



Mount Vernon Civic Association, Inc.

Spring 2015

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hopefully by the time this newsletter reaches you the temperatures will have climbed out of the twenties! Our next MVCA community meeting is scheduled for 7:30pm, Wednesday, March 11 at the Washington Mill Elementary School Library. Pizza and beverages will be available at 7:00pm. Our guest speaker will be MPO Robert Urps of the Mount Vernon Station, Fairfax County Police Department. Please join our committee chairpersons, board of directors and neighbors for an enlightening meeting.

The January winter weather greatly hampered our efforts to hold the MVCA Annual Meeting because of school closings. We did end up meeting at Mount Vernon High School and tried to advertise the meeting through the MVCA list serve site, however, we found that many neighbors did not receive the e-mail notice (signs were placed throughout the community). We are working to improve the system and will have it running efficiently soon. The meeting was sparsely populated but we did enjoy an informative presentation by our school board representative, Dan Storck.

The opening of Jeff Todd Way late last year has greatly reduced travel time between our neighborhood and the communities along Telegraph Road. As this route becomes better known and traveled, please take care by obeying the posted speed limits for the

MVCA Membership Meeting Wednesday, March 11, 2015

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

Guest Speaker

MPO Robert Urps,
Mount Vernon Station, Fairfax County Police
Department

road. Since its opening there have been three reported accidents at the Pole Road intersection (one resulting in a fatality) all attributed to excessive speeds. An effort is now underway to signalize the intersection and to increase police presence.

Ongoing development planning for affordable housing in the North Hill area (along Route 1, north of Lockheed Boulevard) is moving forward. The county selected a proposal by CHPPENN I, LLC, to develop and construct 329 multi-family rental units in two buildings and 144 for-sale town homes. The remainder of the property will be preserved as park land. Plans to redevelop this site have been discussed for years and it appears that the county is now moving forward. Rezoning, plan amendments, public hearings, site plan approvals and a master development agreement will still need to be completed prior to breaking ground.

I look forward to seeing you at the March Community Meeting.

*Paul Schray, President
Mount Vernon Civic Association*

Have you sent in your Mount Vernon Civic Association membership renewal? If not, please see the membership form on Page 5.

BUDGET AND FINANCE

I hope everyone is ready for Spring. It has been a long cold winter, but with Spring just around the corner, the 2016 Fairfax County (FC) budget discussions are under way. The 2016 FC, full year, advertised budget plan was released on February 17th. Here are the highlights.

The advertised budget maintains our tax rate at \$1.09; however, the official advertised tax rate will not be released until March 3rd. County Executive (CE) Long has proposed a \$3.8 billion dollar budget for FY 2016, which is an increase of 2.61 percent over the 2015 adopted budget. This proposed budget was presented by CE Long based on the guidelines put forth by the Board of Supervisors.

Modest revenue growth is projected. This growth is primarily on the residential housing market projections. Mean assessed home values have increased by 3.39 percent, so expect an increase in your real estate tax. The average increase is projected at \$185.

The value of a penny in the real estate tax rate is \$22.6 million for FC. That is, a one penny change in the tax rate would equal, on average, about \$52 to the home owner on the average assessed value. Residential real estate assessments are growing at half the rate as last year.

Although FC's economy continues to grow, it is growing at about half the rate of the rest of the Country. This is blamed on the lingering effects of the sequestration. "The cornerstone sectors of the local economy - Federal government and professional services - are losing jobs." This is having a noticeable effect on our non-residential real estate assessments. These values have decreased by .6 percent and are expected to remain sluggish for the next couple of years.

Due to the underlying fiscal drag on our local economy, CE Long has advised that we are not able to fund all our priorities. Additionally, there are concerns about budget shortfalls in 2017 and potential ratings agency downgrades.

A concern I have voiced at our local meetings is: "what is the cost of a ratings agency downgrade;" I have advised not to be penny wise and pound

foolish. I am waiting for a response from the County Executives representatives; I would like to know what they think this will add to the FC budget.

The County needs to get out in front of this potential increase in interest expense. Some of the drivers of the potential ratings agency downgrades include increasing reserves, funding pensions and discontinue use of one time funds for recurring expenses.

I will keep us advised on the direction of the potential ratings downgrade and overall direction of the FC response. The details of the CE Long's budget presentation can be found at Fairfaxcounty.gov.

Important dates to remember, March 3rd advertisement of FY 2016 tax rates, April 7th, 8th and 9th always, please feel free to email me at mclucid@verizon.net. The 2016 budget documents can be found online at fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/.

Sean McCarthy
Budget and Finance Committee



EDUCATION

We were very fortunate to have our local School Board member, Dan Storck, come to our January meeting. Unfortunately the meeting was rescheduled twice because of inclement weather so we didn't have a very large turnout. Dan was very open on the issues facing the district and our local schools.

School Budget

The Fairfax County School Board has adopted the FY 2016 Advertised Budget of \$2.6 billion, a net increase of 2.6 percent, or \$64 million, from the FY 2015 Approved Budget. The FY 2016 budget includes resources for full-day Mondays in the elementary schools, the implementation of later high school start times, and a step increase for eligible employees and a one percent market scale adjustment for all employees.

The FY 2016 Proposed Budget includes a request to the Board of Supervisors for an additional \$70.6 million, or 3.99 percent, over FY 2015. The school Board will present its budget to the Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, April 7.

Influx of Unaccompanied and Undocumented Youths

The school board discussed a report that the federal Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) that 3,193 children were released to sponsors in Virginia from Jan. 1, 2014, through Aug. 31, 2014, of which 1,131 were in Fairfax. The estimated minimum of \$17M budgetary impact to FCPS (conservative estimate of \$15,000/year = \$16,965,000 annually) annually.

The School Board is waiting for a legal briefing from legal counsel on the issues involved with this issue before proceeding further.

Consider Volunteering at One of Our Schools

Our schools are always looking for volunteers. Even if you don't have children in our schools you can still help out. Your time and talents can make a big difference. Start small and see what you think. You can read to students, be a tutor or help in another way. Just call a school and tell them you'd like to help.

*Bruce Kitchen
Education Committee*

PLANNING AND ZONING

Waiting for spring, but not so patiently. Concerning the Special Exception Application for the Morningstar day care facility located on Woodlawn Court—traffic flow/impact, child drop off/turn around, and parking—continue to concern all. They have planned for a 40% increase in available parking. Mr Edgecombe will brief the committee in March or April.

The application from the Collingwood Library leadership to divide the parcel and selling portions of it has been deferred indefinitely. The initial concerns were the reduction of the current conservation easements. They are now looking at selling the entire property.

A conference for community leaders is scheduled on February 24, 2015. The MVCCA Planning and Zoning Chair will attend. Basically, the conference will discuss how the county can work better with citizens on issues of concern. A similar conference will be held later for develops and land use chairs of various organizations to help make the process more predictable.

Lastly, an applicant briefly discussed a proposal for the Route 1 Transit Center. The location discussed is Buckman Road and Route 1 going south and Old Mount Vernon Highway and Route 1 going north. Other options are still being considered.

*Karan Cerutti
Planning and Zoning Committee*

68th Annual Birthnight Supper and Ball Draws Record Donations

Thank you to all in the neighborhood who attended and sponsored the 68th Annual Neighborhood Friends of Mount Vernon Birthnight Supper and Ball on Sunday, February 15. The sold out event of 200 guests netted nearly \$85,000 for the Neighborhood Friends 2014-2015 sponsored project, Phase II restoration of the East Lawn Slope. This has been the most successful ball to date due to the generous support of individuals and business in the community.

For the first time the event featured a live auction that raised nearly \$9,000 for the slope project, along with a silent auction which raised nearly another \$10,000. Guest enjoyed a cocktail reception and a seated dinner catered by Design Cuisine, one the D.C. Metropolitan area's premier caterers. The event also included special entertainment by soprano Kellie McHugh who sang several songs from the 18th Century. The evening was topped off with dancing by the Kevin Kline Band and a cake cutting ceremony that featured General and Lady Washington and a beautiful replica cake of the Mount Vernon Mansion donated by Neighborhood Friends Steering Committee members, Sabrina and Lorne Campbell and their business Occasionally Cake.

For information about this annual event or to become a Neighborhood Friends member or business sponsor please contact Tammy Eddy at teddy@mountvenron.org or (703)799-5075.

NEWSLETTER AND DIRECTORY

We're pleased that we have received many members' MVCA annual renewal forms with their membership dues. Thank you for your continued support of the Mount Vernon Civic Association!

If you haven't yet returned your membership renewal for this year or have misplaced it, please use the form on the next page. You can also download the membership form from the MVCA website at www.MountVernonCivicAssociation.org. Please send your form along with your check for \$20 made payable to MVCA and mail to: MVCA, P.O. Box 61, Mount Vernon, VA 22121.

We invite you to attend our quarterly meetings where our guest speakers discuss topics of local interest and community advocacy. And don't forget we have free pizza and soda before meetings.

We are also planning our 9th Annual Neighborhood Picnic with food, drinks, music and a chance to meet your neighbors from our great Mount Vernon community. The picnic is planned for May 16th — details coming soon.

We will be publishing the 2015-2016 new edition of the MVCA Membership Directory in the spring. This new Directory will be delivered to all MVCA members whose dues are current.

NOTE: If you are interested in placing an ad in the directory for your local business, please contact Ken Poortinga at 703.360.7740 or via email at ken8487@verizon.net.

Thank you for your support. Please contact us with any questions.

*Gina Lynch 703-780-9424
Ken Poortinga 703-360-7740*



Mount Vernon Civic Association Membership Information

Mount Vernon Civic Association, P.O. Box 61, Mount Vernon, Virginia 22121

Support Your Neighborhood Association

Your annual dues of just \$20 help give our community representation with local governments, support the local neighborhood watch program, provide essential local communications, and pay for our quarterly newsletter, biennial directory, and the annual community picnic. *Thank you for your support!*

Yes, my check is enclosed.

Information for the Neighborhood Directory

The following information will be used in the 2015 - 2016 Mount Vernon Civic Association Membership Directory. Please provide your information as you wish it to be listed so we know how you want your name printed in the directory.

Name: _____
Title (Dr/Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Military rank) Last name First name

Name: _____
Title (Dr/Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Military rank) Last name First name

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Unlisted in the directory

Email: _____

Your email address will not be published nor will it be sold or shared with other persons or businesses. It is only used to provide your Board a way to communicate with you about matters of importance in our community.

Neighborhood services: Individuals of all ages who would like to provide non-professional services to the neighborhood such as babysitting, pet care, snow shoveling, computer set-up/assist, house sitting, lawn care/mowing, tutoring, transportation can be listed in the directory at no charge.

<i>Name</i>	<i>Service</i>
_____	_____

Volunteer Opportunities in Your Community

We welcome and encourage all members to volunteer. Please check any of the following activities in which you would be willing to assist the MVCA:

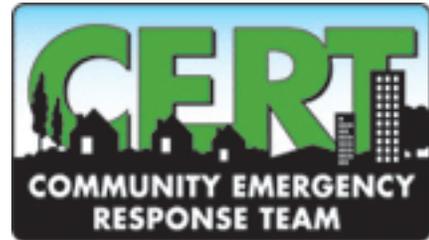
- Appearance and Maintenance
- Block Captain
- Budget & Finance
- Consumer Affairs
- Education Matters
- Environment and Recreation
- Health and Human Services
- Local Government
- Membership & Directory
- Neighborhood Watch
- Newsletter
- Planning and Zoning Matters
- Public Safety
- Social Activities/Picnic
- Transportation

Advertise with Mount Vernon Civic Association — Your Neighborhood Voice

Contact Ken Poortinga at (703) 360-7740 or ken8487@verizon.net for information on placing an ad in the quarterly newsletter or the neighborhood directory. Or, check here if you would you like us to contact you with advertising information.

PUBLIC SAFETY

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT) COURSE SCHEDULED IN MOUNT VERNON IN APRIL



Fairfax County participates in a National Program that trains and prepares citizens for all kinds of disasters. **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** training is presented by certified instructors, in eight 3-hour evening sessions. Training is informative; practical; hands on; challenging; and **FREE!** Participants must be at least 18 years old.

The Mount Vernon CERT Course will be presented at the Mount Vernon Government Center (2511 Parkers Lane, Alexandria, VA 22306) beginning at 7 p.m., on Monday and Wednesday evenings; April 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22, 27, and 29.

Training includes:

- Things you can do to prevent emergencies in your home and office; safety practices
- Things you can do now to prepare for a disaster and reduce the impact when it happens
- Things you can do during a disaster to protect yourself and your family
- Things you can do after a disaster to help your family and your neighborhood recover if the professional responders are delayed and cannot get to you right away

Specific Classes include:

- Personal and Family Preparedness
- Disaster Preparedness
- Basic Fire Suppression
- Medical Aid and Operations
- CERT Team Operations
- Light Search and Rescue
- Disaster Psychology
- Terrorism
- Hazardous Materials

More information about the CERT Program can be found on the Fairfax County CERT Blog at: <http://www.fairfaxcountycert.org/p/about-fairfax-county-cert-training.html>.

To register for the Mount Vernon CERT Class, go to: <https://volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov/recruiter/index.php?class=VolunteerRegistration&recruiterID=1380&appType=ent>.

If you have problems registering on-line (this does happen), please send an email to fire.cert@fairfaxcounty.gov and we will assist you, or you can contact Jonathan Kiell (Mount Vernon CERT Representative) at TEAMS@fairfaxcountycert.org for assistance.

*This information provided by Tom Hurley, MVCA
Public Safety Committee Chair*



Private Piano Lessons
Bettina Flory
 Nationally Certified Teacher of Music
 NCTM
 Lynnhall Place near Mt. Vernon, Alexandria
(703) 360-9488
 Bettina.Flory@BettinasPiano.com



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RON LEFFLER REAL ESTATE

RON L. LEFFLER
 REALTOR

703.593.4149 DIRECT | TEXT
 703.913.3021 FAX

RonLeffler@gmail.com
 www.RonLeffler.com

JOBIN REALTY
 6507 Sydenstricker Road
 Burke, VA 22015
 703.913.3017 OFFICE



TELEPHONE: (703) 684-2000
 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



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Area Happenings

MVCA General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, March 11, 2015
Washington Mill Elementary School
7:00 PM pizza, 7:30 PM meeting

Community Emergency Response Team

(CERT) training starts April 6. (See Page 6 for more information.)

MVCA General Membership Meeting

Wednesday, May 13, 2015
Washington Mill Elementary School
7:00 PM pizza, 7:30 PM meeting

Fairfax County Police Department 75th Anniversary Lecture and Tour Series

is going on all year. For details go to www.FairfaxCounty.gov.

Ninth Annual MVCA Picnic

Saturday, May 16, 2015, location to be announced.

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:
Gina Lynch(703) 780-9424
Membership/Directory Co-Chair:
Ken Poortinga(703) 360-7740
Neighborhood Watch: Coliin Owens(703) 780-5218
Planning & Zoning: Karan Cerutti(703) 778-4442
Public Safety: John Hurley(703) 799-9353