



# Mount Vernon Civic Association, Inc.

Winter/Spring 2012

[www.MountVernonCivicAssociation.org](http://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, January 11, 2012

### Event

Bi-annual association elections

### Speakers

VDOT will provide a presentation on the 495 HOT lanes project, BRAC projects and the I-95 HOT lanes project.

Tania Jones will discuss the Traffic Calming Task Force

### Where and When

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



## President's Message

### Greetings Friends and Neighbors,

I hope that you had a great Holiday Season and will have a Happy and Prosperous 2012!

Please put our January 11, 2012 MVCA Annual Meeting on your calendars. In accordance with our Association by-laws, we will hold our bi-annual elections for MVCA officers and directors. We will also have a guest speaker from VDOT who will provide presentation on the 495 HOT lanes project, BRAC projects and 95 HOT lanes project. In addition, Tania Jones will report on the great work of the Traffic Calming Task Force that she is leading to improve safety in the vicinity of the Washington Mill School. This promises to be another great community event and I look forward to seeing you there. Please remember that we are now meeting in the library at Washington Mill Elementary. As always, pizza is at 7:00 pm and our meeting will start at 7:30.

Speaking of elections, our Nominating Committee headed by Sean McCarthy has provided the following slate for the January 11 elections:

*MVCA President* - Paul Schray

*1st Vice-President* - Pete Esser

*2nd Vice-President* - John Skudlarek

*Secretary* - Karan Cerutti

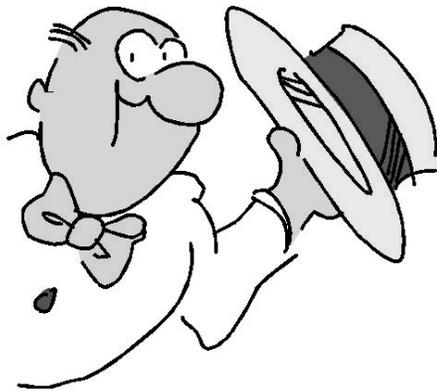
*Treasurer* - Tom Cleary

*Directors* - Mike Habib, Ron Neitzke, and Dan Rinzel

Thanks to everyone who has agreed to serve! Best wishes and special thanks to Valerie Schalk who is stepping down as a Director and Education Committee Chair and welcome back to our former president Dan Rinzel who has been nominated to rejoin the Board as a Director. Our goal is to have maximum community representation on the Board. If you are interested in serving as an elected officer of Your Association, it is not too late. Nominations will remain open until the elections. Please

contact Sean McCarthy at 703 360-0372 or send him an email at mclucid@verizon.net.

It has been my great privilege to serve as MVCA President during the last five years. Together, we have maintained a solid membership base, continued our tradition of community service, expanded our web presence, and increased community participation and spirit through our Annual Picnics. Working with our Board to serve the interests of our Community has been a pleasure and I am looking forward to continuing to serve in another capacity. However, after five years it is time to welcome a new President with



new ideas to lead our Association. I am very pleased that our 1st Vice-President, Paul Schray, has been nominated and accepted to run for this position. Paul will do a great job and I will support him to the best of my ability to serve our wonderful community. I thank all of our elected officers, directors, and committee chairs for your friendship, support, and service- you are awesome and our continuing success has been a superb Team effort! I would like especially to recognize Dr. Tom Cleary for his long-standing support of MVCA and his wise counsel to me over these past five years. I would also like to thank Ken Poortinga for his outstanding work to increase our newsletter and directory advertising; Ken and Elizabeth Bancroft for their tireless efforts to keep our membership strong and produce our last two Neighborhood Directories that are without peer; Pete Esser for pulling "double duty" as 2nd VP and Transportation Committee Chair, and for his always interesting newsletter articles; Karan Cerutti for

faithful service as Secretary and stepping-up to serve as Planning & Zoning Chair; Mike Habib for his service as a Director and outstanding work representing us on the Environment and Recreation Committee; Ron Neitzke for his advice and participation as a Director; Sean McCarthy for leading Budget and Finance and supporting our Traffic Calming Task Force; Jeannine Simmons for making our Annual Picnics such a success; Coilin Owens for his quick wit and effective leadership of our Neighborhood Watch; John Hurley for serving as Public Safety Chair and providing tremendous support and liaison to Supervisor Hyland's office for Traffic Calming; Mike and Catlina Holland for their expert support on our web site; and Pam De Pena for producing the quality newsletter that we enjoy. Bravo All!

See you on January 11 and around the neighborhood.

*Wishing you God's Blessings,  
John Skudlarek*

## Budget and Finance: 2013 Fairfax County Budget

Happy 2012... and the 2013 Fairfax County budget discussions are under way! The 2013 budget is formally adopted at the end of April and begins on July 1<sup>st</sup> 2012. As our leaders work towards resolution on the final numbers in this arduous process, they also look at how 2012 is shaping up.

The Fairfax County total budget for full year 2012 is \$6.1 billion and is larger than the budgets of several states. The breakdown of our major revenue categories is, 61.6% from real estate taxes, 15.1% from personal property taxes, 4.5% from sales tax, and 4.3% from BPOL (business, professional and occupational licenses).

The overall health of the economy affects revenue

collection. As of September 2011, Fairfax County has an unemployment rate of 4.6% compared to a national rate of 9%. Real estate values, new car purchases and used car valuations, and the strength of consumer spending are closely watched.

The County is projecting stable residential values with minimal appreciation (.84%). On the personal property tax side, Fairfax County has approximately 950,000 vehicles. New vehicle purchases are up and used care depreciation rates remain stable. Although sales tax receipts have been down in 2011, the County is expecting growth in receipts for 2012 and 2013. In total, the County is projecting a \$130 million increase in revenues for 2013.

On the disbursements side of the general funds budget, the public schools are 52.5% of the budget. Currently, they are projecting an increase of 5% or \$80.5 million in the school transfer. Additional major disbursement increases include compensation for all county employees \$49.9 million, debt service \$16 million, benefits \$11.8, metro/connector \$8.1 million. All in, the projected disbursement increase for 2013 is \$178 million.

In summary, when factoring in the \$66.5 million in balances used in 2012, the County is projecting a shortfall of \$116 million in 2013. The County is also looking at a number of options to close that deficit. These options include agency reductions, possible fee increases, utilizing reserves and reviewing new funding requirements.

The County has set up a website for suggestions. The website address for suggestions for 2013 budget input is: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/fy2013/budget-input.htm>.

*Sean McCarthy*  
Budget and Finance  
Committee Chair

### Rewards for Washington Mill

Dr. Howard has approached the MVCA to ask our members to support Washington Mill Elementary School through their Giant, Safeway and Bottom Dollar rewards cards. This is a great program that enables those stores to give back to the community they serve; it allows a small percentage of every purchase's profit to go to Washington Mill.

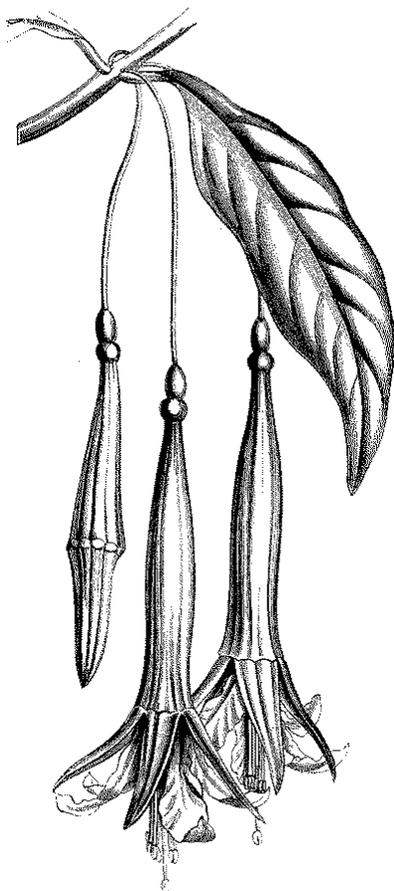
There is no cost to the card holder and the benefits to the school were well into the thousands last year. Thus, this is "free money" to our community and benefits our neighborhood. The Washington Mill PTA and Dr. Howard will have flyers and sign-up sheets at the January meeting. Additionally, you can go to the [giantfood.com/aplus](http://giantfood.com/aplus) website using school ID# 02276.

## Neighborhood Watch

Thanks to the many new volunteers, our patrols are scheduled through March. Thanks to Officer Kottemann, there are new watch signs in the Neighborhood: at Great Neck Ct., on Old Mill beside the Methodist Church, on Cherrytree and Old Mr. Vernon Drive, at Ferry Landing & Mt. Vernon Circle, and at Forest Haven Place and E. Mt. Vernon Highway.

There have been reports of vandalism to mailboxes, suspicious loiterers, and late-night cars parked on our streets. Please note the descriptions, the times and locations, and license plate numbers in any unusual instances like these, and report them to the police at the non-emergency number: 703 360-8400.

*Cóilín Owens*  
Neighborhood Watch Coordinator



## Environment and Recreation

### Fort Hunt Park

In September, the National Park Service (NPS) proposed a series of alternatives for the future development of Fort Hunt Park. The thrust of those alternatives was the removal of all but one of the picnic pavilions and a baseball field and the construction of a visitor facility. The community response was one of widespread and deep-seated opposition, as expressed in public and written comments to the NPS. In light of those comments, the NPS has now informed us that it will not pursue any of the alternatives set out last fall.

The NPS advises that it is still reviewing the public comments and will prepare new alternatives with those comments in mind. The NPS hopes to have some ideas as to how to move forward on Fort Hunt Park development later this month. We are assured that there will be further public discussion of any proposals the NPS puts forward for consideration.

### Invasive Plants Harming the GW Memorial Parkway

Those of you who use the GW Memorial Parkway and the Mt. Vernon Trail will have

readily noticed that natural areas along both are being destroyed by invasive plants. At present, there are only minimal efforts, largely of a voluntary nature, being undertaken to arrest the increasing destruction of trees and native foliage. The National Park Service, while recognizing the problem, argues that it lacks funding to deal with it.

In an effort to address this situation, the Mount Vernon Council of Citizen's Associations (of which we are a member) has adopted and sent a resolution to Congressmen Connolly and Moran. That resolution calls upon the Congressmen to have the Department of Interior provide additional funding to the National Park Service to address the invasive issue. The resolution also calls upon the Congressmen to work within Congress to allocate appropriate funds in the forthcoming fiscal year to Interior for expanding invasive control along the GW Parkway and the Mt. Vernon Trail.

*Mike Habib*  
Environment and Recreation  
Committee Chair

## Public Safety

Winter is clearly here and brings some additional challenges: more darkness, restricted driving visibility, strain on home heating systems, use of fireplaces, oil stoves and other heating sources, snow/ice/slush on road surfaces, less room on snowy/icy streets for parked cars/pedestrians, potential for slips and falls, etc

Please consider wearing some reflective clothing and footwear as well as reflective belts or arm bands when walking or running during near-darkness and darkness.. Consider carrying a cell phone, some ID with home address and/or phone number.as well as a whistle and flashlight.

Remember to keep parked cars locked and articles out of sight.

Check that fire extinguishers are properly charged and that smoke alarms have fresh batteries.

Do NOT dispose of fireplace ashes in wastebaskets nor in the garage. Burning is not a safe option for disposing of Christmas trees and wrapping paper.

One of the best crime prevention measures is exterior lighting. Various types are available including motion-sensitive and/or light sensitive bulbs and/or fixtures. Most of the newer types also save on energy costs.

The January, 2012 MVCA General Meeting will include a presentation by Mrs. Tania Mennes-Jones re the speeding and traffic safety problems on

Cherrytree Drive and the work of the MVCA Task Force she heads. The Task Force has been addressing several possible solutions both for Cherrytree Drive en toto and the area nearest Washington Mill Elementary School (WMES). A survey was done in 2011 upon request to Supervisor Hyland's office and validated the need for traffic calming measures based on both the speed and number of vehicles on Cherrytree Drive. Your feedback and input will be welcome.

All Best Wishes for a Happy and Safe 2012.

*Your Neighbor,  
John A. Hurley  
Public Safety Committee Chair*

## Route 1 Plans and Proposals

Fort Belvoir Main Post (east of US Route 1) has more employees (26,400) than the Pentagon (23,000 employees). The Pentagon has had rail/bus transportation infrastructure since 1976; yet there has been no action on improving the US Route 1 Corridor and providing rail transportation infrastructure down US Route 1 to Fort Belvoir and/or a transportation/transit center at Fort Belvoir. Fortunately, our elected US Congressmen were able to secure funds for widening US Route 1 through Fort Belvoir. Fairfax County

worked hard (and is still working) to secure the money and to plan the road design. But, a transit center and rail mass transit to Fort Belvoir are lacking and are important keys to enable traffic to flow along US Route 1.

Historic dilemma: The widening of US Route 1 with Metrorail mass transit requires a right-of-way that takes out too many businesses. However, US Route 1 widening without mass transit is a no go.

Result ... stalemate

Immediate aims:

- Expand US Route 1 to 6 lanes from the Beltway to the Occoquan.
- Conduct and implement the Mass Transit Study and provide funding for transportation projects.
- Ensure that Route 235 remains two lanes.

What do you think? Send your input to:

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

## Education

### Schools need our help

An easy way to give to our school is through a Grocery store's club card program. Safeway, Giant, and Harris Teeter have established programs to donate funds to our schools. The programs are easy to sign up to use and can be quite beneficial, especially if the community participates en masse. Proceeds from these programs benefit designated schools directly. Shoppers must renew their registration every year. You will need your store card number when you register. To register online, go to the following web sites and follow the simply directions:

*Safeway* - [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com)

*Giant Foods A+ Bonus Bucks* - [www.giantfood.com](http://www.giantfood.com)

*Harris Teeter* - [www.harristeeter.com](http://www.harristeeter.com)

### BoxTops for Education Program

Another easy way to raise school funds is to clip Box Tops. Each Box Top is worth 10 cents. Look for the Box Tops logo on hundreds of products like Cheerios®, Hamburger Helper® and Kleenex®, in almost every aisle of the store. All you need to do is clip and send them to the Main Office. For more information and a complete product list, visit [www.boxtops4education.com](http://www.boxtops4education.com).



### Fairfax County School Growth Update

Fall enrollment increased by approximately 3,200 students between September 2010 and 2011. The student population has grown by 14,100 since fall 2006. Enrollment growth is projected to continue over the next five years to 189,000 students in the 2016-17 school year. The projected growth during this time frame by education level is Elementary School - 4.4%, Middle School - 11.1%, and High School - 4.5%.

*Valerie Schalk-Day*  
Education Committee



## MVCA Membership

Happy 2012 to all our MVCA neighbors! Whether you are an owner or a renter, we welcome you to our civic association.

This is a reminder!

The MVCA annual membership drive begins this month. Please submit your \$20 annual dues after receiving the membership renewal form in the mail. Membership forms can also be downloaded at [www.mountvernoncivicasociation.org](http://www.mountvernoncivicasociation.org) and mailed to MVCA, PO Box 61, Mount Vernon, VA 22121. New members will receive our latest neighborhood directory.

We encourage you to patronize our directory advertisers. Many are local businesses owned by fellow members.

Please remember to fill out your membership form completely.  
Thank You!

<i>Membership and Directory Co-Chair</i>	<i>Elizabeth Bancroft</i>	<i>703.360.4206</i>
<i>Membership and Directory Co-Chair</i>	<i>Ken Poortinga</i>	<i>703.360.7740</i>



TELEPHONE (703) 684-2000  
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CELLULAR (703) 282-3662

**Daniel F. Rinzel**  
ATTORNEY AT LAW

REDMON, PEYTON & BRASWELL, L.L.P.  
510 KING STREET SUITE 301  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314

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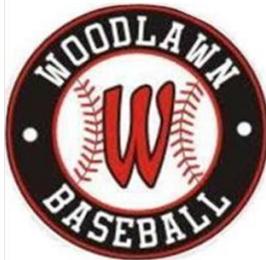
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Woodlawn Little League, a non-profit organization, has been a fixture in the Mount Vernon area for over 45 years, offering kickball, t-ball, and baseball divisions, as well as tournament and instructional opportunities for over 300 youths each year. It is part of our community's past, and with your help can remain an important part of its future. Woodlawn Little League is dedicated to building character, courage and loyalty in our local area youth by providing a fun, safe, and competitive baseball program. All games played locally in the greater Alexandria area!



Be a part of  
Woodlawn Little  
League this year



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<http://www.woodlawnlittleleague.org>

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## Upcoming Events in Mount Vernon

- Jan 11, 2012    Membership meeting  
                   Open to all!  
                   Washington Mill Elementary  
                   7:00 pm pizza;7:30 pm meeting
- Mar 14, 2012    Membership meeting  
                   Open to all!  
                   Washington Mill Elementary  
                   7:00 pm pizza;7:30 pm meeting
- Every night    Neighborhood watch



## Mount Vernon Civic Association, 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: Sean McCarthy .....(703) 360-0372  
 Community Picnic: Jeannine Simmons .....(703) 360-3613  
 Education: Valerie Schalk .....(571) 522-0228  
 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) 780-5218  
 Planning & Zoning: Karan Cerutti .....(703) 360-9559  
 Public Safety: John Hurley.....(703) 799-9353  
 Transportation: Pete Esser .....(703) 799-5150