



# Mount Vernon Civic Association, Inc.

Fall 2013

[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

## Mount Vernon Civic Association General Membership Meeting

**Wednesday,  
October 9, 2013**

### Speaker:

Washington Mill Elementary School Principal Brad Bennink

### Where and When:

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



Greetings to all. On behalf of the MVCA Board of Directors, Officers and Committee Chairpersons, I hope that everyone experienced a relaxing and enjoyable summer. It was a relatively quiet spring and summer in our neighborhoods for which we should be thankful. Mount Vernon is a wonderful place to live and this summer only highlighted that tribute.

Our Annual Neighborhood Picnic back in May was a success thanks to the many who attended and especially to the event organizers,

## President's Message

Ken Poortinga and Jeannine Simmons. Although set-up for the day occurred during rain storms, the sky cleared just as the picnic began. We had an indoor affair using the church hall at St. James for the first time which worked out very well. Planning will soon be underway for next year's picnic – if anyone would like to be involved in the planning please contact one of the MVCA board members or officers.

Please be aware that during the past few weeks there have been a rash of home burglaries during the daytime hours in neighborhoods along the GW Parkway and as close as McNair Drive. Intruders have been kicking-in back doors and taking jewelry, silverware and electronics. The police are searching for the gang responsible for the thefts and ask that everyone be sure to secure their homes, especially when leaving for work, shopping, etc.

The MVCA continues to have open chairmanships for three committees that are important to our representation with the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations. It is essential that MVCA is represented within the council's committee structure as the committees provide a means of communication with the larger Fairfax County community. Its

also our opportunity to both provide input and direction as well as receive information from our county, state and federal representatives and agencies. Committee chairs are needed for the Health & Human Services, the Consumer Affairs, and the Environment & Recreation committees. Please contact me or one of our other committee chairs if you are interested in exploring an opportunity to serving in either of these positions.

We will be having our quarterly members' meeting on October 9 at 7:30pm at Washington Mill Elementary School. Pizza and beverages will be served at beginning at 7:00pm. In addition to our speaker, we will provide you with committee reports, current issues affecting our community, and invite those present to offer questions or comments for the community's consideration. We look forward to seeing you there. As always I invite all to spend some of your time reviewing this newsletter as it contains important information occurring within our community that will be of interest to you. Please do not hesitate to contact me, our directors or committee chairs if we can be of assistance to you.

*Paul Schray, President  
Mount Vernon Civic Association*

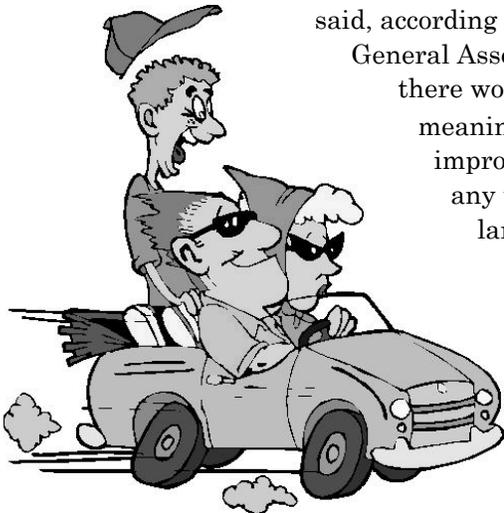
## Transportation

### King of the Road!

Does anyone remember the classic tune “King of the Road”? “Trailers for sale or rent, rooms to let for fifty cents. No phone, no pool, no pets. I ain't got no cigarettes.” Well, that kind of sums up Richmond Highway these days, at least down on our stretch of the road. Instead of “no cigarettes”, however, “no transportation funds” or perhaps “very tight transportation funding, not to be squandered” is closer to the mark. With very limited funds being available, the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation is considering public transit options along Richmond Highway. Concurrently, Fairfax County’s transportation department is ginning up a “community dialogue” aimed at setting spending priorities for the next few years. Expect the release of a proposed project in the next few months, with regional community meetings taking place through mid-November. The next meeting, which will in part cover the Multimodal Transportation Alternatives Analysis, is scheduled for October 9, 2013 at 06:00 pm at the South County Government Center, 8350 Richmond Highway.

### Take me Home, (crumbling) Country Roads!

As to secondary roadways (meaning roads not funded by Uncle Sam), having just returned from Beijing, a city defined by a wave of infrastructure projects completed just in time for the Olympic Games and intended to make the city seem a truly modern metropolis, I was upset to find the new pavement on the street in front of my house already crumbling at the curbless edges. Oh, well. At least the new roads looked nice for a while. That said, according to Virginia General Assembly data, there won't be any meaningful roadway improvements seen any time soon, largely due to inflation, declining



transportation funds (thanks to inflation and the increased cost of paving, and declining fuel tax revenues due to greater vehicular efficiency), and backed-up projects waiting in line for other miscellaneous revenues that will take up any slack in the budget.

### Finally, some good news!

According to the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation, Mulligan Road (with a significant portion to be named after our late local friend and benefactor, Jeff Todd, will be completed in spring 2014. For those new to the area, in September 2012 the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voted to name the segment of the road between Richmond Highway and Pole Road “Jeff Todd Way” in memory of the longtime business and community leader.

### Don't text and drive!

While some of us happily use the WMATA 11Y or Fairfax Connector 101 to get closer to town, many don't. Those of us being “chauffeured” in the splendid luxury of a rebuilt bus with 800,000 miles on the odometer are free to snore, chat, or text. But those sitting at the wheel of their own vehicle had better not do any of the above. Virginia HB 1907 targets the violation of texting while driving. Police may now pull over a driver seen texting whilst driving. A mandatory minimum \$500 fine attaches if the driver was observed driving recklessly and texting at the same time. Lesson: don't text and drive.

### Signing off!

As of July 1, 2013, Fairfax County started removing signs that are illegally put on or along selected roads. This includes political campaign signs, advertising signs and more. Signs are picked up every week between Tuesday and Thursday by the Sheriff's Community Labor Force. Signs ***are not*** cleaned up based on public complaints.

The county is removing signs to assist the Virginia Department of Transportation—but VDOT is still responsible for maintaining the roads.

### What You Should Know

Signs (and only signs will be removed from roads—not trash or litter) will be removed from only selected major roads (and not neighborhood roads) across the county.



To remove signs from neighborhood streets and other roads, create or join a VDOT Adopt-a-Highway group.

The clean-up program does not address signs on private property. For complaints about signs on private property only, an online form is available at:

[http://fido.fairfaxcounty.gov/DP1/Metroplex/FairfaxCounty/customerservice/WIZ\\_CSR.asp](http://fido.fairfaxcounty.gov/DP1/Metroplex/FairfaxCounty/customerservice/WIZ_CSR.asp)

**Contact VDOT about signs that cause a safety hazard on the roads** at 1-800-FOR-ROAD.

After the county removes a sign, it will be stored for five calendar days at the I-66 Transfer Station where it may be reclaimed. Signs will be destroyed after five days. However, **VDOT's Adopt-a-Highway groups may collect signs at any time on their designated roads, and they may destroy these signs immediately.** Sounds like a good way to channel some teenage energy! For more information about the county's sign removal program, call 703-324-SIGN (7446).

*Pete Esser,  
Transportation Committee Chair*

**Join the Fun and Festivities at  
Mount Vernon Neighborhood  
Friends' 67th Annual  
Birthnight Supper and Ball!**

The highlight of the year for the Neighborhood Friends of Mount Vernon is the Annual Birthnight Supper and Ball. This year's 67th Annual Birthnight Supper and Ball will be held on Sunday, February 16, 2014 at the Mount Vernon Inn Complex. Although this special event is organized by the Neighborhood Friends of Mount Vernon, you do not need to be a member to attend this unique and festive evening and you are invited to join in this unique tradition!

For more information about the event, purchasing tickets or sponsoring the Birthnight Supper and Ball please contact, Tammy Eddy, Mount Vernon's Membership Manager at (703) 799- 5075 or [teddy@mountvernon.org](mailto:teddy@mountvernon.org).

**Two Arrested in High School Football Donation Scam**

McLean Police District – Police charged two men after they allegedly posed as football players seeking cash donations for their high school football team on Sunday, August 11.

A woman who donated \$20 to what she believed to be a good cause, contacted police after she researched and discovered that the school the suspects claimed to attend did not have a football team.

Police responded to the CVS at 1452 Chain Bridge Road, McLean at about 12:30 p.m. After an investigation, Kevin Crouch, of Temple Hills, MD

and Jerell Henry of Washington, D.C., both aged 20, were each charged with one count of forgery. Police believe there may be more than two dozen people who made cash donations to the men.

At this time of year, there are many school, sports, and civic organizations accepting donations around the community. Contributors should be familiar with the organizations and, as the victim in this case, check the validity of the organization prior to donating. Typically, organizations accept cash or online donations; not strictly cash.

Anyone with information is asked to contact Crime Solvers by phone at 1-866-411-TIPS/8477, e-mail at [www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org](http://www.fairfaxcrimesolvers.org) or text "TIP187" plus your message to CRIMES/274637 or call Fairfax County Police at 703-691-2131.

## Education

### Opportunity Neighborhood

Opportunity Neighborhood is an effort in the Mt. Vernon area to bring schools, community and county government together to secure success for every child, where families and government work together to support children from cradle to college to career.

Opportunity Neighborhood framework is funded by a grant from Capital One and is a framework to bring existing efforts together under one umbrella to support our neighborhood students.

For more information or to volunteer with Opportunity Neighborhood, contact Karla Bruce at 703-324-5360, or [Karla.Bruce@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Karla.Bruce@fairfaxcounty.gov).

### New Principal at Washington Mill

Brad Bennink has replaced Tish Howard as the Principal at WMES. Brad had previously been the Assistant Principal at WMES.

### SOL Scores

The Standards of learning (SOL) scores are used to measure student performance. The schools in the Mt. Vernon pyramid score lower overall than most other schools in the county. However, when you break the results down by ethnicity our students are actually scoring roughly on par with their counterparts in the county. What this really points to is the large achievement gap between black & Hispanic students compared to white & Asian students.

*Bruce Kitchen  
Education Committee  
Chair*



## Public Safety

Hope all had a fine and safe summer. As we enter the fall season, days become shorter and will become darker earlier, even more so when Standard Time returns. When adjusting your clocks ("fall backwards") please change your batteries on smoke and carbon monoxide (CO) detectors and check your flashlight batteries and the pressure dials on fire extinguishers. Review main and alternate escape routes and an emergency gathering spot.

Bikes need lights and/or reflectors and bike riders and joggers should consider "high viz" and reflective helmets and clothing. Many athletic clothing and shoe manufacturers incorporate safety stripes in their gear.

Carry a cell phone, ID, and a whistle when jogging, bicycling or walking.

Be careful near school buses and do NOT pass a school bus with its red lights flashing. If in doubt STOP. Watch for pupils running to or from bus stops or buses.

Washington Mill ES has substantial school bus and private car traffic. Be extremely careful in that area including the junction of Cherrytree Drive (25 mph

speed limit) with Mount Vernon Memorial Highway AKA Route 235 (45 mph).

The FCPD reports an uptick in home burglaries from the northern areas of Fort Hunt Road to as close as McNair Drive. Entries are often from back doors or windows. Keep rear doors locked if you are working in the front yard and vice versa.

Be wary of individuals seeming to solicit work without a solicitor's permit and/or those who either singly or as a pair ask questions about "Mr X or the ABC family who lived here 25 years ago..." or ask to borrow something or to enter to "...use the phone" thus distracting the resident.

Parked cars should be locked and garage doors should be locked. Motorized scooters and mini-bikes are very vulnerable to theft particularly if unlicensed. The FCPD has a free pamphlet available at the Mount Vernon Station re laws and rules for such vehicles.

Light- and motion-sensitive lighting at night is a very effective crime deterrent.

*Your neighbor,  
John Hurley*

## Budget and Finance

We hope everyone had a fun summer and a great start to the new school year. Since our last writing, the 2014 full year budget was adopted on April 30<sup>th</sup> with a real estate tax rate of \$1.085 per \$100 of assessed value.

### Fairfax County Full Year 2013 Carryover

On September 10 2013, Fairfax County adopted the 2013 Carryover budget. The FC full year books close on June 30<sup>th</sup> and, by law, FC is required to operate with a balanced budget. This positive balance is the “carryover” into the 2014 budget and amounts to \$93.56 million.

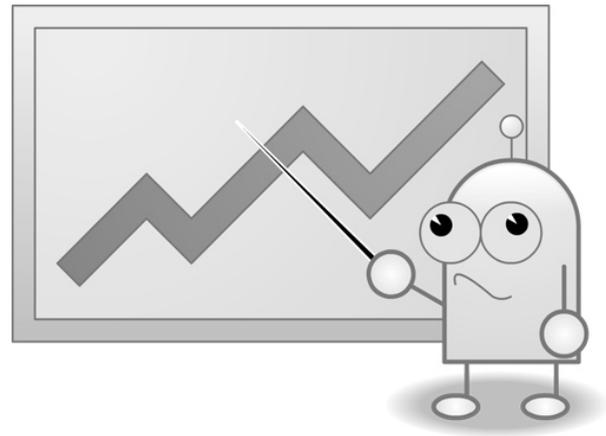
The extra money was accumulated from two sources. The first is an increase in revenue over what was budgeted on real estate and property taxes in the amount of \$30.2 million. The second was an “expenditure savings” of \$63.36 million. However, about \$37 million is already committed to budgeted items in 2013 but not yet paid. This leaves us with a total of about \$56 million in a General Fund budget of approximately \$3.6 billion.

The highlights of how the Board of Supervisors with County Executive Long decided to spend the extra money is as follows: spend some on one time expenditures like ADA requirements and artificial turf in the school system; and set aside \$9.8 million for one time expenditures in the 2015 budget and traffic calming (\$350,000). The full list of expenditures can be found on the Fairfax County website.

\$10.8 million of the savings will be spent on bonuses for county employees. Rather than offering a COLA or Market Rate Percentage Adjustment, which would give employees at the higher end of the pay scale higher adjustments, they are offering a one-time, flat \$850 per employee payment. “This action rewards all employees evenly across the board.” It remains to be seen whether County employees will agree such a plan is “even” on a percentage of salary basis, which begs the question “What is FC doing to attract and retain talent in a competitive market.”

### Infrastructure and Finance Committee

In February of 2013, Chairman Bulova proposed the creation of a working group for Capital Facilities and Debt Management. The committee is composed of three School Board members and three Board



Supervisors. This committee was tasked to jointly review the school system and County government’s capital needs and fiscal constraints.

At their first meeting in April, they renamed the working group the Infrastructure and Finance Committee and specified the purpose of this new group would be to provide more flexibility, capacity, and funding to meet the needs of Fairfax County public school system and all Fairfax County residents.

The Department of Management and Budget gave a presentation on Fairfax County debt management. Those interested in how our County finances capital projects and issues bonds will find this to be a helpful overview. Did you know that FC is not allowed to spend more than 10% of the general funds disbursements to fund debt service? We are around 8.45% and climbing.

In conclusion, our infrastructure is aging and our school system is expanding. FC will be borrowing money in what is projected to be a rising interest rate environment. Maintaining a balance between growing county revenue without increasing relative individual tax rates will be a challenge.

Visit the Fairfax county department of management and budget website: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/).

*Sean McCarthy,  
Budget and Finance Committee Chair*

## Planning and Zoning

Happy Fall to all. Hope you had a great summer that went by too quickly. Following are the issues presented to the committee.

The Department of Planning and Zoning, Department of Housing and Community Development, and other County agencies have been investigating opportunities to establish a housing project that would serve as long term, permanent housing predominantly for small households with an income of not more than sixty percent of the area median income with a small percentage of units available to households with higher incomes. County initially requested input on a Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment for Residential Studio Units (RSU) with a mid-June 13 suspense. The project is looking at transforming both single family dwellings and apartments into RSUs. Many questions were asked and answered over the summer meetings. We still have many questions prior to voting on issue. The public hearing schedule is Sep 25 – written questions only, October 2 -questions in person will be taken, November 20 – you may sign up in advance to speak on the Planning Commission website. All meetings convene at 8:15 PM. The County website is <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/zoningordinance/proposed/>.

Lindsey Doane, Marketing and Communications Manager with SFDC, briefed us on all their accomplishments. The power point slides she used are on MVCA's website.

A&R Development briefed us initially on the property at 2317 Huntington Avenue. They have requested rezoning from C-5 to PRM to allow mixed use development. It is right next to Huntington Metro. The 1.04 acre lot would be a sustainable use project with a green roof, on-sight stormwater management and Traffic Demand Management. It would accommodate approximately 141 residential units with structured parking and ground floor retail. They will brief us again once traffic and retail issues are decided.

Neal McBride of Newington Forest was concerned that the county owned property, American Foursquare Property, is disintegrating and a current eyesore to those that walk by. He's asked that MVCCA pressure the County to upkeep it.

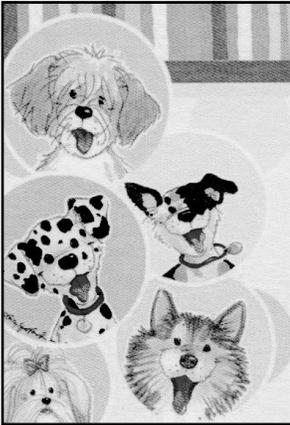
Lastly, but not leastly, Verizon is requesting a Special Exception to reduce the land area of its switching station property at 2806 Popkins Lane. The property is 5.6 acres. They only need 1.3. The remaining property would be used for single family homes. The rep from Verizon explained that the switching station handles land line use only, and has nothing to do with Verizon Mobile. The area is heavily wooded and the developer has reported to keep as many trees as possible.

*Karan Cerutti,  
Planning and Zoning Committee Chair*

Ladies from the Yacht Haven Garden Club recently beautified the entrance to Yacht Haven at Neptune Drive. From left, Babs McClendon, Terra Defibaugh, Peggy Pearsall, and Denise Wight.

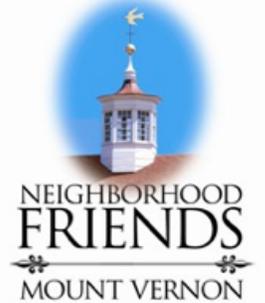


# Neighborhood Friends of Mount Vernon



**Biscuit Break**  
**Dog Walking and Pet Sitting**  
 P.O. Box 90462  
 Alexandria, VA 22309  
 703.799.2993  
 biscuit.break@verizon.net

Membership in the Neighborhood Friends of Mount Vernon allow for many benefits and privileges. One benefit is the ability to purchase Mount Vernon Commemorative Home Plaques and Personalized Five Farm Maps. The opportunity to purchase these special items is an exclusive benefit for members of the Neighborhood Friends of Mount Vernon.



The unique commemorative plaque recognizes homes that rest within the boundaries of George Washington's historic Five-Farms. The plaque is a nine-inch oval bearing George Washington's elegant inscribed cipher in the center. It is available in solid bronze or bronze-finish aluminum. Both metals are durable and appropriate for indoor or outdoor display. The plaque is accompanied by an official Certificate of Registry, which notes the home site's permanent address and the plaque's registry number.

The personalized Five Farm Maps are an authentic reproduction of George Washington's own map of his Five Farms which shows what the landscape would have looked like 200 years ago. Each map is customized with your name and shows the location of your house on the original estate. Each map is (27 inches by 21 inches) and is matted in a handsome wooden frame with reflection control, non-glare glass. The site of the home is symbolized by a marker, and your name is penned in calligraphy.

For more information on becoming a member of the Neighborhood Friends of Mount Vernon and to purchase a plaque or map, please contact Tammy Eddy, Mount Vernon's Membership Manager at (703)799-5075 or teddy@mountvernon.org.

**SERVING MT. VERNON & YOU!**  
 Outstanding Service to You & the Community




8140 Stacey Rd., Listed at \$1,249,000  
 See more at RachelCarterRealty.com

**What a Year this is!**  
*Did you know that 2013 is turning out to be a positive time for sellers and buyers? Contact your neighbor and neighborhood expert - I'm ready to discuss your needs!*



**Rachel Carter, ASP, ESRES**  
 International Sterling Society  
 2012 NVAR Multi Million Dollar Club  
 310 King St., Alexandria, VA 22314  
 Rcarter@cbmove.com  
 703.851.4207







**Upcoming Events in  
Mount Vernon**

**2013**

October 9 .....MVCA general membership Meeting

**2014**

January 9 .....MVCA general membership Meeting

February 16....Neighborhood Friends of Mount Vernon Birthnight Supper and Ball

**Mount Vernon Civic Association, Inc.**

**Officers**

President: Paul Schray .....(703) 619-9377  
1st Vice President: Pete Esser.....(703) 799-5150  
2nd Vice President: John Skudlarek .....(703) 704-5213  
Secretary: Karan Cerutti .....(703) 778-4442  
Treasurer: Tom Cleary .....(703) 360-3903

**Directors**

Mike Habib.....(703) 360-7742  
Ken Poortinga .....(703) 360-7740  
Dan Rinzel .....(703) 360-4627

**Committee Chairs**

Budget and Finance: Sean McCarthy .....(703) 360-0372  
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  
Planning & Zoning: Karan Cerutti .....(703) 778-4442  
Public Safety: John Hurley.....(703) 799-9353  
Transportation: Pete Esser .....(703) 799-5150