



Mount Vernon Civic Association, Inc.

Belle Rive • Ferry Landing Estates • Ferry Landing Villa • Ferry Point Estates • Mount Vernon Forest • Mount Vernon Park • Oxford • Riverwood • Vernon Square • Westgate • Wycliffe • Yacht Haven

www.MountVernonCivicAssociation.org

President's Message

March/April 2009

Greetings Friends and Neighbors,

Hopefully the worst of the winter cold is behind us and spring is on the way! I am not sure that the same can be said for the County's financial situation. With deficits in excess of \$500 million projected for the coming year, we will be monitoring the situation closely for impacts to County services and schools. I encourage everyone to stay informed and voice your opinion to our elected representatives through letters, emails, and participation in public hearings. For those with internet access, the county web site is a great source of information: www.fairfaxcounty.gov

I would like to thank everyone who renewed their membership in the Mount Vernon Civic Association. Your membership in the MVCA is critical to our ability to support our community and represent it, produce this newsletter,

provide fellowship opportunities for our residents, and publish the biannual Association Directory. If you haven't sent in your renewal, it's not too late! As a reminder, the Directory will be published in 2009 and you must be an MVCA member to receive a copy.

Our next Association membership meeting will be held on March 11th at the Washington Mill Elementary School. Our guest speaker will be Don Carr from Ft. Belvoir. Mr. Carr will provide an update on Ft. Belvoir's progress in implementing the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) mandates and talk about Ft. Belvoir's expanding mission and role as member of the broader Mount Vernon community. If you've heard Don speak, you know that this is sure to be an interesting, informative, and interactive presentation. Please plan to join us and bring your questions and comments about "The Fort" for Mr. Carr. Pizza will be served at 7:00 and our meeting will start at 7:30. See you there!

Please put May 16th on your calendars for the annual MVCA Community Clean-up. If you are interested in helping to organize this event or participate, please call me or send an email to

President@MountVernonCivicAssociation.org. This is always a fun event and it makes a real difference in

improving the appearance of our neighborhood.

SAVE THE DATE! Our 3rd Annual MVCA Community Picnic is scheduled for June 13th. Based on popular demand, we are moving the picnic back within our community. While a return to the Belle Rive neighborhood is the front-runner, we are pursuing several possible locations to include the Washington Mill School. If you have any thoughts about this, please let me know. If you would like to help with the picnic, please call Jeannine Simmons at (703) 360-3613. Jeannine would love to hear from you and we look forward to seeing you at the picnic!

If you are interested in serving as a member of one of our Association committees, or as a member of the MVCA Board, please let me know. I will be contacting those of you who indicated an interest in serving on your membership renewals to get you involved. I thank you and I thank all of the wonderful volunteers who make our Association so successful.

It is a pleasure to serve you and the Mount Vernon community. Please feel free to contact me if I can be of assistance. I hope to see you soon at one (or more) of our upcoming events.

*Best wishes,
John Skudlarek
President, MVCA*

General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Speaker:
Don Carr

Subject:
Ft. Belvoir Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) mandates and Ft. Belvoir's role in our community.

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

**Mount Vernon Civic Assn, Inc.
Officer, Directors, and Chairpersons
2008 – 2009**

Officers

President: John Skudlarek 703-704-5213
president@MountVernonCivicAssociation.org
 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
Education: Valerie Schalk 703-619-6312
Environment and Recreation:
 Bette Zaletel 703-780-9355
Community Picnic: Jeannine Simmons..... 703-360-3613
Health/Human Services: Babe Loughridge 703-780-3845
Maintenance: Vacant
Membership/Directory:
 Ken Poortinga 703-360-7740
 Elizabeth Bancroft 703-360-4206
 membership@MountVernonCivicAssociation.org
Neighborhood Watch:
 Coilin and Julie Owens 703-780-5218
 covens7@gmu.edu
Newsletter Advertising: JoJo Shifflett..... 703-704-9222
Planning and Zoning: JoJo Shifflett 703-704-9222
Public Safety: John Hurley 703-799-9353
Transportation: Paul Schray 703-619-9377
Website: Mike and Catalina Holland 703-341-6503
 webmaster@MountVernonCivicAssociation.org

Traffic and Transportation

A lot of interest was generated over the past year with the construction activity occurring at the Mount Vernon Circle and parking lots. The reconstruction of the median and circle was part of a project that began last March and was performed to reconfigure traffic through the Mount Vernon Circle, extend the Mount Vernon Trail, resurface existing parking lots, add 150 parking spaces for visitor use in a new lot, and improve visitor access. The construction included grading, pavement resurfacing, utility and drainage improvements, a trail extension and a sidewalk addition. Here is a summary of the improvements completed for the circle and parking lots.

New Parking Lot: The 150-space lot is located west of the existing northside-of-west parking lot.

Existing Parking Lots: Resurface and restriping.

Route 235 Intersection: Resurface, new crosswalks and enhanced vehicle and pedestrian signage.

Mount Vernon Circle: Dedicated bus drop-off lane, improved drainage and resurfacing.

Mount Vernon Trail: Extend the existing trail along the west perimeter of the east parking lots (adjacent to the east side of the George Washington Memorial Parkway), and direct pedestrian traffic to use the trail rather than cutting through the parking lots.

The construction project was managed by the National Park Service. For more information about the project, contact their website at www.nps.gov.

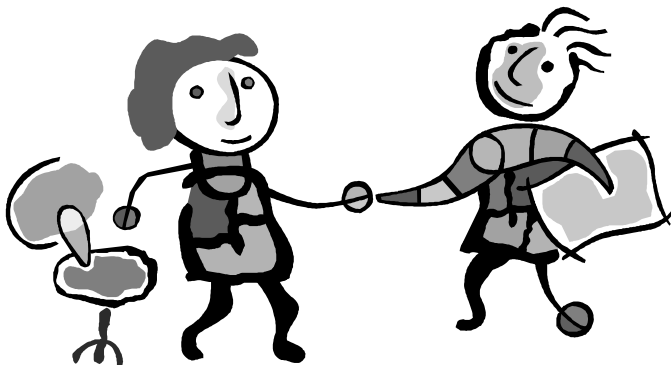
Paul Schray, Transportation Committee

Public Safety Report

As we near spring more and more joggers and walkers and bicyclists and thus the need for alertness by drivers and pedestrians and bicyclists. As FCPD MPO Rob Clift suggested at our recent General Meeting, consider both motion-sensitive and other types of outdoor lighting to deter criminals and also keep parked car doors locked. Do not open doors particularly at night if you are not sure. Call 911 when immediate response is needed by FIRE/RESCUE/AMBULANCE/POLICE.

There have been several serious motor vehicle accidents including at traffic-light controlled intersections in our Association area and nearby. County budget cuts may adversely impact some police operations so crime and accident prevention are even more important.

*Your Neighbor,
John Hurley 703-799-9353*



Membership and Directory

We're happy to report that we've received many members' MVCA annual renewal forms and membership dues. Thank you for your support of the Mount Vernon Civic Association! We encourage those who haven't sent in their annual membership to do so very soon. If you haven't returned your membership renewal for this year or have misplaced it, please use the form on page 4. Just fill out the required information, enclose your check for \$20 made payable to MVCA and mail to: MCVA, P.O. Box, 61, Mount Vernon, VA 22121.

We're working very hard to get the word out to new and old homeowners alike about the MVCA. If you know of a new neighbor to your block, please you let them know about our association and tell them they can learn more about us at www.MountVernonCivicAssociation.org.

We're indebted to many volunteer neighbors in MVCA. Thanks again to Kristin Brennan Matheis for all her help. Her database organization is a wonder. We'd like to thank Lynn Lady, Doris Poppe, Kay Nissalke, Laura Rader, Hope Fees, Coilin Owens, Anne McDonald and Rachel Carter for becoming new block captains.

And grateful thanks to Vera Kritzar, Carol Hickey, Mary Ann Holthaus, Mary Ann Stasiak, Julie Thomas, Genny Morelli, and Elaine Peterson who have retired as block captains. They have helped the MVCA grow and we appreciate all their effort and time as volunteers.

We are still in need of block captains for Forest Haven Drive (9200-9233), Mavis Court, Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy (4329-4411), Neptune Drive (4701-4762), Old Mill Road, Presidential Drive and Westgate (4000-4005). If you live on one of these streets or on the next street, we would appreciate you helping us by becoming a block captain. The job of a block captain is to welcome new neighbors to the neighborhood, introduce new neighbors to the association and to hand out the directory after publication. It's an easy job.

Please contact us with any questions about advertising in the quarterly newsletters or membership directory.

Elizabeth Bancroft
703.360.4206
e_ecb@verizon.net

Ken Poortinga
703.360.7740
ken8487@verizon.net

Planning and Zoning

In my last article I shared the news that a new development is being proposed at the corner of Beulah Road and Telegraph Road. Among other stores, the anchor store planned is a Wegman's grocery store. The needed amendment to the Comprehensive Plan was passed and on March 9, 2009, the Board of Supervisors will vote on whether or not to approve the development. The Planning Commission has already approved the rezoning but the Board of Supervisors has the final word. Currently, the parcel is predominately used as a landfill and is operated as the Hilltop Landfill.

Please note that the great majority of this large parcel is located in the Lee District and the Lee District Land Use Committee approved the plan by a large margin. The Mount Vernon Council (MVCCA) voted 12-10 with 3 abstentions not to oppose the Hilltop rezoning. It looks like Hilltop will soon be getting a new Wegman's grocery center and office building.

In other news, the controversy surrounding North Hill continues as Spring Bank neighborhood, located next to Chuck E. Cheese and near Penn Daw submitted a resolution to the MVCCA to undo the North Hill compromise and suggested the county use the HUD funding it received 25 years ago for the North Hill low income housing project to buy up foreclosed properties and use them for low income housing. No details were provided as to how the county would achieve or administer their

suggestion. The main thrust of the resolution, in my opinion, was to voice their continued opposition to the county's plans to locate manufactured homes on North Hill.

It should be noted this project has a 25 plus year history and some families have been waiting in line that long. Two years ago, the MVCCA reached a compromise on North Hill. It was decided about one third of the parcel would be used for low income housing that will be in the form of manufactured homes and the remaining land will be left as open space. Environmentalists and others have consistently opposed the project.

North Hill is located on Route One across from Denny's and beside the Crown Gas Station. It is the vacant parcel on the right side of Route One if you are headed north, about one half mile before you reach Lowe's. It should be noted that the open space that appears to be wooded forest is actually the home to remnants of a former mobile home park. It still has asphalt roads, concrete trailer pads as well as electrical and water outlets on the parcel. None of this infrastructure was ever removed.

That's some brief news from planning and zoning. Let's all look forward to longer days and warmer weather - it's just around the corner!

JoJo Shifflett, Planning and Zoning Chair

Information for Publication in the MVCA Directory

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



New Resident since ___ / ___

Listing example with preferred salutation: Mr. and Mrs./Mr./Mrs./Miss/Ms./Military rank/Other
Jones, Jr. Mr. & Mrs. Richard T. Elizabeth C. Dick and Betty

<i>Last name</i>	<i>His formal first name</i>	<i>Her formal first name</i>	<i>Names known to friends as (familiar names/nicknames)</i>
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Street Address: _____ Telephone: _____ *unlisted*

Email address: _____

(Your email address will not be published nor will it be sold or shared with other persons or businesses. It is only to provide your Board a way to communicate with you about matters of importance in our community.)

Neighborhood services: Individuals of all ages who would like to provide non-professional services to the neighborhood such as babysitting, pet care, snow shoveling, computer set-up/assist, house sitting, lawn care/mowing, tutoring (state subjects), transportation.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Service</i>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

We welcome and encourage all members to Volunteer: Please check any of the following activities in which you would be willing to assist the MVCA:

- Block Captain Neighborhood Watch Social Activities
- Welcoming Newcomers Education Matters Public Safety
- Recreation and Environment Community Beautification Newsletter
- Consumer Affairs Area Health and Human Services
- Area Traffic and Transportation Planning and Zoning Matters
- Local Government, Including Budget & Finance

Advertise with your Mount Vernon Civic Association: Would you like us to contact you about placing an ad in the quarterly newsletter or the membership directory?

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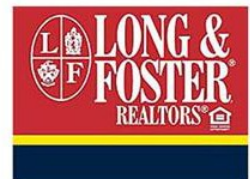
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MVCA Events

Membership meeting: Wednesday, March 11

Membership meeting: Wednesday, May 13

Annual MVCA Community Clean-up:
Saturday, May 16

Third Annual Community Picnic:
Saturday, June 13

Membership meeting: Wednesday, October 14, 2009



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