



# Mount Vernon Civic Association, Inc.

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

## President's Message

October/November 2009

Greetings Friends and Neighbors,

I hope that you had a great summer and look forward to the end of 2009 with optimism.

### Membership Meeting

Our next MVCA membership meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM at Washington Mill School. Captain Allen Richardson from the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department will discuss fire prevention, safety, and emergency response. While none of us wants to be in an emergency situation, it is important that all of us know how to help ourselves, our families, and our neighbors if the need arises. I



hope that you will be able to attend this interesting and informative presentation. And don't forget pizza at 7!

### Picnic a Success

Many of you participated in the Third Annual MVCA Community Picnic this past June at Saint James Episcopal Church. I hope that you enjoyed the afternoon as much as I did. Thanks to Jeanine Simmons, Picnic Chair



Extraordinaire, Father Kris Kramer and the Saint James Congregation, our generous sponsors and our awesome committee for making this event a great success! We are already making plans for next year's picnic. I hope to see you there. You can check out photos from the picnic on our MVCA web site.

### Bi-Annual MVCA Elections

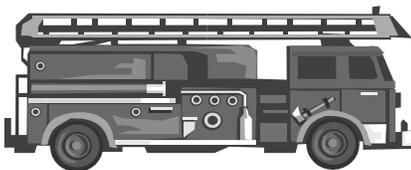
Our bi-annual elections are just around the corner. The MVCA Committee on Nominations: Ron Neitzke, Julie Owens, and John Hurley; are seeking volunteers who are interested and willing to run for election as an Officer or Director. I encourage you consider serving

### General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, October 14, 2009

#### Speaker

Captain Allen Richardson,  
Fairfax County Fire and Rescue



#### Subject

Fire prevention, safety, and emergency response

#### Where and When

Washington Mill Elementary  
7:00 Pizza and soda  
7:30 PM program

our community in one of these important and rewarding positions. And please don't worry about hurting any our incumbents' feelings, including mine! Our Association is most vital when we can draw upon the experience and abilities of a broad cross-section of this community. I would love to have contested elections for all our elected positions and I solicit your support and participation to make that happen. Please contact Ron, Julie, or John to put your name in the hat or to nominate a deserving friend or neighbor.

### **Your Opinion is Needed**

I want to say a few words to you about the Mount Vernon Council of Civic Associations (MVCCA), which has been in the news a lot lately. I do my best to represent our community to the MVCCA- both as homeowners and business owners- and I always vote my conscience. Lately, it seems that the MVCCA has become more visible and more controversial. Quite frankly, the meetings are uncomfortable to attend at times and I find myself asking lots of questions and not always voting with the majority. I encourage you to follow the activities of the MVCCA via their web site at [www.mvcca.org](http://www.mvcca.org) and provide me your opinions on pending resolutions other MVCCA activities which are available in their online newsletter, The Record. The more feedback and input I receive from you, the better I will be able to serve as your advocate to the Mount Vernon Council.

Thanks for your support.

*John Skudlarek  
MVCA President*

## **Vine Invasion**

The Mt. Vernon Council's Environment and Recreation Committee is concerned about the destruction of trees along the Mt. Vernon Trail due to invasive vines.

The Committee has raised this issue with the National Park Service, which has jurisdiction over the trail. The Committee will discussing its concerns with the Park Service's Landscape Architect for the Mt. Vernon trail--and the GW Parkway--at its November meeting.

*Mike Habib*

*Environment and Recreation Committee Chair*

## **County Budget Meetings**

Fairfax County is projecting a significant budget deficit for FY 2011 (beginning July 1, 2010). The county's ongoing challenge is to develop a budget with services that are both sustainable and acceptable to the community.

Fairfax County Government and Fairfax County Public Schools invite you to register and attend one of 12 Community Dialogues being held this Fall to share your feedback on the impacts of recent budget reductions as well as seek solutions to close the FY 2011 budget gap. County decision-makers will use your input to help guide the development of criteria for making budget decisions.

The format will be based on the same successful format used last year: County and Schools' budget presentations followed by staff facilitated small group discussions. *Registration is required.* For more information, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget) or call 703-324-2391, TTY 711.

If you are unable to attend one of these community dialogues or you have suggestions or comments, call the Budget Hotline at 703-324-9400 or complete the Budget Feedback Form online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget).

## Neighborhood Watch

I am happy to report that our list of volunteers has reached fifty. This is a record high in participation in this service which keeps our neighborhood safe. Our new volunteers will get a chance to meet our police liaison, Officer Robert Clift, at our home on an evening before the end of the year to talk about this service.

We are presently scheduled through January 2010. This means that we are close to asking for but one week per annum from anyone on our nightly patrols. The new schedule will be published around January 1.

During the months of August and September, these volunteers took their turns: Charles Wiley, David & Jeannine Simmons, Larry & Martha Bryant, Steve & Theresa Wilson, Compton French, Ann & Marvin Chadab, Doug & Marilyn Comer, Michael Dougherty & Dana Dasplit. Our thanks to one and all.

Officer Clift keeps us posted on crime in and around our neighborhood. Happily, there is nothing major to report. He reminds us that there is a continuing high rate of thefts from

unlocked cars, especially of removable items such as GPS modules. We are advised to install keyed deadbolts on house doors and install external (at least motion sensor) lights front and back. The National Sex Offenders register for the Mount Vernon area has no listings for our neighborhood. If you would like to be included on Officer Clift's regular e-mail postings, contact him at [Robert.Clift@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Robert.Clift@fairfaxcounty.gov). Telephone: (703) 360-8400 X2259.

*Cóilín Owens, Coordinator  
cowens7@gmu.edu*



## Thanks to All for a Successful Picnic!

I would like to thank everyone who helped make the Annual MVCA picnic a great success! A big thanks to St. James Episcopal Church for the use of their wonderful church grounds! The natural canopy made it so cool and comfortable. Red, Hot and Blue provided the awesome barbecue. I especially want to thank the many sponsors, FW&D Remodeling, Master Roofing, Dobson Builders, Hilltop Sand and Gravel, and all the individuals who provided either a side dish, dessert, cooler, and moon bounce! I am really looking forward to having another great picnic next year! How does Saturday, June 5, 2010 sound?

*Jeannine Simmons  
Community Picnic Committee Chair*

## Membership and Directory

Dear Mount Vernon Civic Association neighbors:

Our new 2009-2010 MVCA membership directory has been published and distributed. We'd like to thank all the block captains for all their help. This was a big project and we hope you find the directory very useful. We encourage you to support our advertisers because they provide financial resources which enable the MVCA to publish the directory.

If you find that any of your information is incorrect, please contact us so we may correct the database. Also, if you would like us to publish the correction in the quarterly newsletter, let us know. We will not publish any corrections without your direction.

Many of the neighborhoods in the Mount Vernon Civic Association are over 50 years old. Original owners are selling and moving on to other communities. With their leaving, the "history" and "institutional memories" are disappearing. We encourage all members to contact us to share stories and memories of their neighborhood so that we may share them

in future MVCA publications. [One of the first neighbors in Mt. Vernon Park told me that the local roads were unpaved for quite some time after their house was built. They were also a part of a three house party-line for years. It took her a while to figure out which neighbors shared her phone line.]

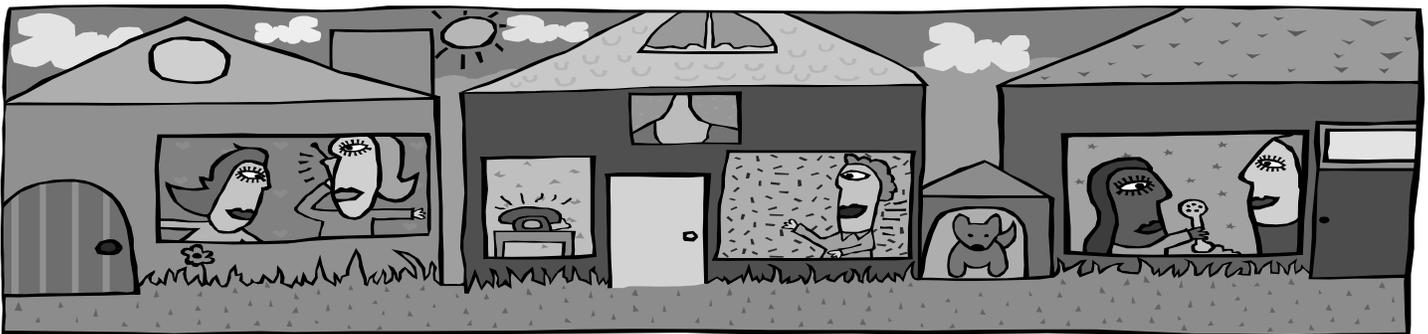
Do you have funny stories, stories of famous visitors, ghostly visits, or memories of "what it was like before \_\_\_\_\_"? Photos are encouraged, too, and we will return them. (Please be sure to identify people, houses, dates, – whatever is important to your submission.)

If you are new to the neighborhood, please download our membership form at <http://www.mountvernoncivicassociation.org>. Membership is only \$20 a year. We welcome you to the MVCA!

Thank you for your support of the MVCA.

Elizabeth Bancroft  
703 360 4206  
[e\\_ecb@yahoo.com](mailto:e_ecb@yahoo.com)

Ken Poortinga  
703 739 8618  
[ken8487@verizon.net](mailto:ken8487@verizon.net)



## Education Committee Report

### **School Bond Referendum on Nov 3 Ballot**

A school bond referendum will be on the general election ballot Tuesday, November 3, 2009.

Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Residents of Fairfax County may vote if they are 18 years of age or older on Election Day and have registered to vote 29 days prior to the election (by October 5, 2009, at 5 p.m.).

The 2009 proposed bond referendum includes \$104.3 million for renovations, including \$101.8 million to renovate Marshall High School; \$2.5 million for renovation planning at Sandburg Middle School; \$65 million for new construction and modulars; and \$26.2 million for infrastructure management, including roof replacements, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning (HVAC) replacements, athletic improvements, security enhancements, asphalt paving, and improvements required by the Americans With Disabilities Act.

The 2009 bond referendum includes \$50 million for construction of the new middle school in the South County area of Fairfax County and \$40.7 million for capacity enhancements at Crestwood, Cunningham Park, Kings Park, Lynbrook, Spring Hill, Springfield Estates, West Springfield, and Woodley Hills Elementary Schools and Whitman Middle School.

Building and renovation of schools are not financed through the school system's operating funds, but through bonds.

For further information about registering or voting, call 703-222-0776, or go to <http://www.fcps.edu/news/bond09.htm>

### **2009-10 School Year Calendars Available**

The calendars for the 2009-10 school year have been posted and are available online at <http://www.fcps.edu/cal.htm>.

### **Thomas Jefferson High School Applications**

Applications will be available September 28 for Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. The deadline is October 23.

Any eighth grade student who lives with a parent or legal guardian who resides full-time in a participating school division (the counties of Fairfax, Arlington, Fauquier, Loudoun, or Prince William or the city of Falls Church) AND who is enrolled in Algebra 1 or higher level mathematics in grade 8 is eligible to apply to Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology (TJHSST). TJHSST offers a comprehensive college preparatory program emphasizing the sciences, mathematics, and technology. The school serves students who are selected on the basis of aptitude, prior academic achievement, and genuine interest and motivation in the biological, physical, mathematical, and computer sciences and who intend to pursue college preparation in the sciences, engineering, or related fields.

Applications will be available from a liaison counselor in all public middle schools and most private schools in the participating divisions beginning September 28. The application deadline is October 23. Submission of the application registers the student to take the admissions test on Saturday, December 5.

A student handbook for test preparation is available for download from the admissions web site at [www.TJAdmissions.org](http://www.TJAdmissions.org). Students without computer access will be able to obtain copies of the handbook from middle schools in all school divisions that participate with TJHSST.

You must complete and submit the freshman application to TJHSST by October 23 in order to register for the test and to be considered for admission. For more information, refer to <http://www.fcps.edu/news/tj.htm>.

*Valerie Schalk-Day  
Education Committee Chair*

## Want to Get More Involved?

The Committee on Nominations seeks new blood!

### **MVCA Officers and Directors**

They want to hear from anyone interested in serving as an MVCA Officer or Director for the two-year term beginning in February. The five Officer positions are President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. Three Director positions also need to be filled. The duties of each position are described on page 90 of the 2009-2010 MVCA Membership Directory. A number of incumbents are prepared to run for another term, but that ought not dissuade anyone wishing to serve from putting his or her name forward.

### **Committee Representatives**

We are also looking for persons willing to serve as Committee Representatives – participating on behalf of MVCA in committee meetings of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations and keeping the MVCA Board and membership apprised of ongoing and upcoming developments in their respective areas. At present we have openings for Budget and Finance and Transportation Representatives.

If you are interested in serving our community in any of the above positions – Officer, Director, or Committee Representative – please get in touch with one of the following Nominations Committee members:

Ron Neitzke 703-360-3807

Julie Owens 703-780-5218

John Hurley 703-799-9353



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## Be Safe

Fall is here and with it school days, more traffic, a busier pace and less daylight. Please use extreme care at crosswalks, around school buses and intersections and keep a sharp look-out for those who do not use crosswalks. On the crime prevention front, use external lighting such as motion-detector lights around your homes and garages and call 911 to report any suspicious activity.

*John Hurley*



## Mulch Sale Benefits MVHS

The Mount Vernon High School Fall Mulch Sale is underway, just in time for your fall garden preparation! This year's mulch delivery date is Saturday, October 24. The proceeds of the sale support the MVHS Class of 2011 activities such as the prom and graduation events.

To order your mulch, email [MVHSmulchsale@gmail.com](mailto:MVHSmulchsale@gmail.com), or call Paula Weinberg at 703-360-4029. Orders should be received by October 12, so don't delay!

Thank you for your support.

### Mount Vernon Civic Assn, Inc. Officer, Directors, and Chairpersons 2008 - 2009

#### Officers

- President: John Skudlarek .....(703) 704-5213
- 1st Vice President: Paul Schray .....(703) 619-9377
- 2nd Vice President: Pat Stallings .....(703) 778-4442
- Secretary: Karan Cerutti.....(703) 360-9559
- Treasurer: Tom Cleary.....(703) 360-3903

#### Directors

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

#### Committee Chairs

- Budget and Finance: (Vacant)
- Community Picnic: Jeannine Simmons.....(703) 360-3613
- Education: Valerie Schalk .....(703) 619-6312
- Environment & Recreation: Mike Habib .....(703) 360-7742
- Health & Human Services: Babe Loughridge ..(703) 780-3845
- Membership/Directory Co-Chair:
  - Elizabeth Bancroft .....(703) 360-4206
- Membership/Directory Co-Chair:
  - Ken Poortinga .....(703) 360-7740
- Neighborhood Watch: Coilin Owens .....(703) 360-9028
- Planning & Zoning: JoJo Shiflett.....(703) 704-9222
- Public Safety: John Hurley.....(703) 799-9353
- Transportation: (Vacant).....(703) 619-9377

[webmaster@MountVernonCivicAssociation.org](mailto:webmaster@MountVernonCivicAssociation.org)

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**703/684-2000**

## Membership Meetings

Please plan to join other Mount Vernon Civic Association residents at our bi-monthly membership meetings:

**Wednesday, October 14, 2009**

**Wednesday, January 13, 2010**

**Wednesday, March 10, 2010**



The Planning and Zoning Committee met on October 8, 2009. Several issues concerning our area were discussed. The owner of the IMP building, beside Roy Rogers on Route 1, is proposing to rezone the entire 8.82 acre parcel from R-2 and C-8 to C-8. Currently, only a small amount is R-2. He wants to leave the IMP office building and add two new hotels. One hotel would have 190 rooms and the second hotel would have 80 rooms.

The owner already has Fairfax county staff approval and the approval of the MVCCA transportation committee. However, the P and Z committee had not seen the plans or heard about them until last night. The committee expressed serious concerns about the need for two hotels and stated the community needs a conference center or special events facility at that location. The planning commissioner, Earl Flannigan, also strongly suggested the need for a conference center at that site. We did not vote on the application but suggested the developer rework his proposal and visit us again.

Some important tidbits about that application follow. I asked if the proposed buildings would be all brick and have some colonial design as it is in a historical overlay district. The Architectural Review Board (ARB) told the developer they did not want a colonial design for the area and that a combination of stucco, glass and brick better fits in with the Route One corridor. The owner said they submitted a brick, colonial type of structure and the ARB told him such attempts at historical facades look "hokey" and that today's glass and stucco designs are tomorrow's historical buildings.

While I may have been inclined to question the explanation of a developer for the stucco and brick mix standard interstate

struction or historical look of the new hotels in our historical overlay district may be placed upon our own ARB.

In other business, we also approved a new monopole (cell tower) that will look like a very tall tree at the George Washington Recreation center across from Mt. Vernon High School. The applicant is T-Mobile but the pole can serve up to five separate carriers and under the law, if a carrier pays the fee, they must be given a space on the pole if available.

While I was hesitant about monopoles due to concerns about health risks, it was pointed out to me that a monopole that looks like a very tall tree has been in place at Mount Vernon Estate for 12 years. Also, many of our senior members of the committee are retired military folks and according to those members, the same technology has been used by the military for many years and they strongly believe the health risks we hear about are greatly exaggerated and most are not based upon facts. I deferred to their knowledge and voted to approve it. It passed unanimously.

Finally, our beloved McDonalds at Cooper Road and Route One is applying for a special permit for a new drive thru. The big news is the new drive thru will be attached to a brand new building! They are proposing to demolish the existing building and construct a new building. It will still be a McDonald's, only we will have a new building. We did not vote on this proposal as the owner is not yet prepared to go before the planning Commission. The owner assured us that if his proposal does not come to fruition for any reason, the current building will be renovated and the McDonald's will remain on the site.

So that's the news from the planning and