



Mount Vernon Civic Association, Inc.

Summer 2014

www.MountVernonCivicAssosication.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

THE EIGHTH ANNUAL MVCA COMMUNITY PICNIC

Is coming soon!

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 17, 1-5 PM. The MVCA picnic is open to all residents within the MVCA area and everything is absolutely **free!**

- Barbecued burgers
- Hot dogs
- Brats
- Cold drinks
- Sides
- And more!
- Live music from Johnny Artis
- Door prizes
- And a moon bounce for the kids!



Please plan to come and help make this our best picnic ever! Be sure to invite your neighbors!

The festivities will be held again this year on the grounds of St. James Episcopal Church, 5614 Old Mill Rd.

Volunteers are always welcome!

Please call Ken Poortinga at (703) 360-7740 or email him at ken8487@verizon.net.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Please accept this newsletter as an invitation to join the MVCA officers, directors and committee chairs to two very important events scheduled for this month. First, the next MVCA general membership meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 14 in the Washington Mill Elementary School library. As always, you will be provided with committee reports and current issues affecting our community. Our guest speaker for the

MVCA

Membership Meeting

Wednesday, May 14, 2014

Washington Mill Elementary

7:00 PM pizza and soda

7:30 PM program

Guest Speaker

Michael Bohn, Author of
Mount Vernon Revisited.

evening will be Michael Bohn a local author, who will spend part of the meeting sharing information from his recently published book, *Mount Vernon Revisited*, which touches upon the 340-year history of the Mount Vernon area. I have seen Mr. Bohn's presentation and found it to be entertaining and informative with the many maps, drawings, photographs and stories he provided as he described the early uses and current conditions of many known and forgotten establishments located in the Mount Vernon area. Please join us at 7:30pm for the start of the meeting or stop by at 7:00pm for pizza and beverages. We look forward to seeing you there.

This invitation also requests your presence at the Eighth Annual MVCA Picnic scheduled for Saturday, May 17 from 1:00pm – 5:00pm at St. James Episcopal Church.

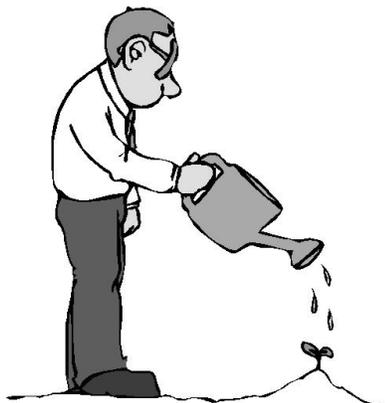
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There will be live music, hamburgers, hot dogs, brats, salads, sides, beverages door prizes and moon bounce – all free of charge! The picnic is open to all residents within the MVCA community and will be held rain or shine so please join your neighbors at this popular event.

I would also like to recognize the addition of two MVCA residents to senior posts at the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations. Judy Harbeck was elected to serve as one of the three co-chairs of the organization. Judy previously chaired the MVCCA's Education Committee for many years and brings an insider's knowledge of the MVCCA's operations to her new office. Also, Stephen Markman was elected as treasurer. We are thankful to both for their dedication to the MVCCA and look forward to their leadership.

Please spend a moment to review this newsletter as it contains important information occurring within our community that will be of interest to you. 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*



PLANNING AND ZONING

The Lorton Landfill Project continues. The Planning Commission recommended approval of an amended EnviroSolution, Inc (ESI), recommendation. The recommendation is now with a newly formed subcommittee who will review the recommendation and work with local communities on issues. The amendments are: lowered height of the landfill from 400 feet, reduced the requested term of operation by 27%, and is considering replacing the wind turbines with another reusable energy source, possibly solar panels. The amendment goes to the Board of Supervisors May 13, 4:30 PM, at the County Gov't Ctr. As always, the specific details of the project are on the P&Z page of the MVCCA website. The numerous petitions/letters of support and opposition are on the website, too.

The committee saw two presentations of a series aimed to educate the P&Z committee in relation to the Mt Vernon District, with the emphasis on the Richmond Highway Corridor. The committee would like to come up with a process to monitor current development and applications of interest. The committee also wants to develop a checklist for future developers coming through MVCCA. The committee wants to fully understand by-right development and which parcels of land are applicable on Richmond Highway.

Marianne Gardner, Director Planning Division, DPZ also spoke. Her focus was on the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan and Fairfax Forward. The Power Point presentation is on MVCCA P&Z webpage under the April meeting. Regina Coyle, Assistant Director, Zoning Evaluation Division, DPZ was the second briefer. She focused on land use terms and applications. This presentation is also on the MVCCA P&Z webpage.

Reference the Residential Studio Apartments (RSU) project. The update was that Tim Sergeant, chair of the sub-committee is still working the issue. Stay tuned for more info. The proposal data is on the MVCCA P&Z webpage.

*Karan Cerutti
Planning and Zoning Committee*

AIRCRAFT NOISE

Over the past couple of years aircraft noise has escalated in the Mount Vernon area. Air controllers at Reagan National Airport (DCA) have evidently been advising commercial pilots to save time and fuel by veering over our neighborhood rather than making their turns further downstream. Whether arriving or departing from DCA, pilots fly lower over our neighborhood than they did in the past (often below 1500 feet).

We are now enduring a steep increase in overflights in the early morning (before 7 am) and in the late night (10-11 pm), and during certain busy hours during the day. Long-time residents of the Mount Vernon neighborhood can attest to this, and will recall a previous effort—successful—to curtail the erosion of our quality of life. When we moved to this neighborhood we were aware that we were in the flight paths of military aircraft. However, we did not bargain for the recent changes in the Reagan Airport protocols which were initiated without any notice to homeowners.

This needs to be challenged. If it is not, we may well see further increases in noise pollution.

A visit to the Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority website (www.mwaa.com) is instructive. Figure 2 provides a graphic image of the average daily flight patterns of aircrafts arriving and leaving DCA, in addition to other overflights both military and commercial. It also



provides information on the number of complaints received and the number of citizens making these complaints. The last year for which a complete statistical report is available is 2012.

Most relevant to any complaints are reports from the mandatory noise monitors distributed throughout the metropolitan area. These monitors record the decibel levels from overflights. Monitor #19, North Mount Vernon—the one that would validate our experience--has not been functioning for several years. Reports from the monitors in relatively uninhabited areas are. This raises a question about how seriously they are likely to entertain citizen complaints.

If you are concerned about this—waked up early, prevented from getting to sleep, or annoyed by fifteen overflights in a single afternoon hour—and wish to protest, call the DCA complaints number (703) 417-1204. If you reach a live person, be prepared for prevarication. However, your name, the time at which you called, and the subject of your call will be recorded. Alternatively, you can spell out your complaint on the website. The more complaints made by different concerned citizens the better are the prospects of arresting this decline.

Cóilín & Julianne Owens



BUDGET AND FINANCE

The 2015 Fairfax County (FC), fiscal year, budget mark-up was released on April 22nd. The Chairman sums up the budget challenges best. "The bad news is that only residential values are rising; business taxes are flat and commercial assessments are .1% decrease from Fiscal Year 2014. Combine this with an increase in our Fairfax County Public School student population, increased needs for human services, stressed-out County employees who have endured pretty much stagnant compensation for five years, and we end up with a pretty challenging budget brew."

So, with this back drop, our County leaders raised the real estate tax rate a 1/2 penny to 1.09. This will add, on average, \$25 dollars more to our tax bill. We should expect, on average, about \$357 added to our real estate tax bill.

This extra revenue, combined with budget cutbacks in other areas of the County budget, will allow for an additional 1% or \$17 million to be added to the school transfer. The total additional money transferred to FCPS for 2015 will be about \$51 million. The FCPS had requested a 5.7 % increase in the transfer.

Areas in the budget where the County is cutting back include reductions in fire and rescue large apparatus and ambulance replacement, capital renewal pay down and information technology projects.



The County is also going to raise fees in some areas to help raise money. These fee increases include raising School Age Child Care or SACC fees by 5%, sewer service charges, animal shelter adoption fees and increases in the storm water services district tax and EMS fees.

Lastly, County Chairman Bulova authorized the formation of a county meals tax task force at the April 22nd meeting. The task force will investigate the desirability of a meals tax. Expect this to heat up in the fall as both sides discuss the pros and cons of the meals tax. A 4% meals tax would add about \$88 million in additional revenue.

The 2015 budget documents can be found online at fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/. The formal adoption of the budget takes place on April 29th. The new fees take effect July 1st 2014. As always, please feel free to email me at mclucid@verizon.net.

Sean McCarthy, Budget and Finance Chair

Summer Camp Opportunities

Here are some fun learning opportunities for your kids.

Arcadia Farm

<http://arcadiafood.org/arcadia-farm-camp>

Virginia Space Camp

<http://vaspaceflightacademy.org/>

Alexandria Archaeology Camp

<http://www.alexandriava.gov/historic/info/default.aspx?id=28120>

Fairfax Collegiate camps

<http://fairfaxcollegiate.com/Locations/Alexandria>

Fairfax Park Authority Camps

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

EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS

School Budget

On February 6, the School Board adopted the school system's FY 2015 Advertised Budget of \$2.5 Billion, a net increase of 2.4 percent, or \$59.4 million, from the FY 2014 Approved Budget. The budget process continues until May when the School Board adopts the FY 2015 Approved Budget on May 22. This budget was developed to address significant cost drivers:

- Enrollment and demographics (\$25.8 million) – Growth of 15,603 students since FY 2010, many of whom require multiple services; 28.0 percent of students are projected to be eligible for Free or Reduced Price Meals, and 15.4 percent of students eligible for ESOL services.
- Retirement rates (\$38.9 million) – Primarily driven by increases in the state-mandated contribution rate for the Virginia Retirement System.
- Health insurance rates (\$23.9 million)
- Step increases for eligible employees (\$41.0 million)

You can find more details about the budget online:

<http://www.fcps.edu/fs/budget/documents/advertised/2015/FY15AdvertisedHighlights.pdf>

Have a fun, safe summer

*Bruce Kitchen
MVCA Education Chair*

THE EIGHTH ANNUAL MOUNT VERNON CIVIC ASSOCIATION PICNIC



Saturday, May 17

1:00 – 5:00 PM

St. James Episcopal Church
5614 Old Mill Road

Hot dogs, hamburgers, brats, cold drinks, and more...live entertainment with Johnny Artis...door prizes...moon bounce...fun for all, and free to all residents of the MVCA community! Invite your neighbors!



FRIENDS OF MOUNT VERNON

Join the Neighborhood Friends of Mount Vernon Today!

An invitation to the Neighborhood Friends of Mount Vernon Family Night Picnic is just one of the fantastic benefits you receive when you become a Neighborhood Friends member. This year's picnic will be held on Sunday, August 24, 2014. There is no more beautiful setting for a picnic than on the East Lawn of Mount Vernon overlooking the Potomac River. The complimentary event includes picnic fare and beverages, tours of the Mansion, colonial games, live music, wagon rides for the children, and one of the most iconic and spectacular views in North America. Join the Neighborhood Friends of Mount Vernon today and be a part of this fun and festive tradition!

As a Neighborhood Friend member, you also receive complimentary admissions to the Estate, a 10% discount at the Shops of Mount Vernon and the Mount Vernon Inn, member presale opportunities for Mount Vernon's popular Spring and Fall Wine Festivals and Holiday Candlelight Tours, as well as invitations to other special events at the Estate, such as the new Lunch and Fellowship Lecture Series through The Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington.

All members of the Neighborhood Friends of Mount Vernon live on the original 8,000 acres of land owned by our Founding Father, George Washington! In 1987, the Neighborhood Friends of Mount Vernon was created as a way for residents who live near the Mount Vernon Estate to help preserve George Washington's home and legacy for future generations.

The Neighborhood Friends of Mount of Vernon have played an instrumental role in preserving many aspects of the Mount Vernon Estate as well as supporting educational programming. They have done this through volunteering their time and fundraising for critical preservation and infrastructure projects on the Estate. What is truly special about this group is that their membership contributions go directly toward a specific sponsored project. For 2013-2014, the Neighborhood Friends are supporting the restoration of the Mansion Staircases, in particular the grand central staircase in the Mansion which is showing the effects of over one million guests climbing these iconic stairs each year.

The highlight of the Neighborhood Friends' year is the Annual Birthnight Supper and Ball. This is the Neighborhood Friends' main fundraising and social event and will be held on February 15, 2015. It is a festive evening of friendship and fun all for a good cause!

How to Become a Neighborhood Friend of Mount Vernon

Mount Vernon offers several levels of membership. You can visit Mount Vernon's website at <http://www.mountvernon.org/membership/benefits/neighborhood-friends> for information on the membership levels and to become a Neighborhood Friend, or you can contact Tammy Eddy, Mount Vernon's Membership Manager, at (703) 799- 5075.

Tammy Eddy
Mount Vernon Membership Manager

PUBLIC SAFETY

Late Spring and early Summer are beautiful in our area and neighborhoods. More activity of all types on and near our roads and streets. Drivers need to: watch out for pedestrians, joggers, bicyclists particularly when making turns; STOP at STOP signs, stay within the posted speed limit (25 mph on most of our "interior" streets), STOP when school bus RED lights are flashing, remember that some persons on foot may be using earphones and be unaware of horns, etc, etc. Use care when making left-turns from Route 235 (Mount Vernon Memorial Highway) against on-coming 235 traffic onto Cherrytree Drive.

Many varieties of iridescent and/or reflective apparel are available including: wristbands, armbands, belts, vests, jackets, running shoes etc as well as bike lights and bells, reflective tape for bikes, spoke mounted reflectors, etc Consider carrying whistle, ID and cell phone.

Use care with outdoor cooking. Do NOT add fire starter after the fire has been lit. Dispose of ashes safely.

Do not store flammables near hot water heaters and similar appliances which have flames and ignition sources.

Keep garage doors and cars locked and safeguard bicycles, motorcycles, etc

Call 911 for POLICE, FIRE and AMBULANCE/ RESCUE EMERGENCIES.

See you at the MVCA Picnic.

Have a safe and enjoyable summer.

*Your Neighbor,
John A. Hurley*



Private Piano Lessons
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Happenings in Mount Vernon

MVCA General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, May 14,
7:00 PM pizza, 7:30 PM meeting

8th Annual MVCA Community Picnic

Saturday, May 17, 1-5 PM
St. James Episcopal Church
5614 Old Mill Road

Neighborhood Clean-Up

Saturday, May 31, 9:00 AM
Meet in the Washington Mill parking lot.

Mount Vernon Civic Association, Inc.

Officers

President: Paul Schray(703) 619-9377
1st Vice President: Bruce Kitchen (703) 799-6473
2nd Vice President: Sean McCarthy(703) 360-0372
Secretary: Karan Cerutti(703) 778-4442
Treasurer: Tom Cleary(703) 360-3903

Directors

Ken Poortinga(703) 360-7740
Dan Rinzel(703) 360-4627
John Skudlarek(703) 704-5213

Committee Chairs

Budget and Finance: Sean McCarthy(703) 360-0372
Consumer Affairs: Cindy Brown(703) 348-7175
Education: Bruce Kitchen.....(703) 799-6473
Environment & Recreation: Vacant
Health & Human Services: Jim Brown(703) 348-7175
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