



Mount Vernon Civic Association, Inc.

Summer 2013

www.MountVernonCivicAssociation.org

Belle Rive • Ferry Landing Estates • Ferry Landing Villa • Ferry Point Estates • Mount Vernon Forest • Mount Vernon Grove • Mount Vernon Park • Oxford • Riverbend • Riverwood • Vernon Square • Washington Woods • Westgate • Wycliffe on the Potomac • Yacht Haven Estates

Mount Vernon Civic Association General Membership Meeting

May 8, 2013

Speaker:

Zach Cafritz,
Legislative assistant to our congressman, Jim Moran

Topic:

Current legislation sponsored by Rep. Moran, plus other issues of interest to our community

Where and When:

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

President's Message

I hope that all are enjoying the welcomed Spring weather that our area has experienced over these past several weeks. Its time again for our general membership meeting scheduled for Wednesday, May 8 at 7:30pm in the library at Washington Mill Elementary School. Pizza and beverages will be served at 7:00pm. We hope to see you there.

Our featured speaker for the meeting will be Zach Cafritz who is the Legislative Assistant to our Congressman, Jim Moran. Mr. Cafritz will share with us legislation sponsored by Rep. Moran that benefits our community along with other issues working their way through Congress that are of interest to many of our neighbors. Mr. Cafritz will also provide us with contact information and ways in which Rep. Moran's office is available to assist the public on a variety of matters. There will be an opportunity to present questions as well so please join us for this informative meeting.

Please be sure to join us at the MVCA Annual Picnic on Saturday, May 18, at St. James Episcopal Church. There will be burgers, hot dogs, brats and beverages along with live music for entertainment. We look forward to seeing you there!

*Paul Schray, President
Mount Vernon Civic Association*



- Our 7th Annual MVCA Community Picnic will be held on Saturday, May 18th from 1-5 PM on the grounds of St. James Episcopal Church at 5614 Old Mill Road.
- We will have barbecued burgers, hot dogs and brats, cold drinks and more. Live music by Johnny Artis, door prizes and a moon bounce!
- Please plan to come and help make this our best picnic yet! The picnic is open to all residents within the MVCA community and everything is absolutely free. Be sure to invite your neighbors!
- Volunteers are always welcome too!
- Please call Ken Poortinga at (703) 360-7740 or email him at ken8487@verizon.net.
- We look forward to seeing you on May 18th at St. James! Rain or Shine!

The Watch Report

Reading the logs from our nightly patrols over the past three months, I can gratefully report that the liveliest aspect of the nightlife in our neighborhood comes from our furred and feathered friends: foxes, raccoons, coyotes, flying squirrels, and owls.

Other less welcome nightlife, however, includes thefts of license plates (garage your vehicles if you can) and persistent illegal parking of commercial vehicles. Dusk-time dog walkers



are observed without adequate reflective clothing: this is more hazardous than it appears. Our patrols report that whereas the MVYC gate is always closed, the Mansion House gate seldom is. As the summer months approach, this is a potential trouble spot.

Club members please note!

For daily police reports on incidents along Rte. 1 and on the fringes of our neighborhood (and other more upbeat news), check the Mount Vernon Patch (www.mountvernonpatch.com).

Post the non-emergency number 703 691-2131 by your phone; and put it in your automatic dialing list.

Thanks to our volunteers: your reports are variously lyrical, amusing, caring, lapidary. The community appreciates these lonely night details beyond the requirements of citizenship and the furthest city lights.

New volunteers always welcome. Call (703) 780-5218

Cóilín Owens, Coordinator



The Texas Gate at Mount Vernon Estate

Budget and Finance Committee Report

2014 Fairfax County Budget

The 2014 Fairfax County (FC), full year (FY), proposed budget plan was released on March 5th, 2013. The Board of Supervisors advertised tax rate was issued at \$1.095 as suggested by County executive Long. The 2013 adopted rate was \$1.075. Therefore the ceiling for the adopted budget on April 30th, can be no higher, but the adopted rate can be lower.

So, on April 23th, the FY 2014 Board marked up the budget and decided on a 1 cent tax increase to \$1.085. The one cent increase will amount to about \$20.6 million in additional revenue or on average about a \$200.00 tax increase. The formal adoption of the budget will be on April 30th.

Highlights of the 2014 FY budget include a 2% increase in the FCPS transfer amount. The 2014 budget does not include any compensation increases for FC employees with the exception of public safety employees to maintain their salary scales. In addition, the total number of county staff positions will be reduced by a net of 41.

Expansion of the head start program remains unfunded with about 800 children on the waiting list. There are also concerns over federal funding being reduced or eliminated due to the sequestration.

Effects of Sequestration

In the Chairman's remarks for the fiscal 2014 mark-up, concern over the sequestration cuts is palpable. "Many of our County residents who are employed by the Federal government will have their paychecks reduced by as much as 10% to 20% when they are furloughed during the months ahead." The county is already seeing the effects in reduced sales tax collections.

At the Mt Vernon Council level, we continue to advocate for more transparency in the budget and better communication to FC residents. FC has numerous revenue sources including local taxes and state and federal transfers. Money ebbs and flows in these budgets due to the whims of elected officials at the state and federal level. In the meetings ahead we will be discussing, with county officials, how this money is tracked after a budget is passed.

I look forward to reporting the adoption of the FY 2014 Fairfax County Budget at our next meeting. The link to the Fairfax County Budget page is www.FairfaxCounty.gov/dmb/.

Sean McCarthy, Budget and Finance Chair



It's picnic time!

Public Safety

The good news is that longer hours of sunshine encourage more outdoor activities such as walking, jogging, bicycling and BBQ.. Please consider use of helmets when biking and equipping bikes with lights, bells and reflectors. Bike stores and sporting goods/ outdoor stores have a great variety of after-market safety equipment for all types and sizes of bikes. Reflective belts, vests and arm/legbands are readily available. Joggers and walkers are encouraged to carry some ID , cell-phone, and small flashlight and/or whistle.

We need to be aware of fire safety when using BBQ grills. Be very careful near dwellings, garages and decks and when disposing of ashes. Fire-starter liquid is highly flammable The use of charcoal grills in a garage or dwelling is very dangerous due to carbon monoxide fumes and risk of fire.

There has been one very recent late afternoon incident of a parked vehicle losing a rear window to a BB . Such incidents run the risk of personal injury as well as significant economic costs including loss of work-time, FCPD response, window debris cleanup and repair/replacement. Report all vandalism and graffiti incidents to the FCPD.

Remember to keep parked vehicles and garages locked. Outdoor lighting with motion or light-level sensors is highly recommended

Be ready for emergencies- water, food, flashlights, batteries, first-aid kit, car plug in cell-phone chargers, battery-powered cell-phone chargers, hand-crank and/or battery powered radio with weather channels, etc.

Consider enrolling in the County's CERT course (free) run by the FC Fire and Rescue Department to learn self-help techniques in the event of natural or man-made hazards and disasters. Google (Fairfax County Community

Emergency Response Team) to learn more about the free program and how to enroll.

Google (Fairfax County Community Emergency Alert Network) to learn how to enroll free in the CEAN emergency alert system.


Virginia's Hurricane Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday is May 25-31. Details at www.tax.virginia.gov

Know in advance where to shelter in your dwelling in the event of tornados.

Go to www.ReadyVirginia.gov for information on preparations for hurricane and flooding season in Virginia.

Call 911 for POLICE/FIRE/AMBULANCE when immediate response is needed. Give full address

Your Neighbor, John A. Hurley
703 799 9353



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



TRANSAMERICA

Agency Network 4212 Ferry Landing Road Alexandria, VA 22309 Home 703 360 7740 Cell 703 798 6243 kpooitinga@gmail.com	Ken Poortinga Agent
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Picnic With the Washingtons!

Become a Neighborhood Friend of Mount Vernon and picnic with the Washingtons!

The annual Mount Vernon Neighborhood Friends Picnic will take place Sunday, August 25, 2013

Take in one of the most iconic views in North America from the East Lawn of Mount Vernon while enjoying picnic fare and music with family and neighborhood friends.

This event is just one of the benefits you receive when you become a Neighborhood Friend of Mount Vernon. Don't miss out on this special evening of food, fun and friendship.

For more information on how to become a member of Mount Vernon's Neighborhood Friends, please call Tammy Eddy, Mount Vernon's membership manager at (703) 799-5075 or email at teddy@mountvernon.org



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The MVCA Directory

Our new 2013-2014 directory is ready to be sent to the printer and will soon be in your mailboxes! Yes, we are mailing the directories this year! Members who have joined the MVCA should be receiving the directories before the end of May.

We'd like to thank those volunteers who helped with the directory, including Tom Cleary, Sue Fairchild, Charles and Caleb Sims. We'd also like to thank all those members who have offered to join our various committees. Paul Schray will be contacting you soon about our committee needs.

Thank you to all retiring block captains: Mary Ellen Ackerson, Jackie McGinty, Peggy Wagoner, Bette Zalatel, and Jane Crowley. We are grateful for all your help and work over the years for the MVCA!

We say thanks and welcome to our new block captains: Mary Busse, Val Vanchieri, Paul

Wagoner, Tania Jones, Sara Rothwell, Suzanne Murtha, Dave Richmond, Cindy Brown, John Skudlarek, Diane Wilson, Chris Ruckman, Compton and Mary French, Karen Mitchell, Cynthia and Jason Leaver, and Sherry Nachnani.

We still have a need for volunteer block captains for: Brookmay Ct, Ferry Landing Court (old section and new section), Nellie Custis Ct, Old Mill Road, 9323-9424 Old Mount Vernon Rd, Riverwood Ct, and 9114-9124 Volunteer Dr. Can you help?

Remember our 7th Annual MVCA picnic on May 18th on the grounds of St. James Episcopal Church. Picnic runs from 1 PM - 5 PM with barbequed burgers, hot dogs, brats, cold drinks and more. Live music from Johnny Artis, Moon Bounce for the kids and door prizes. All within the Mount Vernon Civic Association area are invited and everything is provided. Invite your neighbors and we hope to see you there.

Elizabeth Bancroft 703-360-4206

Ken Poortinga 703-360-7740

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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@chmove.com
703.851.4207




Roy Rogers®

Todd Restaurants Inc.
9024 Patton Blvd.
Alexandria, VA 22309
jbkhtodd@aol.com
office 703-799-4646 • fax 703-799-9666
cell 703-615-7288

Education

New Fairfax County Public Schools Superintendent Selected

Dr. Garza was appointed Superintendent of Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) by the School Board effective July 1, 2013. Dr. Garza comes to FCPS from her current position as Superintendent of Lubbock, Tx schools. Prior to that she was the Chief Academic Officer for Houston, Tx schools. While Lubbock is a much smaller district than FCPS, Houston is a huge school system comparable to FCPS. You can learn more about Dr. Garza on the FCPS website: <http://www.fcps.edu/supt/suptoffice/garzabio.shtml?newsid=2228>

Speaking of new administrators a new Principal for WMES will be in place for the new school year.

Looking for Summer Activities for Your Students?

There are lots of summer education/fun opportunities for your student around our area. Here are some websites that'll help you find one that's right for your child.

Fairfax County Public Schools

<http://www.fcps.edu/news/summer/>

Fairfax Park Authority

http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rec/rec_camps.htm

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/rec-pac/>

Around the DC Area

<http://www.our-kids.com/public/t/?f=4&s=119>

LEGO Engineering

http://play-well.org/schedule/class/list/county/Fairfax%20County/county_id/133/type/camp

Have a great summer!

Bruce Kitchen

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



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Daniel F. Rinzel
 ATTORNEY AT LAW

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

The Seventh Annual Mount Vernon Civic Association Picnic



Barbecued burgers
hot dogs
brats, and all the fixings
cold drinks
live entertainment
great door prizes,
and a moon bounce.



St. James Episcopal Church
5614 Old Mill Road
May 18, 2013
1:00 - 5:00 PM

Free to all MVCA community residents
Fun for the whole family!