



Mount Vernon Civic Association, Inc.

Winter 2021

www.MountVernonCivicAssociation.org

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Mount Vernon Civic Association Members:

You are invited to attend a very important membership meeting for our community. On **Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.**, Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck will join our Association meeting and address the following critical issues:

- The latest rash of break-ins into cars, stealing bikes, etc. in our local neighborhoods.
- The increasing amount of homeless panhandling on Route One.
- The schedule for COVID-19 vaccines for residents in our immediate area.
- The recent revelation that the communities north of Reagan National Airport are working to require all flights to leave and arrive over the Mount Vernon community.
- Any other concerns or questions attendees may have.

We are grateful Supervisor Storck has set aside his time to meet with us.

We will then hold our Annual MVCA Corporation meeting during which we will both report our final efforts and expenditures for 2020 and ask for member approval of our proposed 2021 budget and proposed projects: the publication of the next MVCA Directory, planning a community picnic celebration and more.



Please note: This will be a virtual meeting. You can join the meeting either of the following ways:

- **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 then passcode 743225.

If you have any questions or concerns about any of the above, I look forward to hearing from you.

Tom Russell
MVCA President

BUDGET & FINANCE REPORT

Childcare costs are the single biggest issue for families; how is Virginia addressing this issue?

Childcare costs in Virginia are some of the highest in the country. A study by the Economic Policy Institute, found that Virginia ranks tenth out of 50 states and D.C. for the most expensive infant care. The average annual cost of infant care in Virginia is \$14,063, about \$1,172 per month. The average annual cost for a four-year-old is \$10,867, about \$906 per month.

How is Virginia helping with these costs?

The Virginia Department of Social Services (VDSS) has a special program that provides financial assistance to eligible families for childcare called the Child Care Subsidy Program. This program supports families by subsidizing the cost of childcare for children 13 years or younger who are not eligible to attend public school. The program also provides childcare support to children 18 years or younger with special needs.

To be eligible for the Child Care Subsidy Program you must be a Virginia resident who is either: (i) Actively employed; (ii) participating in an education or training program; (iii) receiving child protective services; (iv) participating in an assigned activity for the Virginia Initiative for Education and Work; or (v) participating in a Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Employment and Training plan of participation. You must also provide proof of child's citizenship, immunization requirements, and that the household income does not exceed the median area income limits. You can apply for the subsidy program online at <https://commonhelp.virginia.gov/access/>

Please feel free to email me with any budget and finance related questions:

Kirsten.Quackenbush@gmail.com

Kirsten Quackenbush
Budget and Finance Chair

MVCA Budget: CY 2021 (Proposed)

	2021 Proposed
Income:	
Beginning Cash Balance:	\$9,035
Cash Inflows:	
Dues (checks)	\$6,500
Dues (PayPal)	\$1,400
Advertising	\$6,500
Interest	\$5
Monument	\$3,000
Other:	\$0
Total Cash Inflows	\$17,405
Available Cash Balance	\$26,440
Expenses:	
Cash Outflows:	
Picnic	\$2,000
Association Dues	\$150
Appearance & Maintenance	\$0
Contributions	\$0
Meetings (WMES)	\$300
Directory	\$3,000
Membership Billing	\$1,400
Newsletter	\$6,000
Utilities	\$315
USPS Box Rental	\$150
Supplies	\$0
Miscellaneous	\$0
1&1 Internet /GoDaddy	\$466
Other (Insurance)	\$500
Monument Expenses	\$3,000
State Corporation Commission	\$25
Bank Fee/Correction	
Total Cash Outflows	\$17,306
Ending Cash Balance	\$9,133

HEALTH & HUMAN RESOURCES

When last did you wash your face mask?

COVID-19 continues to be challenging us on how we go about our daily lives. Face masks have become as much of a necessity when you leave the house as your keys and wallet. Face masks can be in two forms, disposable or cloth. Disposable face masks should always be disposed after one use. Medical experts do not recommend reusing and attempting to wash disposable face masks. Cloth masks are not disposable as they are pieces of fabric that cover your nose and mouth. Depending on how you have perceived cloth face masks, you probably never thought twice about washing them. If you are like me, consider cloth face masks the same as a winter coat, probably only washing them once every few weeks.

According to Centers for Disease Control (CDC), our cloth face masks should be cared for in the same manner as our underwear! Cloth masks must be washed as soon as you have used them after a long day. Cleaning cloth face masks is simple. They can be tossed in a regular washing

machine with detergent and with other clothing. Your washing machine must be on the warm or hot cycle. Once washing has completed, put them in the dryer with your other clothing. If you prefer to wash by hand, they should be treated with care.

Dr. Amesh A. Adalja, senior scholar at John Hopkins Center for Health Security in Maryland suggests the following tips for hand washing your cloth masks:

- Soak your masks in warm soapy water for 20 seconds. Laundry detergent, dish soap or body wash are acceptable.
- Do not spray any disinfectants or chemicals onto your masks as an “extra security” layer. You could be inhaling harmful chemicals.
- Do not use bleach to wash your cloth face masks. The chemicals from bleach can remain on the masks and you could be inhaling harmful chemicals.

Danielle Thompson, Ph.D.
Health Chair

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Chris.White@LNF.com | 703.283.9028

ENVIRONMENT & RECREATION REPORT

I imagine that most of you have heard that the River Farm property was recently put on the market. This prompted a group of concern citizens to start a non-profit to try to save this valuable property.

A status of the River Farm property sale by their Board of Directors was given. The DC Attorney General and the VA Attorney General are both investigating the action of the current board members. They have requested all documents and phone records, minutes etc. The overarching issue is related to this non-profit failing to keep the community trust.

To sign up for information and updates go to www.saveriverfarm.com is a website set up by the NV Conservation Trust at 501c3 non-profit. Even if you signed petitions from our state elected officials you should still sign up on www.saveriverfarm.com for the latest info.

Here is a statement from Dan Storck, Mount Vernon District Supervisor.

"I am pleased to be working with Governor Ralph Northam and Chairman Jeff McKay in our efforts to Save River Farm! Special thanks to Senator Scott Surovell for coordinating with Governor's office. The Governor's strong letter of support (see excerpts below) requests that the American Horticultural Society (AHS) Board preserve River Farm for public use, or sell it to a public entity for a fair and reasonable price. He also stated that the property should not be sold to the highest bidder for residential housing.

As many of you may know, the AHS Board surprised us all in September by listing River Farm for sale. Since that public announcement, our office has been inundated with questions and concerns from all of you.

Since learning of its listing, I initiated a coalition of federal, state, regional and local leaders and have reached out to AHS to offer to partner with them, as well, to Save River Farm. I am meeting regularly with the AHS Executive Director and Board members to find a solution to Save River Farm as a dedicated public space along the Potomac River and ensure is not lost to private development."

Local Environmental Groups

In lieu of any other breaking news, I thought you might enjoy some links to some of our local environmental groups. They have a wealth of information about local environmental issues and concerns.

- <http://www.cleanfairfax.org/about/local-environmental-organizations/>
- <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/environment-energy-coordination/>

Even the smallest of tasks can help the environment. This link (<https://www.iamgreenwise.com/environment-and-kids/>) has a lot of great ideas for children, as does this one (<https://www.thehealthy.com/family/childrens-health/kids-save-planet-in-minutes/>).

Please email at galecurcio@verizon.net if you have any environmental projects that you would like to share with our community.

Gale Curcio

Environment & Recreation Chair

Public Safety


A happy, healthy and safe 2021 to all! Some thoughts for your consideration with particular emphasis on FIRE SAFETY in WINTER:

- Winter brings darkness and the need to be alert as a driver and as a pedestrian (walker, jogger, runner, bicyclist, etc). Consider carrying: cell phone, whistle, ID, flashlight and wearing reflective outer clothing. Drivers need to allow extra time/space to brake and stop and to be particularly alert to those walking in the street or getting on or off school buses. Black ice is hard to spot.
- Chimneys, air filters, etc need to be checked.
- Winter brings various fire hazards (lighted candles, fireplace ash disposal, overloaded electric circuits, tree and wrapping disposal, etc.) and more need for outdoor lighting to prevent crime and slips/falls.
- Avoid storing flammable fuels and liquids in house, basement or garage. Do not "run" motor vehicles in closed garages as there is high risk of asphyxiation, Don't BBQ under outside "decks."
- Ensure that your smoke/fire/Carbon Monoxide (CO) detectors have regular tests and that new batteries are installed annually. Most ceiling detectors are not connected to 911 nor to the fire department so you should make the 911 call.
- "SECONDS AND MINUTES COUNT" so move swiftly and competently in a multi-task environment with lives at stake.
- CALL 911 for emergencies. If there is an active fire ensure that all occupants are aware. Advise the 911 operator and the "first arriving" emergency responders of trapped or bed-ridden or unaccounted for occupants. You will have to utilize judgment as to fighting the fire and/or assisting others to safely evacuate before the firefighters arrive. Have a family conference regarding escape routes and a meeting place such as a neighbor's porch. Be careful of electrical hazards such as downed wires, burning wires, "sparking," unusually hot walls.

Your Neighbor,

John Hurley
Public Safety Chair

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MATT MATHES

EDUCATION REPORT

Return to School Countdown

(From Fairfax County Public Schools)

The changing course of the COVID-19 pandemic with infection rates surging both nationally and regionally has required FCPS to alter plans for school year 2020-21. We began the 2020-21 school year with virtual learning for all students. The online school year began September 8.

FCPS is bringing back groups of students as we continue to meet the health and operational metrics that have been established for in-person instruction including low transmission rates, mitigation strategies, planned response for confirmed cases, and availability of teachers and staff. For more details see <https://www.fcps.edu/returntoschool> and included links.

In addition, the School Board **held a work session on December 10** to discuss the tentative plan for returning students to in-person instruction. A video of the work session is available online.

Work Session on Return to School https://www.youtube.com/watch?utm_content&utm_medium=email&utm_name&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term&v=QqC92xgvc_c

Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Association Update

The Education Committee met electronically at on December 2, 2020. Associations represented included: Collingwood Springs, Mt. Zephyr, Newington Forest, Mount Vernon Civic, Sulgrave Manor and Wellington.

Reopening schools and addressing the many effects of the Pandemic on students, teachers and families were primary topics of discussion and led to two

resolutions (printed in the MVCCA RECORD). The first of these (ED 2020-3) recognizes the need for significant additional resources for schools as they reopen to address in a comprehensive and robust manner the educational deficits and emotional consequences suffered by all students but particularly language learners, young children, children with special needs and children living in poverty. These recovery services will hopefully be temporary but expensive as noted in the Resolution; how expensive will depend on what the School Board and staff determine the best method(s) and how long in-person learning is delayed by Pandemic guidelines.

Further, PPE and sanitization of schools and buses used by thousands of students will be needed for some time. These budget impacts need to be fully considered by the School Board, the Board of Supervisors and respective staff as FY2022 budgets are developed.

The second (ED 2020-4) asks that teachers and school staff be given first responder/essential worker priority in vaccine distribution. Schools will not be able to open normally until teachers and staff are protected by vaccine. This also provides some protection for students as they await availability of vaccination.

Other concerns raised included FCPS' plan to deal with low grades, and particularly failing grades, experienced throughout the all-virtual period. This is particularly critical for students needing graduation credits but also college-bound students applying for admission and/or scholarships. Certainly, this needs to be considered as part of the recovery services discussion.

Sarah Fidd
Education Chair



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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*Ask us about our private event spaces! Walk-ins Welcome, Reservations Recommended 703.780.3665
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Mount Vernon Civic Association, Inc.
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Web: Jess Mazurwww.MountVernonCivicAssociation.org

MVCA Membership Meeting

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

Our speaker will be Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck, who will speak to us about important issues related to our community in 2021.

Join the virtual meeting:

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