



Mount Vernon Civic Association, Inc.

Fall 2012

www.MountVernonCivicAssociation.org

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President's Message

With the end of summer its time to begin preparing for the fall and winter months ahead. Your MVCA board and committees are already in motion working on the many issues and concerns that affect our community, especially those that deal with our safety, schools and roads. Please join us at our general membership meeting which will be held at 7:30pm at Washington Mill Elementary School the evening of October 10. Our featured presentation at the meeting will be provided by our friends from Holly, Woods and Vines. They will discuss proper preparation of lawns and landscaping for the winter months and offer suggestions about plantings now for the spring and summer months to follow. Of course, pizza and soft drinks will be served at 7:00pm.

We are all aware of the grand effort made by the Virginia Department of Transportation with its massive resurfacing of streets throughout our community during the summer. Nine of our roads received attention which is more than three times the

number of roads that were repaved over the past five years. VDOT was able to allocate funding for this project as they experienced a surplus of money that typically is used for snow removal. Thank you, VDOT.

And thank you to all who attended the MVCA community picnic in June. There was lots of food, beverage, live music, and fun for children and adults. While the date of the picnic saw a lot of competition with student graduation parties we still experienced a great turnout. Planning has already begun for next summer's picnic and a date will be selected soon.

I invite you to read the committee reports in this issue as there is a lot happening in and around our community. Our committee chairpersons have been volunteering their time to attend meetings throughout the spring and summer in an effort to represent our concerns to county, state and federal officials on a multitude of subjects, including the Route 1 Widening Project, Fairfax County Budget issues, land

**Mount Vernon
Civic Association
General Membership
Meeting**

Holly, Woods and Vines:
Preparing your landscape
for winter



Wednesday,
October 10, 2012

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

development projects, crime matters and education issues, to list a few.

Again, I look forward to seeing you at our October 10 meeting. Please do not hesitate to contact any of our committee chairpersons or me if you have any suggestions, comments or questions regarding our community.

*Paul Schray, President
Mount Vernon Civic Association*

Planning and Zoning

Good day to all of you. Following are the projects presented to the MVCCA Planning and Zoning Committee.

Owners of Belle Haven Towers at 6043 Richmond Highway, plan to build a fourth tower on the current parking lot. The building will be southeast of the current buildings. The new building will be a five story building with 145 multifamily units. The presentation to the committee was information only, there was no vote taken.

The Baywood Hotel is looking to build at 8668 Richmond Highway. It requires a rezoning of C6 to C8 with a special exception. The current plan is for a 92 room, four story, LEED Silver certified hotel. The plan includes highway frontage improvements. The information was for information only at this point.

The committee received a presentation on the redevelopment of the Sunoco gas station at 5928 Richmond Highway. Sunoco is planning a 24 hour, seven day a week service station and convenience store. The service station will have six pumps (previously the plan had four) and a 2600 SF convenience store. It will have two points of access from Richmond Highway and two access points from Old Richmond Highway. Although the MVCCA Planning and Zoning Committee voted to not oppose the development, the briefer reported that the Staff will probably recommend disapproval. Their largest concerns are the potential impact of traffic flow along south Richmond Highway and illegal and unsafe vehicular activity. The developers have incorporated necessary architectural features to meet

the Gateway to Mount Vernon vision.

Lastly, on behalf of the developer, Walsh and Colucci, filed to rezone the site at 2550 Huntington Ave (old VSE site). The developer plans to build up to 366,000 SF of multi-family use (max of 390 apartments) and up to 366,000 SF of commercial office space and a hotel with limited retail. The residential portion of the development will be completed first. Until the hotel is built (there is currently no one in mind), that space will be used as a park for public use. Additionally, they are planning set asides for the appropriate schools effected by the residents and maintenance of Cameron Run Trail, which runs along the edge of the development. They have also set aside \$300K for road enhancements at Telegraph Road and North Kings Highway and Huntington Road and Richmond Highway. They've reported a \$91K escrow account for incorporating bike paths along the affected highways. The residential parking will be surface parking. The commercial/hotel parking will be in a garage facing Metroview Parkway. It will be architecturally pleasing with appropriate façade that will be difficult to discern its use. They currently plan to exceed the required open space/tree density.

Volunteering

Looking for a Volunteer opportunity? Does a family member need service hours? Do you want to learn about service organizations here in Mount Vernon or around the country? Do you have a community service project that you would like to recruit volunteers for? If the answer is yes to any of these questions, you can go to www.Serve.gov for help and answers. Serve.gov is a clearinghouse for volunteer opportunities at the local, state, and national level. You can search by keyword and/or location, or create and register your own idea that you need help with. Try www.Serve.gov and help make magic happen in your life and in our community!

*Karan Cerutti
Planning and Zoning Chair*

Environment and Recreation

A town hall meeting was held on Sept. 11 at Sherwood Hall Library with reps of Dominion Power. The meeting was called by Delegate Scott Surovell to discuss the reliability of service, the recent experience in the wake of the June 29 *derecho* and the possibility of undergrounding power lines. While a number of residents complained about the prolonged loss of power after the *derecho*, the focus of the discussion and questions dealt with the issue of undergrounding power lines.

The Dominion reps noted the benefits of undergrounding e.g. reduced exposure to trees, vehicles, animals and storms as well as aesthetics and reliability. They stressed, however, the challenges posed: the obtaining of required easements, the expense and

relative difficulty of upgrades, repairs or additions to facilities. They noted that underground repairs take longer than above ground and the outages are accordingly longer. They also mentioned the need for large pad-mounted equipment, sometimes in residents' yards. Most of all, they noted the high cost of undergrounding. They cited two studies. One estimated the costs of undergrounding at \$150,000 to 3 million per mile (an average of \$27,000 per customer). The second study estimated the cost at \$80,000 to 2.1 million per mile. Undergrounding statewide would cost some \$80 billion.

The reps from Dominion said any community can apply for undergrounding but all residents must agree the

community must pay for the work.

The Dominion officials noted that most new developments in Northern Virginia have underground power lines. But every home has some part of its grid above ground.

Mike Habib, Environment and Recreation Chair



Public Safety — Fall Reminders

Be alert to school buses and their passengers particularly when loading and unloading at school bus stops.

Anticipate joggers, walkers, bicyclists when driving.

Stop at STOP signs, yield at YIELD signs. Comply with speed limit signs, No Turn on Red signs, No Passing signs and double-stripe markings, School Zone and Crosswalk markings

Replace batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

Wear helmets when bike riding.

Carry a cell phone, small flashlight, and whistle when walking or jogging at night.

Wear a reflective vest or arm bands.

Call 911 in case of need for immediate response by Police, Fire, or Rescue/Ambulance,

Call 703-691-2131 for NON-emergency Police matters.

Lock car and garage doors.

Utilize external lighting such as motion-sensitive lights.

Have fun-be safe.

*Your Neighbor, John Hurley
Public Safety Chair*

Transportation

Paving

It has been busy in our neck of the woods in terms of roadwork. I am happy to report that the paving work that commenced in late July will soon draw to a close, with a substantial portion of the heavily deteriorated roads that the MVCA has long called to the attention of local and regional elected officials having been resurfaced. The much-needed work ranks somewhere on the lower end of the scale in terms of quality and design, but at least we've been served after many long years of putting up with crumbling asphalt. The paving was possible because funds were finally available this year. Monies previously allocated for snow removal and winter road treatments were set aside due to the mild winter and applied to the costs of the paving. Precise project numbers are hard to come by, but can be found in bits and pieces in various areas on the Fairfax County website. If you're bored with crossword puzzles and sudoku, figuring out the budget could be your new way to spend a quiet evening at home.

Mulligan Road Project

Many have asked at our membership meetings when Mulligan Road, the long delayed connector road between Richmond Highway and Telegraph Road, might finally be opened to traffic. Mulligan Road will feature two

lanes in each direction, separated by median similar to the Fairfax County Parkway. Delays in construction are many and varied. For example, Telegraph Road needs to be widened from 2 lanes to 4 lanes between just before Beulah Road and Leaf Road before

Mulligan Road will also bear the name "Jeff Todd Way" in honor of the late local benefactor and booster of so many good causes.

Mulligan Road can be opened to traffic. In addition, the new Mulligan Road bridge over Kingman Road will be 10 feet above Kingman. The road is being built in two phases to satisfy funding issues. The first phase was completed roughly on schedule, but the start of the second phase was delayed by two months as the result of two bid protests moving the expected completion date of September 2013 to November 2013. This assumes that there are no hidden delays due to additional unexpected surprises, such as the need to move water lines found under the right of way necessary to expand Telegraph Road. Given that the weather in November may or may not enable the FHWA to pave the roadbed and plant vegetation, the expected completion has now been set for Spring of 2014. For further information, here is the link to the FHWA Mulligan Road

project: www.efl.fhwa.dot.gov/projects/rhtrc.aspx. Please note that the original completion date for the project was at the end of October 2012. Another source for further information on the project is the VDOT webpage specific to the Mulligan Road project: www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/telegraph_and_mulligan_roads.asp.

Also, expect a new entrance to be established for the Woodlawn Plantation. This access point will shift south of the original entrance. The soon to be former entrance is slated to become a trail, which will become connected to other paths and trails.

The expected and planned alignment of the intersection U.S. Route 1 and Mulligan Road is such that Mulligan Road will proceed straight across Route 1 into Mount Vernon Memorial Highway. Trees have been cleared on the Woodlawn Plantation side of the road at the time of this writing to make room for the new lanes. However, tree clearing has been halted just before Roy Rodgers, per an agreement with Woodlawn Plantation, to provide an aesthetic experience for visitors of the Plantation.

Shared pedestrian/bike trails 10 feet wide will be added to Mulligan Road and Telegraph Road. Animal crossings will be

put in as there are documented wildlife trails in the area. The animal crossings will run under the road similar to those under the Fairfax County Parkway.

Route 1 Widening

Our area may lose a portion of a prime green space because the one proposed widening option for Route 1 near the current Woodlawn Stables that has found the most favor with planners appears to be a revised version of the Southeast Bypass. The Mount Vernon Voice, Mount Vernon Gazette and Mount Vernon Patch have extensively covered this issue, and I encourage

those of you not familiar with this to locate back editions for articles focusing on the National Trust for Historic Preservation, which owns the property on which Woodlawn Stables is located. The lease to the current stable operation will expire in 2016 and will not be renewed. The Federal Highway Administration has generated a “Southern Alignment” option for road widening that would move the stables and riding ring — assuming a new lessee can be found to continue the stable operation or that the Trust enters into a new lease with the current lessees — to the

pasture side of the leased property. New information emerges frequently on this proposal, and nothing has been set in stone. The MVCA board approved a resolution opting for preservation of the maximum amount of open and green space and the best possible preservation of historic properties on the National Trust properties. It is up to voters to make their opinions known on all matter, including this, as the Southeast Bypass in any form will cut into our green and historic spaces.

Pete Esser, Transportation Chair

Education

Welcome to a new school year — just a reminder, please be extra careful since we have 3 Elementary schools in or close by our neighborhood. Don't forget, ALWAYS stop for buses with flashing lights.

Student Rights & Responsibility review

At their September 20 meeting the FCPS school Board voted to approve an Ad Hoc Community Committee on Student Rights and Responsibilities (SR&R)

While this committee will certainly cover many subjects/policies regarding SR&R, probably the number one issue will be the “zero tolerance” discipline policy.

The “zero tolerance” policy assumption is that inflexibility is a deterrent because, no matter how or why the rule

was broken, the fact that the rule was broken is the basis for the imposition of the penalty.

Critics of zero tolerance policies frequently refer to cases where minor offenses have resulted in severe punishments and instead make schools more like a jail or a prison. I'm sure this will be a long and drawn out debate, I'll keep you apprised of developments.

New Superintendent search

Dr. Dale will be stepping down as Superintendent at the end of the current school year. Unlike previous Superintendent searches, the Board has chosen to hire a “head hunter” to conduct the search. There are several companies that specialize in this and the Board is slated to select one via a

RFP process by late September. Once the firm is chosen, the Board will expect the firm to conduct public meetings for input on search parameters, expected qualifications and experience. This opportunity for public input will likely be in the late October-November time frame. After that, the search will begin in earnest. One goal of Superintendent searches is secrecy to protect the privacy of potential candidates and reduce angst for their current school district. The optimum timing is to have a new superintendent in place by April — we'll see what happens.

Enjoy the Fall colors!

Bruce Kitchen

MVCA Education Chair

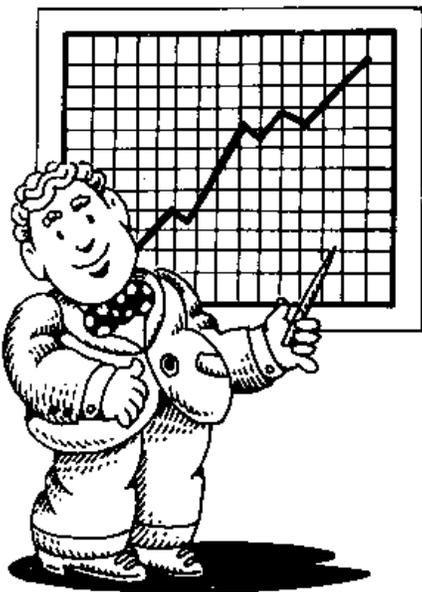
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Budget and Finance

Fairfax County Full Year 2012 Carryover

On Tuesday, September 11, 2012 the County closed out the Full Year 2012 Budget. Good news, we ended the year with a little over \$40 million dollars. An amount equal to .4% of the 2013 Projected 2013 General Budget Receipts. This amount was about 2/3 less than the \$60 million at the end of 2011.

According to Chairman Bulova “[t]he FY 2012 carryover requires that we focus on two major issues; the first is addressing the projected CSB funding shortfall for FY 2013. The second is turning our attention to the challenges facing us for FY 2014 which include the looming federal budget showdown and our own revenue projection which continue to reflect very slow growth.” The CSB is the



Fairfax-Falls Church Community Service Board that had significant funding cuts at the state and federal level.

Additionally, the Chairman’s report was somewhat downbeat, with projected budget shortfalls for the “next several years.”

Of note was an increase of \$5 million dollars in the litigation reserve for a number of significant tax appeals. The County is also setting aside \$7 million dollars for potential federal budget cuts. There did not appear to be any discussion on the influx of students into the Fairfax County Public School system and costs associated with this influx.

Fairfax County Economic Indicators

In the July report of economic indicators published by the County, the latest report available, county and statewide unemployment rates rose in June but this was attributed to students entering the labor force. The June unemployment rate in Fairfax County increased to 4.3% from 3.9%. Statewide unemployment rate increased to 6.0% from 5.5%.

FY 2012 sales tax receipts are \$162.8 million, an increase of 5.2% compared to FY 2011. The FY 2012 now exceeds the previous peak of \$160.9 million set in FY 2008. Another interesting fact: the median

sales price of new single-family homes sold through June was \$1,100,000.00. This appears to be based on 140 new homes sold. This and other interesting facts can be found in the July 2012 report at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/economic/economicindicators.htm>.

The November 2012 Ballot Bond Referendums

Lastly, for those of you with children playing sports at Grist Mill and baseball at McNaughton fields (Woodlawn and Patriots baseball leagues) or just relaxing at the parks, the County has a \$75 million parks bond on the ballot. Some of the monies will be used directly to upgrade our local fields.

The County also has a \$25 million public library bond that includes three renovations and a new library, a \$55 million public safety bond and \$30 million storm water bond to protect 180 homes in the Huntington neighborhood on the ballot. For more detailed information on how the bond money will be used can be found at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/bonds/

*Sean McCarthy
Budget and Finance Chair*

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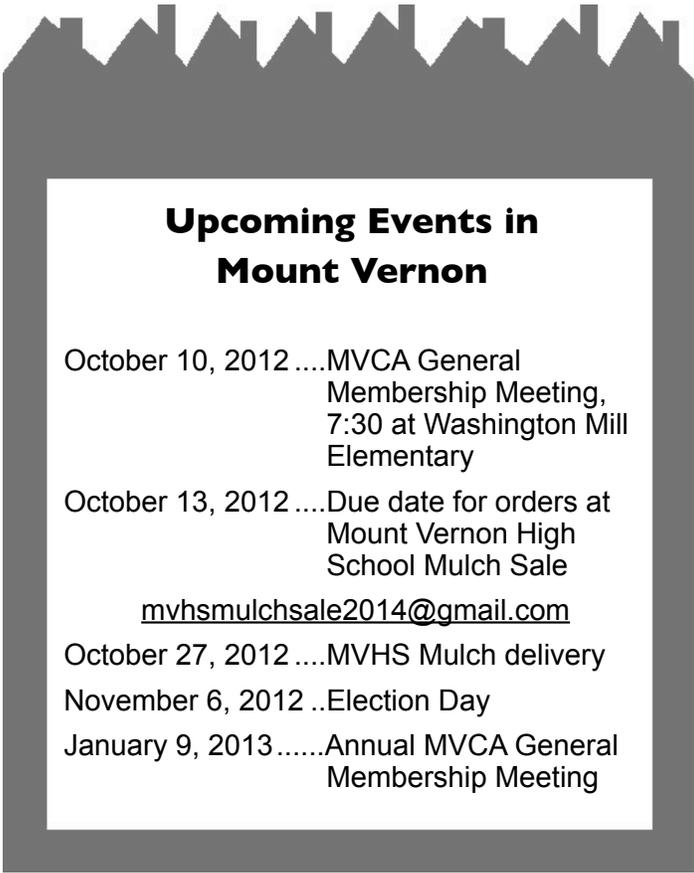
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Upcoming Events in Mount Vernon

October 10, 2012MVCA General
Membership Meeting,
7:30 at Washington Mill
Elementary

October 13, 2012Due date for orders at
Mount Vernon High
School Mulch Sale
mvhsmulchsale2014@gmail.com

October 27, 2012MVHS Mulch delivery

November 6, 2012 ..Election Day

January 9, 2013Annual MVCA General
Membership Meeting

Mount Vernon Civic Association, Inc.

Officers

President: Paul Schray(703) 619-9377
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Treasurer: Tom Cleary(703) 360-3903

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Ron Neitzke(703) 360-3807
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Education: Bruce Kitchen(703) 799-6473
Environment & Recreation: Mike Habib(703) 360-7742
Health & Human Services: Vacant

Membership/Directory Co-Chair:
Elizabeth Bancroft(703) 360-4206

Membership/Directory Co-Chair:
Ken Poortinga(703) 360-7740

Neighborhood Watch: Coilin Owens(703) 780-5218
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Public Safety: John Hurley.....(703) 799-9353
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