

Mount Vernon Civic Association

SPRING 2026

www.MountVernonCivicAssociation.org

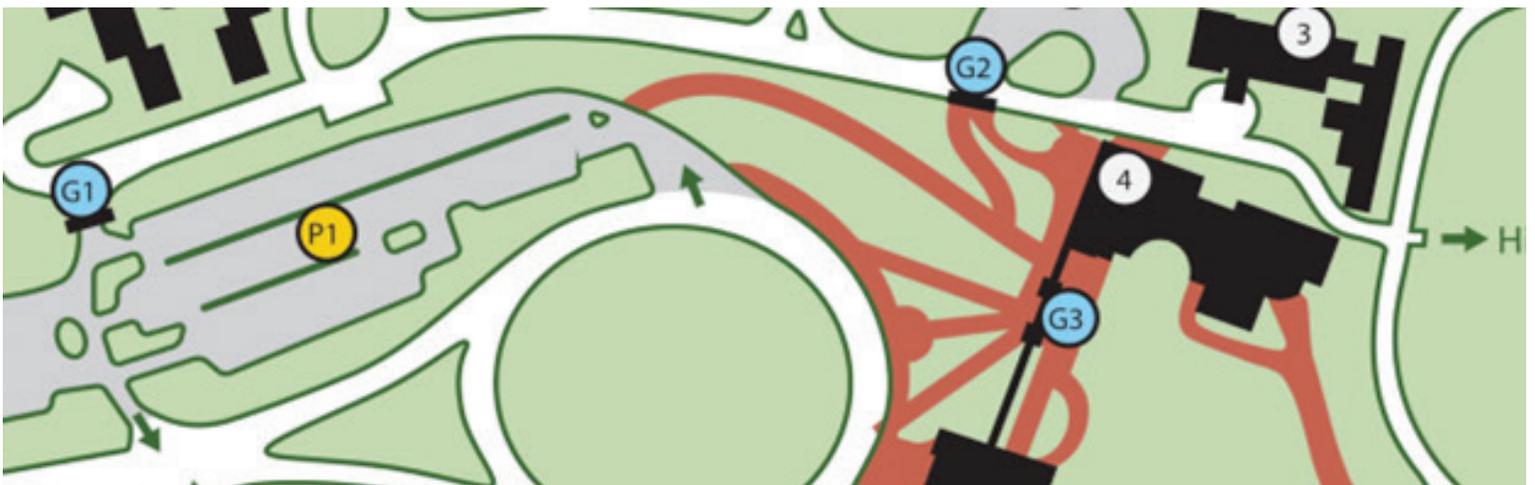
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Westgate • Wycliffe on the Potomac • Yacht Haven Estates

Our March Meeting is on a new date and at a new location!

The March MVCA meeting is at the Mount Vernon Estate on March 18th! The previous meeting date was March 11th, but we slid a week for this amazing opportunity.

Tramia Jackson, Mount Vernon's Director of Education Programs, will talk with us about the new Education Center, mansion renovations, upcoming events, and more!

We will be in the Administration Building (3), and one can park anywhere but the closest is East Parking (P1). Someone will be at the Purple Heart Gate (G2) from 6:45 to 7:30 to let you in. G3 is the Main Gate we have all used. We will have social time with hors d'oeuvres and drinks before the event kicks off at 7:30. We will follow with our normal committee updates and information sharing. Here is a picture to help you find your way.



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Fairfax County's FY27 Advertised Budget Plan was presented to the Board of Supervisors on February 17. Most notably, the proposal would maintain the current \$1.1225 property tax rate at a flat level with no change. The proposed budget acknowledges elevated uncertainty for the local economy over the last year, with an almost 1% decrease in non-farm jobs in the County, including a reduction in over 13,000 federal government jobs. Following last year's reduction of agency budgets by over \$50M, the County again proposes \$33M in reductions and the elimination of 107 FTEs in merit positions.

FCPS: The proposed budget includes a \$99.2 million increase in the schools operating transfer, a \$7.5 million increase for the School Construction Fund and an \$11.4 million increase for school debt service. The presentation noted the 'FCPS budget is anticipated to benefit by approximately \$106 million from adjustments included in the former Governor's proposed budget through additional revenues and a reduction in the VRS contribution rate' (retirement).

Fees: A new 4% meal tax went into effect January 1, previously estimated to raise \$65M in the first six months of 2026, though preliminary details on collections have not been released. The intent was to take pressure off the real estate tax. Twice voted down by voter referendum, the General Assembly changed the law in 2020, allowing the Board of Supervisors to institute such a tax. Alexandria City, Arlington County, and DC have had meal taxes for decades.

The Board of Supervisors has directed County staff to look at additional fees that could relieve rising property taxes, and those proposals have been included in the budget, such as proposed increases to fees in zoning, fire marshal fees, EMS transport fees, Adult Day Health Care Centers, Middle School After School program, and Athletic Service fees on community use of FCPS facilities.

Next in the overall process the Budget Policy Committee will meet throughout March, followed by the Board of Supervisors holding public hearings and a markup in April. The proposed budget is expected to be adopted in May ahead of the budget year beginning July 1.

State: In Richmond, just last week the new General Assembly proposed changes to former Governor Youngkin's final budget, with the proposal including no new taxes, and at least one proposal including \$100 rebates to individual filers (\$200 joint). At time of print, the House and Senate leaders are debating their plans and aiming to conference (agree) on a final proposal in the coming weeks which would be sent to new Governor Spanberger's desk for consideration. The final agreement will be analyzed in a future newsletter.

As spring approaches, I'd like to organize two groups of neighborhood volunteers – one family garden and play group in our neighborhood parks, and one group to tend to our neighborhood signs. They may have some overlap – older kids can work by the road on the signs – but they both serve as an opportunity to meet your neighbors and work outside, beautifying our neighborhood and enjoying its resources.

We have the opportunity to expand outside our border and work with other neighborhood associations, but for now, let's plan on meeting at Washington Mill Park for the parent group and your neighborhood signs for the sign planting. Once I have a list of potential volunteers, I'll contact our Block Captains to arrange the sign planting details. For our parent group, we'll come up with a time.

Email me at christinalreitz@gmail.com and we'll get organized!



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FYI:

At the January 14th Business meeting, there were elections to the executive board Officers and Directors. Results are as follows:

President: Alison Huffstetler

1st VP: Jason Leaver

2nd VP: Hannah Wolf

Secretary: Alexis Waters

Treasurer: Amy Reitz

Directors (3): Jed Bullock, Sean McCarthy, with one open position.

Also, the 2026 Budget was approved.

W⁹ CHRIS WHITE

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In recent news and notice to all Virginia, Maryland, and MV residents, is the notice of public safety crisis now a public health-emergency due to Potomac River sewage spill. Public Health Agencies have issued warnings for people and pets to stay out of the water near spill site, and down-stream. Federal Land (GW Parkway) operated by National Park Service (NPS) surrounds the spill site. Repair and recovery efforts are ongoing, as is testing for recreational standards (water quality).

From recent MVD Town Hall on 07 Feb, many MV residents heard MVD Suprv Storck share letter of concern he sent to FAA Regional Office, asking to move commercial aircraft paths away from Fairfax Co and MV specifically, in hopes to reduce risk, and impact of noise to MV residents. In letter to FAA, MVD Suprv Storck made reference to same hazardous flight data, portrayed over Fairfax Co and Mt Vernon, that was findings from a survey (South Of DCA Airport Noise Study) that many Mt Vernon and MVCA residents supported. This same data was cited by NTSB Sec J Homeny, as one of many causal failures contributing to the 29 Jan 25 Commercial Aircraft and Army helicopter collision at Ronald Reagan National Airport (DCA). The NTSB's 7+ hour review on 26 Jan, of the tragic accident, showed Fairfax Co and Mt Vernon areas in this hazardous, poorly managed airspace.

Following the 07 Feb MVD Town Hall meeting, I met with MVD Storck Staff and new Staff Officer (Ebadullah Ebadi) responsible for monitoring MV residents transportation concerns. I have asked that MVD Storck's office Take action to recommend an FCDOT representative for public safety and risk management issues within the modal of air transportation. A search of all assignments, and titles of FCDOT offices and shows no signs or record of any POC's or offices handling the modal of air transportation or aviation related issues for Fairfax Co.

Mount Vernon District Town Meeting

Replay from February 7th. Supervisor Dan Storck and his guests provided updates on county priorities, the budget, schools, and other issues concerning the Mount Vernon District. Click on the link, or just search Mount Vernon Town Meeting and you will find on YouTube.

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cableconsumer/channel-16/37th-annual-mount-vernon-town-meeting



Don't Forget!

Please send in your annual dues payment of \$25, if you haven't already done so. MVCA's primary expenses are this Newsletter and our annual picnic. You can mail a check to MVCA, PO Box 61, Mount Vernon, VA 22121, or simply scan this QR code for an online payment. Thank you for your support!



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Mark Your Calendar!

Join Us For Association Meetings

The next Association meeting will take place on May 13th.

Your Board will pick the date for our annual picnic at the next Board meeting!

Mount Vernon Civic Association, Inc.

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Open

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