



Mount Vernon Civic Association, Inc.

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www.MountVernonCivicAssociation.org

May/June 2010

President's Message

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General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Speaker

Michael Gailliot
 President of Hilltop Sand and Gravel Company

Topic

The Hilltop site on Telegraph Road, the new Hilltop Village Center, and the planned Wegmans supermarket

Where and When

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

Greetings Friends and Neighbors,
 With the winter snows behind us, I'm sure that you are enjoying the spring weather (but maybe not all the pollen that comes with it!) and looking forward to Memorial Day and the official start of summer.

I am pleased to invite you- ALL members of our Community to the "4th Annual" MVCA Picnic on June 12th. The picnic will be held again this year at St. James Episcopal Church on Old Mill Road, from 1 o'clock to 5 o'clock in the afternoon. Hot barbecued hot dogs and burgers and cold beverages will be provided, as well as great,

live entertainment from Johnny Artis, and a moon bounce for the kids. We also have some great door prizes that you can win including two \$50 dollar gift certificates and three beautiful PBS program DVDs. The picnic is sponsored by the MVCA and there is no cost to attend. We do ask that families with last names beginning with A-L bring a salad or side dish and those with last names beginning with M-Z bring a dessert to share. Last year's picnic was a great success and we are hoping to make it even better this year! To help us plan how much food to buy, please RSVP with your family



What? A new development? Learn more at the MVCA meeting May 19.

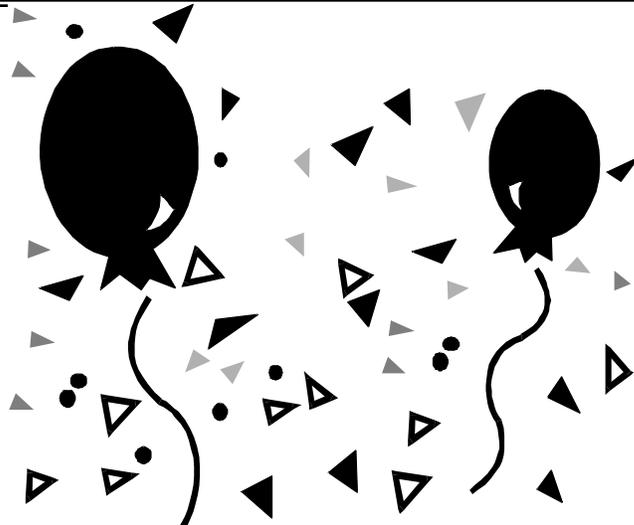
name and number attending to mvcapicnic@gmail.com. If you are able to help with the picnic committee, you can also send an email to mvcapicnic@gmail.com or call Jeannine Simmons, Picnic Committee Chair, at 703 360-3613. We look forward to seeing you at St. James!

Our next MVCA membership meeting is on Wednesday, May 19th at the Washington Mill School on Cherry Tree Drive. (Please note that this is a change from the schedule that is printed in the MVCA Directory.) Michael Gailliot, a neighbor, member, and long time supporter of the MVCA, will be our guest speaker. Michael is President of Hilltop Sand and Gravel Company, Inc, a family-owned business on Telegraph Road that has spanned three generations while continuously transforming itself with the times. Mr. Gailliot will provide us with a brief history of the Hilltop site and discuss plans for the new Hilltop Village Center that will soon be constructed and will feature a coveted Wegmans supermarket. With the excitement that news of this new addition to the Wegmans family has generated, I'm sure that you will enjoy the opportunity to hear all about it first-hand from a fellow MVCA member. You can read more about it at: <http://www.hilltopvillagecenter.com>. Pizza at 7:00, meeting to follow at 7:30 pm. As an added bonus, this month's door prize is a \$50 gift certificate for dining at the Mount Vernon Inn. See you on the 19th at WMES!

Many thanks go out to Mike and Godi Habib for organizing this year's Community Clean-up on May 8th. Thanks also to our neighbor volunteers and the Cub Scouts and family members from our local Pack 1503 who helped to keep our Community looking its best. We appreciate all your hard work!

Please contact me at president@mountvernoncivicassociation.org if I can be of assistance to you. It is my privilege to serve as your Association's representative. Please come out on May 19th and June 12th to stay informed, see friends and neighbors, and have fun.

*Best wishes,
John Skudlarek*



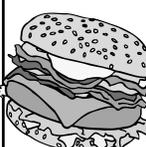
**THE FOURTH ANNUAL
MOUNT VERNON
CIVIC ASSOCIATION
PICNIC**




June 12, 2010
1:00 PM —5:00 PM

St. James Episcopal Church
5614 Old Mill Road

Hot dogs and hamburgers
Live Entertainment from Johnny Artis
Moon bounce
Door prizes



RSVP to mvcapicnic@gmail.com. Please mention your family name and the number attending.

To volunteer, call
Jeannine Simmons 703-360-3613

Last names beginning with A-L, please bring a salad or side dish to share. Families with names beginning with M-Z please bring a dessert.

Transportation

nce upon a time, there was, in the far northern reaches of a land known as the Old Dominion, an exceedingly dreadful and dangerous road known far and wide as the Olde Richmond Highway. This path, while lined in a few spots by respectable merchants and tradesmen's shops, was bounded by sundry hovels in various states of decay, including half-ruined inns, notorious alehouses, and rough shanties where fortune-tellers and soothsayers plied their craft. So densely cluttered were the fringes of the Highway with all manner of hawkers and peddlers, it was said that a traveler from the far southern kingdoms might easily, in the span of merely half an afternoon's passage of the sun across the celestial sphere, eat his fill of the savory foods of his homelands whilst having a cartwheel repaired by one of the many tinkerers and sending the coin of the realm by way of a moneychanger to the traveler's home village, and even still find a moment to haggle with the proprietor of a local pawnshop over the price of a second-hand bauble. Apart from the bustling mercantilism that characterized the Highway, legend has it that visitors and citizens alike so often found themselves mired in endless traffic that they appealed to the leaders of the realm for relief. A planned expansion of the fortress on the border of the hamlet of Mount Vernon caused the scales to tip – some say in favor of the denizens of the realm, others claiming it would be the local rulers, purveyors of paving stones, and distant landlords who would force a pretty penny from the realm's treasury for a slice of their squalid lands, that would handsomely profit from the project. In any case, the people called for help, and their cries were answered by a powerful sorcerer who held temporary sway over the district and who promised, in exchange for the continued support of all the good people in the realm, to relieve them of this scourge of traffic and blight by showering the region with 150 million gold crowns for improvements . . .

From what I recently heard from the Mount Vernon Council of Civic Association Transportation Chair Catherine Vorhees, representatives of county government recently presented preliminary design plans for improvements to US Route 1. These plans are preliminary only, as funds are not yet available in spite of what has been heard from Congressman Jim Moran, who has apparently amassed \$150 dollars for the planned improvements. Due to the complex nature of the appropriations process at hand, the sum is presently secured in an operations and maintenance account, and must be transferred to a "multiyear" account by September 31, 2010 to ensure funding for any finalized plan for improvements to our portion of the Route 1 corridor.

Fort Belvoir appears to have committed in writing to the general, tentative, as yet unfunded, plan, but right of way has not been obtained. Starting at the Fairfax County Parkway and going north, the present design calls for 158 feet of right of way, plus right of way for curb cuts. The county's request for a total of 179 feet of right of way, to be granted by Fort Belvoir was not something that Fort Belvoir agreed to, as there was no desire to part with such a large swath of land. However, the 158 feet as planned feature six lanes, and a median reserved for light rail or regional transit bus lanes. A sidewalk is planned for one side of the road, and a trail planned for the other side.

A centerline chosen was based on Fort Belvoir's desires, so most of the widening is occurring to the west of the current footprint of Route 1. Canterbury Apartments, Hess filling station, a recently foreclosed apartment building, Burger King, and the remaining small business strips along that portion of the corridor would be paved over. Fort Belvoir will build the bridge that Gunston Road crosses to accommodate 6 lanes of traffic. The Woodlawn Trust is silent with regard to the scope of the project thus far. Apparently, Supervisor Hyland asked that the entrance to Woodlawn stables be moved from its location on Route 1.

The cost estimate for the work from the Fairfax County Parkway to Mulligan Road is now about \$142 million, including the acquisition of right of way.

Pete Esser
Transportation Chair

Neighborhood Watch

The Mount Vernon Civic Association neighborhood area has the lowest crime rate in the region. The main reason for this is location; and the other two are spelled in the same way.

Nevertheless, as we enter the summer season, we need to raise our security awareness. Our nightly volunteers report that they are finding some signs of complacency: unlocked garages and unsecured gates. There are some signs of late-night prowlers on our streets and clubs.

While some of these are unsupervised youth not likely to major mischief, there have been a few incidents that are very troubling and call for constant vigilance by every responsible citizen.

Burglaries

Between the February snow and early April, there have been several burglaries at the Mount Vernon Yacht Club. A total of fourteen boats have been broken into, and valuable electronic equipment and other fittings stolen. Many of the boats have suffered serious damage—canvas and glassine ripped and slashed—evidently with knives or box-cutters. Some of the damage goes beyond what might be considered necessary for the trade of thieving; but some of it is the expression of the mentality of vandals. The prospect of armed intruders coming onto private properties late at night is alarming and poses a threat to everyone in the vicinity. It must be stopped.

The club is investing in a high fence, secure gates, and surveillance cameras. Meanwhile, the Wakenhut security company has been engaged to mount a nightly watch. In the few weeks

since they were hired, they have intercepted five or six small groups of intruders, in the after-midnight hours.

Volunteers Mean Prevention

For our part, Neighborhood Watch is asking, again, for more volunteers, so that we can have two patrols each night rather than the present one. The neighborhood is being divided into two areas, divided by Robertson and the Mansion House Clubs. Volunteers who have memberships in the Mansion House and Mount Vernon Clubs and therefore have respective property rights to enter these facilities would be especially welcome. Our unscheduled appearance—especially during the wee-hours and paying special attention to the clubs, the Washington Mill School and Park, and the Methodist church lot—would help contain this new threat to our security.

We are “covered” until early May; but in order to maximize our appearances, I am asking anyone who can contribute about 35 minutes per night, for one week between now and the Fall, to contact me about adding you to our list.

Cóilín Owens, Coordinator



Scouts and leaders from Pack 1503 helped at the MVCA Community Clean-Up.

Education

FCPC Priority Schools Proposal

Fairfax County Public Schools has published a Public Schools Proposal. This is part of their commitment to close the achievement gap. The district will identify a specific number of schools which will be deemed Priority Schools. This designation will provide schools with additional support in order to meet their benchmarks for student achievement.

Under this program, schools that are identified will be provided support in the following areas; Division Leadership, School Support, Priority Staffing, Instructional, Principal Leadership Training, and Partnership Assistance. Selection for this program is based on SOL progress, Annual Year Progress status, and a School's Support Composite Index (SSCI). The SSCI is based on a formula that takes into consideration three components; school need, student achievement gap, and student need. The school need measure is the percent of a school's membership of students with Limited English Proficiency, plus the percent from low and moderate income families who qualify for fee waivers. These two measures were selected because research has shown them to be most closely associated with student achievement concerns.

How does this affect our schools in Cluster IV? Our schools were ranked in priority with other FCPS schools with respect to need as follows: Mt Vernon High School was ranked 6th, Whitman Middle School was ranked 7th, and Washington Mill Elementary School was ranked 26th. For more information, this report can be found at <http://search.fcps.edu> and search for "Priority Schools Proposal."

Calm

Celebrate Calm – Kirk Martin will offer his 10 Secrets to a Stress-Free Home and School - Saturday, June 5, 2010 Free workshop for parents, teachers and the community! Learn how to create a calm home and reduce anxiety and stress at home and in school. Download the flier <http://www.fcps.edu/ccp/prc/documents/CelebrateCalm.pdf>.

Summer of Success

SOS – Summer of Success 2 – Summer Reading Strategies – First Friday, June 4, 2010 Specialists from the Office of Special Education Instruction will provide reading strategies to enhance your child's summer and upcoming school year. Download the flier <http://www.fcps.edu/ccp/prc/documents/SOS2final.pdf>.

Summer Activities for Children

Parent Resource Center Summer Resources
<http://www.fcps.edu/ccp/prc/documents/SummerofSuccesspacket2010.pdf>

FCPS Summer Programs Information
<http://www.fcps.edu/news/summer.htm>

FCPS ESY Information
<http://www.fcps.edu/dss/sei/summerschool/index.htm>

Fairfax County Park Authority
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/parktakes.htm>

Therapeutic Rec – Programs for Children, Teens, and Young Adults
<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/rec/trs/ctya.htm>

Books, DVDs, CDs, and Videos
Visit the PRC library online: <http://www.fcps.edu/ccp/prc/prclibry.htm>.

Tutors and Speech Pathologists for Children
Visit the tutor and speech clinician list at http://www.fcps.edu/ccp/prc/tutors_spcinicians.htm.

Pick up a Book!

Keep your children reading through the summer. Challenged to find books your children may be interested in? The Virginia State Reading Association recommends 10 books with outstanding literary appeal for elementary school (grade 3 - 5), middle, and high school age children each year as part of the *Virginia Readers' Choice program*. Recommended books can be found at <http://vsra.org/VRCindex.html>.

Membership and Directory

Greetings to our MVCA neighbors.

If you haven't already done so, please send in your membership forms and dues. We continue to update our membership database and welcome your information. Also, if you would like to advertise in the directory or the newsletter, please contact Ken.

By the way, you may notice an older model Toyota driving slowly by your house. We're checking addresses against the database and adding new addresses as new homes or streets are added to the neighborhood. The address checking also helps us figure out if we should add more block captains. The block captains, like us, are volunteers and we want to make their jobs as easy as possible.

What does a block captain do? Glad you asked! The block captains deliver the membership directories

and they keep us informed about houses for sale and when new neighbors move in. It's an important job and we are grateful to our many volunteers. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please contact us. Also, if you would like to retire from the position, please let us know.

We look forward to meeting you at our 4th annual picnic on Saturday, June 12. We'll have a table set up for name tags and door prizes, too. See you there!

Elizabeth Bancroft
703.360.4206

Ken Poortinga
703.360.7740

Public Safety

Hail and Farewell. Master Police Officer (MPO) Robbie Clift who has served very ably as the Mount Vernon Police Station's Crime Prevention Officer (CPO) has chosen to return to Patrol duty after 2½ years as the CPO. We thank him for his many fine acts of support and information and welcome MPO Greg Kotteman who is returning to the CPO post. MPO Kotteman is interested in Neighborhood Watch and crime prevention.

Warmer weather and more sunlight can lead to more jogging, running, walking and bike riding. Use care as a car driver and as a pedestrian, bicyclist or jogger.

On the County Budget front, the possible cuts in Police School Resource Officers (SRO) and in ambulance (EMS) service have been dropped, which is good news.

Remember to call 911 if immediate Police and/or Fire Department/Ambulance response is needed.

Best wishes for a safe summer!

Your Neighbor,
John A. Hurley, Sr

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Mount Vernon Civic Assn, Inc.

Officers

President: John Skudlarek(703) 704-5213
1st Vice President: Paul Schray(703) 619-9377
2nd Vice President: Pete Esser.....(703) 799-5150
Secretary: Karan Cerutti(703) 360-9559
Treasurer: Tom Cleary(703) 360-3903

Directors

Mike Habib:(703) 360-7742
Ron Neitzke:(703) 360-3807
Valerie Schalk(703) 619-6312

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: Collin Owens(703) 780-5218
Planning & Zoning: JoJo Shiflett(703) 704-9222
Public Safety: John Hurley.....(703) 799-9353
Transportation: Pete Esser.....(703) 799-5150

webmaster@MountVernonCivicAssociation.org

Neighborhood Events

May 19 Membership Meeting
June 12 Neighborhood Picnic
October 13 Membership Meeting

Membership meetings are held at Washington Mill Elementary School. They begin at 7:00 PM with pizza and soda; programs begin at 7:30.

