



# Mount Vernon Civic Association, Inc.

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

March/April 2008

## President's Message

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**General Membership Meeting**  
Wednesday,  
March 12, 2008

**Speaker:**  
Master Police Officer  
Swift and  
Mount Vernon  
Station Commander  
Captain Kline



**Where:**  
Washington Mill  
Elementary School

**When:**  
7:00 pizza and soda

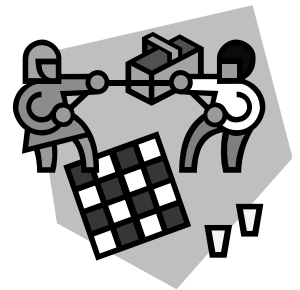
Greetings Friends and Neighbors,  
Congratulations to all MVCA Board members who were elected during our January membership meeting and thank you for stepping forward to serve our community!

It was pleasure seeing everyone who attended our January meeting. I was particularly happy to have so many of our Block Captains with us. I hope that we will have another strong turnout for our March 12, 2008 meeting at Washington Mill ES. Our guest speaker will be Master Police Officer Swift, our new Mount Vernon Community Crime Prevention Officer. MPO Swift will be joined by the Mount Vernon Station Commander, Captain Kline. This promises to be an interesting and informative meeting, and it will give everyone an opportunity to interact directly with those who play such a vital role in keeping our community safe. As always, you will also hear from our committee chairs, reporting on the local issues which impact all of us. Primo's pizza will served at 7:00 pm and our meeting will start at 7:30. Please put the date on your calendars.

Summer is drawing nearer, and the Board is reviewing options for our "Second Annual" MVCA Community Party. Our neighbors on Belle Rive Terrace have

generously invited us to hold the party there again this year. While this remains a wonderful option, it requires some coordination and planning that we currently do not have a volunteer to lead. If you or someone you know in our community is interested, please call me or let me know at our meeting. Another option would be to have the party at Fort Hunt Park, probably in September. While this would move our gathering out of MVCA boundaries, it would require less planning and less expense on our part since seating, rest rooms, parking and power are all included for a very reasonable fee. At this point, scheduling would seem to be the bigger issue since our desired dates in June are already booked. I will be soliciting your input on March 12<sup>th</sup> and continuing to seek a volunteer to serve as Party Chair regardless of where we have the party. Please think about it.

The Association will also soon be looking for a Membership and Directory Chair. Kristin Matheis will be stepping down soon from her position. Kristin has done an excellent job keeping our



*Continued on next page.*

*Continued from Page 1*

membership rolls straight and producing last year's MVCA Directory. If you would like to help in this area, please let me know. Kristin promises to provide lots of help to her successor!

I'm sure you have seen the yellow signs in our neighborhood announcing the public hearing to make Mount Vernon a Community Parking District. This would mean that boats, trailers, and RV's could not legally park on our neighborhood streets. I think this is a great idea. Please let me know what you think. The best way to contact me is via email at: [myskudz@yahoo.com](mailto:myskudz@yahoo.com). I have also heard that VDOT may be considering lowering the speed limit on Richmond Highway (Route 1) from 45 mph to 35 mph to improve pedestrian safety. I am not so sure about this idea. Please let me or Paul Schray, Transportation Committee Chair, know how you feel so we can ensure that your voice is heard on this issue.

I recently attended the "Blue and Gold" banquet for our local Cub Scout group, Pack 1503 at Washington Mill ES. This annual event is the birthday celebration for Cub Scouting in

our community, now spanning almost 40 years! The Cubs do a lot of Good Turns in our community; collecting food each November to help the neediest among us through the UCM food bank, sending holiday cards to our wounded veterans, and assisting in our own MVCA Community Clean-up every Spring. I am happy to report that the Spirit of Scouting is alive and well in Mount Vernon.

I spoke with Supervisor Hyland about this year's Fairfax County budget. After years of growth fueled by the explosion in property values, revenues and expenditures are leveling off. Gerry related that the County will be forced to make some difficult choices in 2008 and probably even harder choices next year. This could affect all County services and, of course, our schools. Stay tuned...

Thank you your confidence in me. I continue to do my best to earn it. See you on March 12.



*Best wishes,  
John Skudlarek  
President, MVCA*

## Membership

It's that time of the year again...the Annual Membership Drive. You will be receiving your membership renewal forms in the mail shortly. Please return them with your dues as promptly as possible. This year, the membership form has been modified slightly to insure we get the most accurate information for the next issue of the Directory.

Last year, we had several blocks in the community that were just one or two households shy of 100% membership – namely:

Brookmay Court  
9004-9008 Chickawane Court  
Congressional Court  
Densmore Court  
Ferry Harbour Court  
4320-4520 Ferry Landing Road  
9200-9216 Forest Haven Drive  
9304-9317 Heather Glen Drive  
9324-9339 Heather Glen Dive  
Macklin Court  
Mavis Court  
Maybrook Place  
9100-9114 Old Mount Vernon Rd  
9323-9343 Old Mount Vernon Rd  
Reef Court  
Riverwood Court  
3903-4114 Robertson Blvd.  
4117-4203 Robertson Blvd.  
Tidewater Court  
9000-9010 Volunteer Drive  
9203-9215 Volunteer Drive  
4000-4005 Westgate Drive

We're challenging the Block Captains of these blocks, and of course, ALL of the blocks within the MVCA, to obtain 100% membership in 2008. All block captains who reach this goal will receive 2 complimentary passes and a VIP tour of the Mount Vernon Estate. (*Block Captains, please let us know if any homes on your block are vacant*).

*Directory & Membership  
Kristin Matheis  
703.924.3317*

### Parking Restrictions

Observant drivers may have noticed the big yellow signs on some roads announcing a hearing to discuss parking districts in our area. I have not seen a copy of the ordinance language but understand the purpose of the new ordinance is to prohibit the parking of watercrafts, trailers and motor homes on public roads in the Mount Vernon district. If you feel strongly about this subject, sign up to speak at the hearing which will be at the Government Center in Fairfax on March 10 at 4:30 p.m. You can sign up on line at the Fairfax county website. If you cannot make the hearing, and you have any questions or comments on the ordinance, you can also call Supervisor Hyland's office at 703-780-7518.



### Transit Shelter Advertising

The Planning and Zoning Committee had its monthly meeting on February 4, 2008. We discussed an amendment to the Fairfax county code that would allow advertising on public transit passenger shelters-

## Planning and Zoning

including bus shelters. This idea has been in the pipeline for some time now as a possible means to generate income but the Virginia assembly needed to approve it before the county could exercise this power to sell advertising on public transit passenger shelters. Our committee was not given any background information on how much revenue may be generated or where such money may be directed.

We discussed our concern for safety as ads on the sides of bus shelters would block the view of drivers and create an enclosed area not visible by the public who has to enter into it. We also felt it would generate more litter if the signs were ripped down or fell and some of us felt it would create a less desired urban look to our neighborhoods. We voted and did not support the sign amendment. Currently, a hearing was held on it and one citizen from Lorton showed up at the hearing and was not in favor of it. She asked that a decision on it be deferred and it was deferred until February 27, 2008. At that time, the Planning Commission will vote on the amendment.

### Leatherland/Telegraph Road Rezoning

The Environmental Committee and the P&Z Committee had two joint meetings last month to discuss the property and we voted to oppose the upzoning of the property. Currently the 7 acre property is zoned R-1 which

will allow a by-right development of 7 houses. The applicant is seeking to upzone to a PDH-2. With proffers, the developer had limited his proposed PDH-2 to 11 houses. The surrounding neighborhoods strongly opposed the development. Although we have opposed it, the application now goes to the Planning Commission who will vote on it and make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. Our representative on the Commission is the very kind and knowledgeable Earl Flannigan. He will take our opposition into consideration when he votes on the application. The Board of Supervisors will be the final and deciding vote.

### Wegmans is Coming?

In other news, there is unofficial discussion that a new Wegmans may be constructed near Beulah and Telegraph Road. I know we have heard this before but the "word" is that negotiations are ongoing and it looks like it may actually happen. I will keep you updated as I hear what the news is.



*JoJo Shiflett  
Planning and  
Zoning Chair*

## Environment and Recreation

### Martha Washington Library Expansion

The Martha Washington Library is planning an expansion from its current 7,000 square feet to 10,000 square feet (an increase of 43%). The Friends of Dyke Marsh have waded in with significant concerns about degradation to the environment with this project. Several citizens associations downstream of the library have also taken similar positions. Denis Holder, Project Manager, said they are considering all LEED standards to minimize adverse environmental impact. A nature learning area is planned outside the children's area of the library. The project is expected to take two years and a temporary facility will be used in the interim.



Fairfax County plans to start using "green" cleaning supplies.

### Protecting Stream Buffers

The Environmental Committee of the Fairfax County Planning Commission proposed a Comprehensive Plan Amendment text change to strengthen plan policy relating to the protection and restoration of stream buffers in areas upstream of Resource Protected Areas and floodplains. Two options were presented. Option 1 would require staff to make case by case decisions. The benefit to option 1 is that it offers staff more flexibility therefore they preferred this option.

The downside to option 1 is that politics and whims of decision makers could make for bad decisions. Option 2 offered more clear, firm language that minimizes damage to stream buffers and minimizes the impact of uninformed or irresponsible politicians or appointees making bad decisions. Mary Ann Weldon, Environmental chair of

the Planning Commission assured us that the Amendment only dealt with a text change and not a policy change.

### Seedling Sale

The Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District's 2008 Native Seedling Sale is "A Butterfly Buffet." For more information go to their web site [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/seedlingsale.htm](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/seedlingsale.htm) or call 703-324-1460. For \$17.95 you will get 12 bare-root seedlings and 2 seed packets. This year's selections include Tulip Poplar, flowering Dogwood, Buttonbush, Eastern Redbud, Common Hackberry, Loblolly Pine, and butterfly weed and Black-eyed Susan seed packets. These selections are sure to turn your yard into a butterfly buffet.



*Bette Zaletel  
Environment and  
Recreation*

## County Executive Proposes \$3.3 Billion Budget

Fairfax County Executive Anthony H. Griffin has proposed a General Fund budget of \$3,322,726,158 for Fiscal Year 2009, a decrease of 1.59% from FY 2008. Excluding adjustments in the current fiscal year, the increase over the FY 2008 Adopted budget is \$5.3 million or 0.16%. The proposed budget maintains the Real Estate Tax rate at \$0.89 per \$100 of assessed value.

The recommended transfer to the Public School Operating Fund is

the same level as FY 2008. However, the transfer request approved by the School Board is 4.0% over the FY 2008 Adopted Budget Plan transfer. Also, the County's Transfer for School Debt Service is an increase of 4.6% over the FY 2008 Revised Budget Plan.

Based on maintaining the Real Estate Tax rate and an average assessed value of \$524,076, the typical homeowner will pay \$4,664 in Real Estate Tax in FY 2009, a decrease of \$163 from FY 2008.

To balance this budget, substantial action was needed to eliminate a deficit of \$120 million. Public hearings on the FY 2009 Advertised Budget Plan will be held in the Board Auditorium of the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax on March 31, April 1, and April 2, 2008. Public hearings will begin at 7 p.m. To sign up as a speaker, call the Clerk to the Board of Supervisors at 703-324-3151, TTY 703-324-3903.

## Public Safety

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) training occurs over several weeks, although the individual, weekly training sessions are not overly long. Recommended gear to be provided by participants are work gloves and sturdy and probably steel-toed shoes or boots.



No one in the program will be asked to do anything they are uncomfortable with – they can observe and learn, but all must attend to pass the course. There are other courses underway where people can make up classes. There is no upper age limit on attendance.

The instructors are highly qualified and very committed. The County is attempting to make it easier for those in the Mount Vernon District to participate by holding most (but not all) of the classes in Alexandria at the city fire Academy, 1108 Jefferson Street. This is near the intersection of RTE 1 and the Beltway on your right heading south on Rte 1. A few classes and the major exercise/wrap-up will be at the county facility. There is no compensation and no liability insurance. Graduates get a certificate and a backpack and/or vest or bib. If participants wish to keep their CERT certification,

they must annually take a one-class refresher.

In my opinion this training should also be given repeatedly on the County cable TV station, which is not a perfect teaching module but would at least demonstrate the flavor of the program. Perhaps at some time the program could be given in two or three two-day weekends.



*John Hurley, Sr.  
Public Safety Chair  
703 799 9353*

## Health and Human Services

Sometimes even golf can be hazardous to your health. Every year I play in a golf tournament for men over 50 at Bell Haven Country Club. One October, my partner and I were riding in a golf cart, yakking away, when a front wheel hit a pothole that threw me to the top of the roof. We continued playing but after a few hours my back began to ache a little. Then my partner noticed that I was having some difficulty in striking the ball. He suggested that I rest for a few holes, and I did. I then played a few holes and rested again. After the awards lunch, I headed home, driving with no difficulty.

But that night I was unable to lie in bed and spent the night in a straight-back living room chair with a firm pillow to mid back. I continued to rest in the same

chair day and night for about a week, then was able to rest in bed. When not sitting or resting, I was up and about doing chores about the house, raking and/or blowing leaves, carrying out the trash or digging in the yard. The biggest problem was nagging back pain. I am allergic to so many medications that I avoid pain killers, although I have tried ibuprofen. The best therapy has been getting off my feet and using a heating pad.

After 8 days, I visited an orthopedic surgeon. X-rays showed a compression fracture of the lumbar vertebra. His Rx: No golf for four months, rest plus heat and pain meds as need. If no improvement, he would schedule a series of physical therapy visits.

The next year I played in the same tournament at Bell Haven.

I don't recall which team won, but I will never forget teeing off on the first hole of our match. My partner teed off first, then I hit, then our opponents. All four shots headed toward the green 160 yards distant. When we got to the green, all the balls were accounted for except mine. After a ten-minute search, we decided the ball was lost. As players were putting out, my partner Paul Greiner yelled, "There's a ball in the hole! It's a Titlest 3 with a Bell Haven logo." I yelled "That's mine!" We laughed and exchanged high fives. En route, Paul remarked that we had played only one hole and were already 4 strokes up.



*C.A. Loughridge, M.D.  
Health and Human  
Services Committee,  
703/780-3845*

## Neighborhood Watch

Our volunteers patrol the Mount Vernon neighborhood a few nights every week. The number of suspicious activities and incidents has been low, a seasonal phenomenon. As the weather warms, however, we can expect a rise in unorganized crime. The most serious incident over the winter was a series of burglaries at the Mount Vernon Yacht Club: several boats were broken into, on one night, and some valuable navigational equipment stolen. We are grateful to members of the Mansion House Yacht Club for the diligence with which the gates have been closed at night.

The Police Department remind us that the best kind of watch is “passive”: keeping your eyes open for yourselves and your neighbors, and noting any unusual activities.

Let persons loitering on your street see that you notice them. Note the license numbers of any vehicles that are parked on the street for any more than a day.

Check out any unusual sounds: breaking glass, fights, screams, shots, or explosions.

Check on vans moving goods out of houses.

Notify neighbors if you are going to be out of town for any length of time. Arrange to have your newspapers taken off the driveway. Offer to do the same for your neighbors. Stop mail delivery.

Lock all vehicles, sheds, and outside doors at night. Install outside lights with motion detectors, back and front.

Offers of unusually cheap services or goods should not be entertained: these are the signs of scam artists or fencers of stolen property.

Avoid shopping alone or at night. If you do, park close to the store and under a light.

Have your keys ready when you return to your car. Do not place purses or handbags on the roof of your car to search for keys.

Do not park beside vehicles with tinted windows.

Do not leave your car unlocked or the engine running when you enter a store.

When parking your car, always conceal valuables, preferably in the trunk.

Stay alert when walking at night: do not wear headphones or engage in cell phone conversations.

The Fairfax section of the *Friday Washington Post* carries a list of crimes in our area during the past week. You can get access to the Incident Report through the Fairfax County Website via My Neighborhood.

Thanks to all our volunteers. We are staffed through the end of August; but I am always happy to add to our list.

*Cóilín Owens*  
Neighborhood Watch Coordinator  
[cowens7@gmu.edu](mailto:cowens7@gmu.edu)



## Traffic and Transportation

### Mega Projects Program

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) has selected the joint venture team of ATCS, PLC of Dulles and CH2M HILL, a Denver-based international engineering firm, to manage construction of several Northern Virginia mega projects, and to coordinate a regional traffic management program during construction of the projects. The mega projects program is being modeled after the highly successful Springfield Interchange and Wilson Bridge congestion management programs. "We have developed this innovative approach to coordinate all of these efforts and to ensure motorists' needs are met while not growing the size of government," said VDOT Commissioner David S. Ekern. "We must also have a transportation management plan in place that keeps the region moving during construction. I am confident that the ATCS/CH2MHILL team will make that happen under this first-of-its-kind effort in Virginia." The mega projects program includes the following projects.

#### Fairfax County Parkway

The Federal Highway Administration will finalize design and construct the two-mile, four-lane segment between Fullerton Road and Rolling Road. Construction is scheduled to begin in 2009.

#### I-95 Widening

VDOT will add a fourth lane in each direction for six miles, from

Newington to Route 123. Construction begins early 2008 and will be completed in 2011.

#### I-95/Telegraph Road Interchange

Construction of the new interchange will begin in 2008 and be completed in 2012 as part of the Wilson Bridge project.

#### Beltway HOT Lanes

Under a public-private partnership, Capital Beltway Express LCC, formerly Fluor-Transurban, will build two HOV/



HOT lanes in each direction from Springfield to just north of the Dulles Toll Road. The project includes adding carpool ramps from the I-95 HOV lanes to the Beltway HOV lanes. Construction begins this spring and will be completed by late 2012.

#### Route 7, Tysons Corner

Utility relocation begins this week in preparation for the proposed Dulles Rail project. The relocation will require closing portions of the two-lane service road on Route 7 between Route 123 and the Dulles Toll Road. The relocation is being done under a permit issued by VDOT.

#### I-95/395 HOV/HOT/Bus Lanes

Under a public-private partnership, Fluor-Transurban would add a HOV/HOT lane to the existing HOV lanes and build two new HOV lanes between Route 234 and Massaponax. Environmental reviews are underway. Construction could begin in 2009.

#### New HOV Restrictions

Please note that as of Jan. 14, only vehicles with three or more persons, hybrid vehicles with clean fuel plates issued prior to July 1, 2006, and motorcycles are permitted to use HOV lanes in the three-mile stretch of Interstate 395 South from Duke Street to Springfield between 3:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. Since 1982, all motorists had been allowed to use the HOV section between Duke Street and Springfield between 3:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. due to heavy congestion in the regular lanes. However, new lanes constructed as part of the Springfield Interchange have eliminated the need for expanded use of the HOV lanes during the time period.



*Paul Schray, Chair  
Traffic & Transportation  
Committee*

## Education

The focus of the Education Committee’s discussion was the Fairfax County Public School Board’s proposed budget for the 2009/10 school year. The advertised operating budget totals \$2.3 billion and restores a number of programs originally identified for cuts and eliminates proposed student fees for activities/athletics and Advance Placement, International Baccalaureate, and PSAT tests. The expansion of the foreign language in the elementary schools or FLES program



is reduced from 16 to 8 schools and full-day kindergarten expansion is reduced from 21 to 10 schools. The advertised budget includes \$14.4 million to address the total growth of 2,549 students and provide advance staffing for 2 new schools opening in fall of 2009. Additionally, the present budget continues to include a 3.0 percent cost of living adjustment for employees and an increase in the size of general education classes by .5 students.

The School Board also voted to restore a number of programs, including:

Transportation for students to gifted and talented (GT) centers, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, and for administratively placed students.

- The College Partnership Program

- The Elementary School Focus program
- The Middle School and High School Enhancement Program
- Proposed preschool special education cuts
- Funding support for National Board Certified Teachers and Applied Behavioral Analysis.

The budget includes a requested increase in the county transfer of \$63.7 million or 4.0 percent. On February 14, 2008, the School Board adopted the FY 2009 advertised budget.

For more details the Fairfax County Public School budget is available on line at [www.fcps.edu](http://www.fcps.edu). County Board of Supervisors will hold public hearings on March 31 – April 2.

*Valerie Schalk-Day  
Education Committee*

### Weird Medical Diagnoses

- “She was numb from her toes down.”
- “The patient was to have a bowel resection. However, he took a job as a stock broker instead.”
- “On the second day the knee was better and on the third day it had completely disappeared.”
- “Discharge status: Alive but without permission.”
- “The patient refused an autopsy.”
- “The patient left the hospital feeling much better except for her original complaint.”

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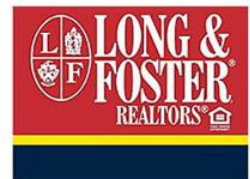
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## Mount Vernon Civic Assn, Inc. Board and Committee Chairs, 2008 - 2009

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 1st Vice President: Paul Schray ..... 703-619-9377  
 2nd Vice President: Pat Stallings..... 703-778-4442  
 Secretary: Karan Cerutti ..... 703-778-4442  
 Treasurer: Tom Cleary ..... 703-360-3903

### Directors

Mike Habib ..... 703-360-7742  
 Ron Neitzke ..... 703-360-3807  
 Sandy Polson ..... 703-360-2814

### Committee Chairpersons

Budget and Finance: David Fish ..... 703-360-9559  
 Consumer Affairs: Vacant  
 Directory: Kristin Matheis ..... 703-924-3317  
 Education: Valerie Schalk ..... 703-619-6312  
 Environment and Recreation: Bette Zaletel .... 703-780-9355  
 Block Party: Vacant  
 Health/Human Services: Babe Loughridge ..... 703-780-3845  
 Maintenance: Vacant  
 Membership: Kristin Matheis ..... 703-924-3317  
 Neighborhood Watch: Coilin and  
     Julie Owens ..... 703-360-9028  
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