



Mount Vernon Civic Association, Inc.

Fall 2010

www.MountVernonCivicAssociation.org

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

General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, October 13, 2010

Speaker

Peter and Lee Braun
Long and Foster Realtors'
Poole/Braun Team

Subject

Real estate trends in the Mount Vernon area and the overall market

Where and When

Washington Mill Elementary

7:00 PM pizza and soda

7:30 PM program



President's Message

Greetings Friends and Neighbors,

The next General Membership meeting of the Mount Vernon Civic Association is October 13, 2010 at the Washington Mill School. Peter and Lee Braun from Long and Foster Realtors' "Poole/Braun Team" will talk about the current state of real estate in the Mount Vernon area and trends in the overall market. If you are thinking about selling your home or buying (another) one in our area, this is a presentation you won't want to miss! As always, pizza is at 7:00 pm and our meeting begins at 7:30. See you there!

Since you read our last newsletter, quite a bit has happened within the MVCA and in our community. Michael Gailliot from Hilltop Sand and Gravel spoke at our May meeting about the Hilltop Village Center that his family is constructing at the intersection of Telegraph and

Beulah Roads, and the Wegmans supermarket that is coming there in 2012. On June 12, the MVCA hosted its 4th Annual Community Picnic at St. James Church. Over 200 community members and their families enjoyed an afternoon of fun and fellowship. Thanks again to Jeannine and Dave Simmons and the entire picnic committee for all their hard work and a wonderful day for all.

On a less positive note, a registered sex offender moved in to our neighborhood near Washington Mill School during the summer. His presence was discovered by a member who was checking the Virginia State Police web site: <http://sex-offender.vsp.virginia.gov/sor/index.html>. In coordination with the Fairfax County police, we assisted in making the neighbors and the school administration aware. I am happy to report that the individual decided to relocate



Emergency Phone: 911

Non-Emergency: 703-691-2131

Neighborhood Watch Coordinator: Cólín Owens (703) 780-5218

to another area. I recommend that you check this web site periodically to be aware of potential issues like these in our community.

More recently, there has been a series of thefts from cars in our area. In almost all cases, the vehicles contained valuables and were left unlocked. Included in the items that were stolen, were two handguns. I don't want to scare anyone, but as quiet and peaceful as our community seems there are still criminals out

there who see us as potential targets. There is more advice on crime prevention contained inside the newsletter, but the bottom line is to remain vigilant and do not take your security for granted!

Last, but not least, we are monitoring and plan to participate in a review of cell tower placement options within the Mount Vernon District. This has emerged as a "hot button" issue within the past few months. We want to ensure that

all sides are heard and the decisions that are made have the greatest effect on improving service while respecting the character of our local neighborhoods.

Thanks for your support. Please contact me if I can be of service to you at president@mountvernoncivassociaation.org. See you on October 13th.

*John Skudlarek
President, MVCA*

Neighborhood Watch

The summer has been generally quiet.

There have been reports of late-night parties at the Mansion House Yacht Club, some nasty vandalism on Cherrytree and Riverwood, and a burglary and car theft on Neptune. A number of unlocked cars were rifled along Volunteer and adjoining courts. The expensive security measures taken by the Mount Vernon Yacht Club appear to have been effective. A registered sex offender resides close to Washington Mill School. Some watchful neighbors have observed and reported suspicious intruders: unauthorized vendors,

loiterers, and individuals offering implausibly low-priced tree trimming or home repairs. There have been a couple of complaints about dogs persistently barking especially after dark. The long dry summer has reduced the levels of early-morning lawn mowing which has been the object of complaints in recent years.

There have been many reports of commuters speeding along our neighborhood streets. Most of these streets they must share with joggers, cyclists, and dog walkers. To protect their small children, some parents have resorted to traffic cones. These cones have developed a proclivity to evaporation or have been adapted as stools for leprechauns. Serious speeders

should be given some friendly advice—to please observe the 25 mph limit—with the firm addendum that the license plate numbers of repeated offenders will be forwarded to the police.

Our two patrols have been on the streets throughout most of the summer. Thanks to all for your help. We have had a couple of new volunteers, and can always add to our list. It calls for a about a half an hour per night for one week to show the colors through either half of the neighborhood: north or south of Robertson.

Our sympathies to Joan Jones on the death of her husband, Ron, who for many years was one of our regular volunteers.

*Cóilín Owens, Coordinator
(703) 780-5218
cowens7@gmu.edu*



Public Safety

Burglaries

There has been a recent spate of burglaries in the northern part of Fairfax County. In all but one, entry was made via unlocked/open doors and windows and garage doors. Lock your doors, windows, and garage doors. This is your best deterrent!

Two handguns have been stolen out of vehicles. (Guns should not be left in your un-attended vehicle)

Do not leave items of value in an unattended car. This includes GPS units, purses, money, garage door openers, keys, etc. The suspect will force entry into vehicles if he sees valuables inside.

Do not leave purses, keys or cash by entry points in your home.

If you have older children who come home late, make sure they lock up when they arrive home.

The suspect appears to be focusing on money and small items in homes and vehicles. *(However, you never know what the suspects may target.)*

Talk to your neighbors and look out for each other.

Report suspicious persons to police right away.

Hello, Neighbors

It is fall and time to consider:

- Driving with care during the periods of darkness at both ends of the school and work days
- Carrying small flashlight, cell phone and ID and wearing reflective arm bands and/or leg bands when walking, jogging, bike riding in dark and near-dark conditions
- Obeying speed limits, crosswalk warnings, school bus flashing red lights and STOP signs
- Changing batteries in smoke detectors and flashlights
- Installing outside lights such as motion-sensitive lights
- Having Fire Escape plan for your home to include an outside assembly point
- Keeping garage doors closed and locked



- Locking parked cars—we have again had thefts from cars in our MVCA area recently
- Not disposing of cigarettes in containers of potting soil—a recent fire in Price William County destroyed several homes after smoking materials disposed of in a container of potting soil ignited
- Using candles inside only with extreme care
- Joining the MVCA Neighborhood Watch (please see Coilin Owen's article).

Have a safe Halloween and Fall,

*Your Neighbor
John Hurley*

Win This Prize!

Everyone who attends the upcoming civic association meeting will be eligible for a door prize: a \$50 gift certificate from Mamma's Kitchen located at 7601 Fordson Road in Alexandria.

Mamma's Kitchen was voted four and a half stars (out of five) at UrbanSpoon.com.

Enjoy!

Great Parks, Great Communities

The Fairfax County Park Authority is seeking additional public comment through the Great Parks, Great Communities planning initiative. Four public comment meetings are planned to receive community comments on the draft park strategies for future parkland acquisition, facility service delivery and reinvestment, connectivity and resource protection and interpretation.

The meeting most pertinent to our area is the South County Parks Public Comment Meeting on Thursday, October 14, 7 PM at the South County Government Center, 8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria.

These meetings will provide opportunities for public input on the draft comprehensive park system plan that will guide park planning in Fairfax County through the year 2020. The draft plan is structured around 14

districts and provides a thematic focus on community-based park systems. Therefore, community input is essential to its success.

This effort addresses the need for a comprehensive and integrated approach to planning for parkland acquisition, resource protection and development activities over a ten year period.

The draft plan is online at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/plandev/greatparks/>. An interactive map allows web site users to focus and comment on the park system plan for the community.

You can provide feedback via the webpage or e-mail comments to Parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov. Participants can also send written comments by mail to GPGC, Fairfax County Park Authority, 12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 927, Fairfax, VA. 22035-1118. Speakers can sign up in advance or at the meetings. To sign up in advance please contact the Public Information Office at 703-324-8662. The comment period closes on November 15, 2010.

After the public meetings and the analyses of all public input, plan refinements will be made

Standards of Learning (SOL) Test Results Summary

Subject	Grade	2008 – 2009	2009 – 2010	Change
English: Reading	3	76 86	84 83	8% -3%
Math	3	63 89	86 92	23% 3%
Science	3	65 89	78 91	13% 2%
Reading	4	81 89	87 88	6% -1%
Math	4	87 86	81 88	-6% 2%
Reading	5	82 92	91 90	9% -2%
Math	5	83 90	85 90	2% No Change
Reading	6	90 86	97 88	7% 2%
Math	6	90 73	95 77	5% 4%
Reading	7	86 88	85 89	-1% 1%
Math	7	56 71	51 75	-4% 4%
Reading	8	84 87	90 90	6% 3%
Math	8	88 85	91 87	3% 2%
Reading	High School	94 95	92 94	-2% -1%
Algebra	High School	91 94	94 94	3% No Change

Board for approval. The approved plan will then be used to provide community-based guidance to decision-makers on future parkland acquisitions, connections, service delivery and stewardship. For information regarding the draft plans, please contact Sandy Stallman in the Planning and Development Division at 703-324-8643 or Public Information Officer Judy Pedersen at 703-324-8702.



Education in Our Community

School is back in!

Driving: Exercise caution in the mornings as our children are waiting on neighborhood street corners for the bus and it is getting darker every day.

Standards of Learning (SOL) results are available.

The Virginia Department of Education has posted SOL results for all Virginia schools at www.doe.virginia.gov. The Commonwealth of Virginia is committed to providing a quality education for all students. This commitment includes keeping parents and the public informed through the Virginia School Report Card of the progress of our schools in raising student achievement and enhancing the learning environment.

Overall, Virginia schools did not make designated annual yearly progress (AYP) objectives. Once again Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) division made the mark. Washington Mill Elementary School students and staff made phenomenal progress making AYP objectives in all areas after several years in improvement status. Walt Whitman Middle School made AYP in English for all sub groups except one and did not meet objectives in mathematics. Mount Vernon High School met AYP objectives for the last two years. This past academic year

several sub groups missed AYP objectives, but overall test results indicate strong performance.

The table opposite highlights some of the results for the last two years. The top number in each row is our school's performance (WMES, WWMS, or MVHS) and the lower number is the state's average SOL score. For brevity, only reading and mathematics are displayed in the table. All academic results can be found at the DOE website.

Facts About FCPS Student Achievement

- Individual students and groups annually earn honors and awards in all academic, extracurricular, and athletic areas in regional, state, and national competitions.
- The four-year Virginia on-time graduation rate for Fairfax County was 90.4 percent for 2009.
- 91.7 percent of high school graduates continue on to some form of postsecondary education.
- The dropout rate for school year 2008-09 was 1.43 percent.
- FCPS students in the class of 2009 had an average combined SAT score of 1664. This far exceeds the average combined

scores of 1521 in Virginia and 1509 in the nation.

- In 2008-09, 64.1 percent of graduates earned advanced diplomas.
- The number of FCPS students taking Advanced Placement exams rose from 10,313 in 2002 to 14,835 in 2009. The number of Advanced Placement exams taken by FCPS students rose from 23,737 in 2005 to 29,945 in 2009.
- In the June 2010 edition of Newsweek magazine, all eligible FCPS high schools were listed in the top six percent of public schools in the nation, based on the annual challenge index—which measures a school's effort to challenge all students.
- Since the 2004-05 school year, the number of Career and Technical Education Industry Certifications awarded to FCPS students has increased by over 193 percent.

Check out how your school did compared with other FCPS schools or the state as a whole at Virginia's Department of Education (DOE) website, <https://p1pe.doe.virginia.gov/reportcard/>.

*Valerie Schalk
Education Chair*

Resolution Requests Review for National Library Site

The following resolution was passed by the Mount Vernon Council of Civic Associations at their July 2010 meeting by a vote of 20 - 1:

P&Z/TRANS-2010-01: NATIONAL LIBRARY FOR THE STUDY OF GEORGE WASHINGTON

Whereas: The Mt. Vernon Ladies Association Union is preparing plans to construct a National Library for the Study for George

Washington (the project), to serve as a repository of Washington's books and manuscripts, and as a site for scholarly activities, educational outreach, seminars and training, and

Whereas the proposed site for this planned 45,000 square foot facility is at the northwest corner of Mount Vernon Memorial Highway (Route 235 South) and Mount Vernon Highway (Route 235 North) and

Whereas the project will include library, office, residential and ancillary uses, including parking for approximately 60 cars, and

Whereas the current proposal calls for two access points, a main gated, card-access entry off Route 235 South and a gated "emergency" access point off Route 235 North, and

Whereas the project's size and uses are not contemplated in the County's Comprehensive Plan or zoned district for this location, and

Whereas the project is considered by Fairfax County to be a public by-right use, and public uses are subject to a 2232 Review Process, and

Whereas a Special Exception would be required if the project was not considered a public use and development conditions would accompany such a Special Exception, and

Whereas early morning commuter, visitor and bus traffic patterns have the potential to make access off Route 235 South difficult, and

Whereas limited site distance and the curving nature of Route 235 North could make access

off it difficult without posing potential safety issues, or requiring significant alterations to the character or quality of this rural section road, and

Whereas construction activities, deliveries and related traffic during the development of the project have the potential to disrupt local, Mount Vernon visitor and commuter traffic.

Now therefore be it

resolved: that the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations requests that the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors of Fairfax County conduct a 2232 Review Process of the public use.


Be it further resolved, should any contemplated building plan for the site deviate from the current zoning conditions described under the current R2 designation for that site, that an application for Special Exception be required and considered separately from the 2232 Review Process.

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