.

Motion-sensitive outside lighting is a plus for crime prevention. Lock parked cars.

Replace batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors. Check fire extinguishers.

Be careful on Halloween.

John Hurley
Public Safety Chair

Neighborhood Watch

The most important purpose of MVCA is keeping our community safe. Our Neighborhood Watch Committee, led by Ted Thompson, recruits and schedules MVCA residents to patrol our streets and report any concerns.

Additional volunteers are needed to make sure we have continuous patrols. If you are interested in helping, please call Ted Thompson, Neighborhood Watch Coordinator:

(703) 780-1972

BUDGET & FINANCE

Current Mount Vernon District Development Projects in or near MVCA:

Original Mount Vernon High School, located at 8333 Richmond Hwy, 22309

Purpose: Adaptive re-use of historic building for educational and community use.

Status: Schematic design phase is complete. A coordination meeting was held on 6/9/2021 between County, FCPS, and NOVA leadership to further discuss the educational programming. The contract was approved on 6/21/2021 and coordination for early related activities is underway. Community update meetings were held on 6/24/2021 and 6/28/2021. Projected completion date: Fall 2024

Penn Daw Fire Station/Emergency Shelter/ Supportive Housing, 2801 Beacon Hill Rd, 22306

Purpose: New construction of the Fire Station located at 6624 Hulvey Terrace, Alexandria, and potential co-location with replacement for Eleanor Kennedy shelter.

Status: The Penn Daw Fire Station and Supportive Housing Advisory Committee continues to meet

monthly to evaluate potential collocated uses on the Beacon Hill site. Virtual Community meetings were held on 4/24/21 and 4/26/21 and 6/7/21. An in-person Community meeting was held on 6/29/21. Advisory Committee Meeting held on September 17th. Completion date: TBD

Woodlawn Fire Station, 8701 Lukens Lane, 22309

Purpose: Construction of a new 15,082 SF fire station on the existing site located at 8701 Lukens Lane, with associated site improvements.

Status: The new Building was completed and occupied by Fire and Rescue staff on 5/18/2021.

Mount Vernon RECenter, 2017 Belle View Blvd, 22307

The project includes renovation of the existing facility, upgrades to existing building systems, and expansion of the fitness area. Completion date: Summer 2022.

Kirsten Quackenbush
Budget & Finance Chair

Environment & Recreation Update

As our newsletter went to press, the American Horticultural Society announced that they are reconsidering the future of River Farm.

We are pleased with this news and will keep you apprised as we learn more.

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No one knows the Mt. Vernon - Ft. Hunt area better than Chris and Peggy White. Their names are synonymous with local Real Estate. Chris and Peggy's unique knowledge of the area's communities, each with their own characteristics have earned them the title, "The Mount Vernon specialists." Chris and Peggy's longstanding tradition of extraordinary service, unique knowledge of the market, and track record of success has resulted in them selling many houses several times over! Chris and Peggy's legendary capacity to serve their clients is now enhanced by their twin sons Mark and Michael who have joined the family business. Let our family help your family!

Chris.White@LNF.com | 703.283.9028

Preparedness includes those steps you take before a disaster strikes, in order to make sure you and your family remain safe and secure during and after a disaster. You should be ready to be self-sufficient for at least three to five days. Being prepared and knowing what to do will reduce fear and anxiety and may help you to avoid the danger altogether. Here are some tips on how to best prepare.

Make a Plan

- Before an emergency strikes you should:
- Discuss your most concerning hazards and your basic actions for each.
 - Discuss how you will communicate if you are separated, including an out-of-area contact.
 - Practice your plan!

Make a Kit

Fairfax County recommends every household keep three to five day's worth of food, water, and supplies in their shelter-in-place kits for each member of the household

Stay Informed

- Sign up for Fairfax Alerts ([fwww.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts))
- Visit the Fairfax County Emergency Blog (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/blog)
- Follow @ReadyFairfax on Facebook and Twitter

Get Involved

Creating a trained, informed, and engaged public is the best way to empower individuals to support those in need. Use the 5 Step Neighborhood Guide in the Community Emergency Response Guide to become a prepared community!





We love the Mount Vernon community and have appreciated the support now and through the years. We hope everyone is staying healthy and safe. We hope to reopen our doors soon and look forward to seeing you all again. In the meantime, we are open for carryout Tuesday through Sunday. See our website for full hours and menus.

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Mount Vernon Civic Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 61, Mount Vernon, Virginia 22121

MVCA Membership Meeting

Wednesday, October 13, 2021; 7:30 p.m.

Using the Internet: Go to Zoom, put
in meeting number **634 598 1220**
and passcode **#743225** if requested.

From your phone: Dial (301)
715-8592, when asked use **634 598**
1220# and passcode **743225**.

Zoom Link: [https://
us02web.zoom.us/j/6345981220?
pwd=NjhLSHM2MTJ0eEMyN3NZOXY
zbjZOUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6345981220?pwd=NjhLSHM2MTJ0eEMyN3NZOXZbjZOUT09)

Mount Vernon Civic Association, Inc.

Officers

President: Tom Russell.....703-360-0257
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2nd Vice President: Karan Cerutti703-778-4442
Secretary: Lisa Faustlin.....303-396-5164
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Neighborhood Watch: Ted Thompson703-780-1972
Picnic: Mary Jo Jensen248-245-7224
Planning & Zoning: Karan Cerutti703-778-4442
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