



Mount Vernon Civic Association, Inc.

Fall 2015

www.Mountvernoncivicasosication.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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Please join the MVCA Board and MVCA members at the quarterly autumn community meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 14 in the library at Washington Mill Elementary School at 7:30pm. Pizza and beverages will be served at 7:00pm prior to the start of the meeting. The board has invited Jane Gandee and Dan Storck to join us at the meeting for a debate to discuss issues of concern to our community. Our guests are candidates for the Mount Vernon Magisterial District Supervisor position currently served by Supervisor Gerald Hyland who will be retiring in November.

Thanks to all who attended the MVCA Annual Picnic last May. It was one of our largest picnic turnouts in part due to the wonderful weather and the excellent efforts of putting on this year's event by Ken Poortinga and his crew. Planning for the 10th annual picnic will be starting soon. Please contact a board member if you would like to assist with the organization of this event.

Although still a few months away, the MVCA will be holding its annual meeting on January 13, 2016. The meeting will include the election of MVCA directors and officers to serve on the association's board for the next two years. Positions will be available and I encourage anyone interested in serving the community to consider running

MVCA

Membership Meeting

Wednesday, May 13, 2015

Washington Mill Elementary

7:00 PM pizza and soda, 7:30 PM program

Guest Speakers

Jane Gandee and Dan Storck,
candidates for Mount Vernon District Supervisor

Topic

Topics of concern to our community

for any of the positions. The MVCA Board positions include President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and three at large Directors. Please contact a current board member (listed on the last page of this newsletter) for more information if you have an interest in serving our community in any of the board positions.

With school back in session please be mindful of children making their way through our neighborhoods and be sure to stop for school busses loading and unloading passengers. Please support our schools by attending some of the sporting activities championed by the many local youth athletic clubs and high school athletic programs.

*Paul Schray, President
Mount Vernon Civic Association*

ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION

Since assuming the chairmanship for Environment and Recreation, I've become more aware of the many things that E&R tackles. The Mount Vernon Council of Civic Association (MVCCA) E&R committee meetings have introduced me to the various parks, building developments, and programs our area has to offer.

Stormwater Management

Stormwater management first drew me into my current position. Despite our long dry spell, the very wet June demonstrated that we as a community must remain vigilant and report storm water management issues. Should you witness flooding (if an emergency, of course move to higher ground!) or issues of increased water flow, please report it to Fairfax County's Department of Public Works Storm Drainage Reporting System:

http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/utilities/sdrpt_form.htm

This is the method by which the county tracks water drainage issues; if there isn't a record of an event, the county does not have cause to respond. Because of neighborhood reports, the county cleaned the area surrounding the culvert under Mt Vernon Memorial Highway to help alleviate some stormwater drainage. Although a small step, it shows that this reporting system works.

Stream Restoration

The Mt Vernon Country Club recently unveiled its new plans for further stream restoration on its privately held lands to the MVCCA E&R. While some community members voiced concern about loss of wildlife and of flooding in neighboring property from regrading, the Country Club has received recognition for the work they did on stream beds in years past. The MVCCA E&R

committee will review the briefing and give its final comment soon.

Lastly, I encourage you and your family to visit one of our many local county parks this fall. We are fortunate to live near so many beautiful places. In our own backyard, we have Washington Mill Park. You'll notice many felled trees along the path; this was done after consultation with Mr. Phil Hager, our local park director. I am hoping to continue our relationship with him to preserve a vital part of our environment, both with stormwater and invasive plant management.

If you have any concerns, or want to find out how you can help our community stay beautiful, please feel free to contact me.

Happy Fall!

Louise Sloan
Chair, Environmental and Recreation Committee



BUDGET AND FINANCE

I hope everyone had a fun summer and a great start to the new school year. The Mount Vernon Council of Civic Association Budget and Finance meeting did not meet this month. I do not have much to report on that front. However, the County did finalize the 2015 carryover package. Here are a few quick highlights for the Fairfax County (FC) budget.

2015 Fairfax County Carryover Package

On September 22, 2015, Fairfax County approved the 2015 Budget Carryover package. The FC full year books close at the end of June and, by law, FC is required to operate with a balanced budget. This positive balance is the “carryover” into the 2016 budget and amounts to a non-recurring balance of \$46.91 million. This is slightly more than 1% of the county's General Fund budget.

\$17.81 million of the carry over is being allocated to the reserve fund. Fairfax County has a Triple AAA bond rating and, according to the County, this has saved the tax payers \$702.51 million to date. Whether this amount and total reserve is enough for the bond rating agencies is yet to be determined. I will do my best to monitor this. \$13.10 million will be allocated to Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) for infrastructure replacement and improvements. \$5.96 million will be allocated for future non-recurring priorities. Additional details of the remaining carryover allocations can be found on the FC budget website.

Federal Government Fun

Capitol Hill could cause us problems again here in FC. Another government shutdown and potential sequestration could create another drag on the local economy and tax collections. A debt downgrade by the rating agencies due to slowing revenue collections

in FC could also increase pressure on our local budgets. We will closely watch how this plays out over the next couple of months.

I look forward to our next meeting. The Fairfax county department of management and budget website:

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/.

Sean McCarthy, Budget and Finance Chair

‘Tis the Season to Become a Member or Give A Gift of Membership

Mount Vernon members are a committed group of donors who are united by their support for historic preservation, education and the legacy of our foremost founding father, George Washington. By becoming a member of Mount Vernon, you will not only help support historic preservation in your community, but you will be able to enjoy the benefits of being a member. Membership benefits include unlimited complimentary admission to the estate, a 10% discount at the Shops at Mount Vernon, the Mount Vernon Inn and the Mount Vernon Pavilion, and advanced notice and priority ticketing for more than 15 events on the estate a year, including the popular Mount Vernon Wine Festivals and Holiday Candlelight Tours of Mount Vernon.

As the holidays near, consider giving a gift of membership to George Washington's Mount Vernon to family and friends. Membership offers a thoughtful gift option while supporting a most worthy cause. For more information about membership at Mount Vernon visit www.mountvernon.org or contact Tammy Eddy, Mount Vernon's Membership Manager at (703)799-5075.

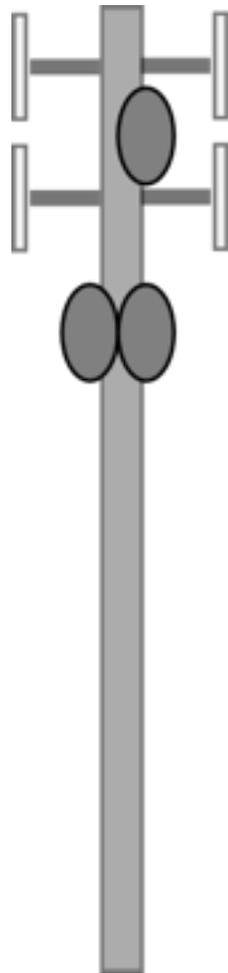
PLANNING AND ZONING

Welcome back. Hope everyone had a great summer.

New Cell Tower

Mr. Richard Lambert of Extenet gave a presentation on a proposal to build a Distributed Antenna System (DAS) with approximately 71 small cell phone 'towers' installed on utility poles owned and rented from Dominion Resources. The overall height of the poles including the antennas would be about 45 feet. Some existing poles would have an extension added while others are already tall enough. Verizon is the initial carrier using the existing fiber optic network.

Each antenna can handle up to two additional carriers. The application includes a rendering of each of the individual 71 antenna systems. The neighboring communities will be able to review the application and decide if each of the 71 antennas with the pole mounted equipment is visible or covered with a cylindrical cover. Support has been unanimous.



Justice Snowden Farm

No information other than there is a proposal to develop Justice Snowden Farm into senior housing. I'll provide more data as it is briefed.

Huntington Club Condominium Redevelopment

We were given an update on the redevelopment of Huntington Club Condominiums. To make the redevelopment financially, they have requested an out-of-turn Plan amendment to remove 25% of the office space requirement. The change will not result in more residual units, but a reduction of project FAR from 3.0 to 2.25. The distribution of the residences may change slightly. The project will essentially be all residential except possibility for a small retail component along Huntington Avenue. Additionally, in the amendment, they have requested an increase in the maximum height of one of the centrally located buildings from 55 feet to 200 feet for purpose of uniformity of net building heights.

Morning Star Children's Day Care

Morning Star Children's Day Care project representative was unable to attend the meeting but members from the surrounding community did make a short presentation. Their concern and opposition is not with the site plan itself, but with the increased volume of traffic Woodlawn Court, as a narrow dead end street, would experience. There is access to RH via a red light, but left hand turns have visibility issues. Despite absence of the project representative, the committee voted to oppose the childcare proposal.

*Karan Cerutti
Planning and Zoning Committee*

EDUCATION

Nardos King has stepped down as Principal at Mount Vernon. She will be missed. I had the pleasure to work with Nardos and always found her to be very receptive to new ideas and always working to make Mt. Vernon a better school for our children. FCPS has named Ester Mann, one of the current assistant principals, as the interim principal.

Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) Program

The Mt. Vernon STEAM Innovation Pyramid will phase in STEAM resources, supports, and opportunities over the next five years.

For the 2015-2016 school year, two STEAM resource teachers will support the schools. At the elementary level, teachers from each school are collaborating and participating in science and mathematics professional development to increase cognitive demand in student work.

Several schools currently have STEAM initiatives in place: STEAM/science labs, after school clubs, and STEAM focused learning opportunities for students. At the secondary level, students have access to STEAM focused after school clubs such as CyberPatriot and Technology Student Association, summer programs (Vex Robotics Camp and CyberSecurity Camp), and new curriculum.

New courses, provided by Project Lead the Way curriculum, are offered at Whitman Middle School and Mt. Vernon High School. Project Lead The Way (PLTW) is the nation's leading provider of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programs. Through world-class K-12 curriculum, high-quality teacher professional development, and outstanding partnerships, PLTW is helping students develop the skills needed to succeed in the global economy. Additionally, high school students have the

opportunity to enroll in cybersecurity and programming courses such as Cyber Computing Systems Technology (A+), Cyber Network Administration, and Advanced Programming.

Project Momentum

Project Momentum is an FCPS initiative that provides support to schools with accreditation warning. Schools are provided additional funds and human resources for improvements in instruction.

With the support of Region leaders, Instructional Services, and Special Services, schools in Project Momentum have developed School Improvement Plans (SIP) and outlined supporting action plans for the 2015-16 school year. Each school also defined a year-long, related professional development. Each of these schools participate in monthly meetings and quarterly data dialogues where the SIP, action plan, professional development plan, and current assessment data are reviewed by the Region leaders and School Support team.

Schools are provided support and coaching from central office teams who work in the schools on a regular basis. Support team members include Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies Resource Teachers, Educational Specialists, Data Coaches, and specialists in Responsive Instruction practices. Leaders and teachers in these schools are being provided additional professional development. Elementary Project Momentum schools are participating in the Battelle for Kids model of Instructional Rounds. Middle and high schools are working with the International Center for Leadership in Education (ICLE).

*Bruce Kitchen
Education Chair*

FOR YOUR SAFETY

Hope all had a safe summer both at home and while traveling. Some reminders for fall and early winter:

- Be alert for school buses. Do not pass from either direction if red lights are flashing.
- Honor STOP signs, speed limits, cross-walks and be alert for joggers, bike riders and pedestrians.
- Consider carrying ID, cell phone, whistle and flashlight when on foot. Wear reflective and/or "high-viz" clothing on evening jogs and walks.
- Equip bicycles with reflectors, lights, bell/

horn, etc. Wear bike helmets.

- LOCK parked cars and other vehicles and keep garage doors locked.
- REPORT to 911 suspicious or "cruising" vehicles.
- Call 911 in emergencies for POLICE-FIRE-AMBULANCE-RESCUE assistance. Be sure to give the 911 Operator a correct address and information such as color, license plate, make/type etc of any involved vehicle if a POLICE matter.

*Your Neighbor, John Hurley
Public Safety Chair, 703 799 9353*

IF A TREE FALLS...

Downed trees may become an issue with the combination of soaking rainfall and gusty winds in the forecast.

If a Tree Falls Into Your Home

1. Get everyone safely out of your house. Use your cellphone or go to a neighbor's house and call 9-1-1.
2. **Stay away from the home** until public safety employees can access your home for structural safety (as well as ensuring your utilities are OK or should be turned off.)
3. Only after completing all of these safety measures, **call your insurance company.**

If a Tree Falls on a Road or Other Land

Adjacent to Public Roads: Contact Virginia Department of Transportation at 1-800-FOR-ROAD (TTY 711).

On County Parkland: Contact Fairfax County Park Authority at 703-324-8594 (TTY 703-324-3988).

Posing Hazard to Public Areas: Contact

Fairfax County Urban Forestry at 703-324-1770 (TTY 703-324-1877).

On Private Property: Removal is the property owner's responsibility.

If a Fallen Tree Puts Downed Power Lines on Your Car

Always avoid downed power lines. If you are driving and a fallen tree causes downed power lines to come in contact with your car, call 9-1-1 and stay in the car until help arrives.

If staying in the car puts you in physical danger, open the door but avoid touching the framework, then jump out of the car as far as you can. Use short shuffling footsteps until you are clear of the area.

And after the storm passes, avoid tree trimming scams that are rampant in our community.

For more information or to sign up for the Fairfax County Emergency blog, go to FairfaxCountyEmergency.wordpress.com.



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RonLeffler@gmail.com
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FAX (703) 684-5109
CELLULAR (703) 282-3662

Daniel F. Rinzel
 ATTORNEY AT LAW

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

**Happenings in and Around
Mount Vernon**

MVCA General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, October 14, 2015
Washington Mill Elementary School
7:00 PM pizza, 7:30 PM meeting

MVCA Annual Meeting and Elections

Wednesday, January 13, 2016
Washington Mill Elementary School
7:00 PM pizza, 7:30 PM meeting

Alexandria International Festival

Saturday, October 24, noon - 7 PM
Waterfront Park, 1 Prince Street
Old Town Alexandria

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: Louise Sloan(703) 360-6038
Health & Human Services: Vacant
Membership/Directory Co-Chair:
Ron Leffler(703)-593-4149
Membership/Directory Co-Chair:
Ken Poortinga(703) 360-7740
Neighborhood Watch: C il n Owens(703) 780-5218
Planning & Zoning: Karan Cerutti.....(703) 778-4442
Public Safety: John Hurley(703) 799-9353