



Mount Vernon Civic Association, Inc.

Spring 2015

www.MountVernonCivicAssocation.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

MVCA

Membership Meeting

Wednesday, May 13, 2015

Washington Mill Elementary

7:00 PM pizza and soda

7:30 PM program

Guest Speaker

MPO Robert Urps,

Fairfax County Police

Department

Topic

Human trafficking and its impact on teens and families in our area

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Our next MVCA community meeting is scheduled for 7:30pm, Wednesday, May 13, at the Washington Mill Elementary School Library. Pizza and beverages will be available at 7:00pm. Our guest speaker will again be MPO Robert Urps of the Mount Vernon Station, Fairfax County Police Department. Because of his popular presentation at our March meeting he will be spending another evening with us to share his presentation on human trafficking and its impact on teens and families in our area. Please join our committee chairpersons, board of directors and neighbors for an informative meeting.

The 9th Annual MVCA Community Picnic is quickly approaching. The picnic will be held at St. James Episcopal Church located at 5614 Old Mill Road, rain or shine. You and your family are invited to join your neighbors at this event for food, beverage, entertainment (live music for adults, moon-bounce for kids) and fun for all. The picnic will held on Saturday, May 16 from 1:00pm to 5:00pm. Many thanks to Ken Poortinga and his crew for organizing this event!

Annual Picnic May 16

Our 9th Annual MVCA Community Picnic will be held on Saturday, May 16th from 1-5 PM on the grounds of St. James Episcopal Church at 5614 Old Mill Road.

We will have barbecued brats, burgers, hot dogs and cold drinks, sides and more. Live music from Close2home, door prizes and a moon bounce and face painting for the kids!

Please plan to come and help make this our best picnic ever!

The picnic is open to all residents within the MVCA community and everything is absolutely free. Be sure to invite your neighbors!



During the April 2015 MVCA Board of Directors Meeting, a change to the quarterly newsletter distribution policy was discussed. The board is considering the phasing out of the paper version of the newsletter and instead, publishing it on-line to MVCA members. Some of the benefits to be realized by this distribution method include cost savings and faster delivery to members. The policy will continue to be discussed throughout the year. A phasing-in of the policy could be instituted next year with the delivery of two of the four quarterly newsletters delivered via e-mail. We will open this discussion for your input at the May 13 community meeting.

The board of directors recently approved an addition to the board –

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Louise Sloan has been appointed as the chairperson of the Environment and Recreation Committee. Louise was recently involved with flooding issues to homes located off Robertson Boulevard. Through her efforts with Karan Cerutti of the Planning and Zoning Committee and the MVCCA Council in dealing with this problem, she offered to fill one of our vacant committee positions. Thank you, Louise! Other positions remain open – feel free to contact one of the MVCA officers if you would like to volunteer.

Again, please join us at our community meeting on May 13, and at the annual picnic on May 16.

*Paul Schray, President
Mount Vernon Civic Association*



Volunteers for the picnic are still welcome! We can use people for everything from burger flipping to set up and clean up. You can help out for as short or as long a time as you like. Contact Ken Poortinga at 703-360-7740 for information.

EDUCATION

FY 2016 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 vote for budget approval will occur in May.

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.

Program and Capital Improvement Plans for region 3

Fairfax County Public Schools held four meetings in Region 3 to share information on programs and enrollment projections and gather feedback from parents, employees, and community members. Region 3 consists of schools in the Edison, Lee, Hayfield, Mount Vernon, and West Potomac Pyramids. FCPS is looking at programs of instruction as well as managing the enrollment levels at each school within the region. You can learn more about the meetings at <http://www.fcps.edu/regions/r3/facilitiesmeetings.shtml>.

Summer Camps

FCPS and the park authority offer a variety of summer camps for students.

FCPS

<http://www.fcps.edu/is/summer/index.shtml#IC>

Park Authority

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/hidden-oaks/summercamps.htm>

Have a fun summer.

*Bruce Kitchen
Education Committee Chair*

THE WATCH REPORT

The Fairfax County Police Department—via our liaison Officer “Bubba” Urps—invites us to report any suspicious activities, vehicles, or inexplicable intruders in the neighborhood. We are advised that the majority of home burglaries occur during daylight hours during the work week. Happily, there have been but one or two incidents of vandalism reported over the past several months. But with the approach of the summer season, we can expect a rise in random antisocial episodes. Promptly report anything unusual or potentially troublesome by calling 703 691-2131 or entering the observations online: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police120413citizenreportingsystem.htm>.

As has been widely publicized, Fairfax County has been experiencing a steady decline in crime since 1970. While this is good news, we are not crime-proof. For a current account of the crime statistics, check <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/crime/statistics>. For a listing of police activities in our neighborhood, check <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/policeevents>.

The MVCA Neighborhood Watch program has been doing its bit to discourage uncivil

behavior. We have 55 volunteers currently listed on our weekly patrol detail. They will soon be joined by these ten new volunteers: Ken Barlow, Johnnie Ray, Paul Tuohig, Mark Youchak, Ken Roberts, Ken Leffler, Kevin Bibleau, and David McSween, Eric Guzmán, and Theo Thompson. Thanks to all!

We look forward to welcoming additional volunteers from the new Riverwood II subdivision (Ferry Landing Court). After receiving formal instructions on appropriate procedures, they will be added to the roster covering the latter half of 2015. If you would like to help, call 703 780-5218 or email: cowens7@gmu.edu



Cóilín Owens
Neighborhood Watch
Coordinator

WORSHIP WATCH

Fairfax County Police implemented a new program in February 2015, modeled after Neighborhood Watch, aiming to help keep houses of worship safe and crime-free. “Worship Watch” encourages congregants to become more involved in reducing the opportunity for crimes to occur on facility premises. More than 50 people from a wide variety of faith communities attended the first meeting. Those who couldn’t attend requested that additional meetings be held.

Houses of worship are not immune to criminal activity. More common crimes that are targeted towards them include larceny, burglary, vandalism and arson.

Fairfax County Police hosted the second Worship Watch workshop, free of charge, on April 28 at the Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 8304 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield.

Workshop attendees will receive crime prevention training, facility security assessments, information on how to receive crime alerts and community information, and other valuable crime prevention tools.

For more information, contact MPO Robert Urps by email at Robert.urps@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-360-8928.

BUDGET AND FINANCE

The 2016 Fairfax County (FC), fiscal year, budget mark-up was released on April 21st. Chairman Bulova remarked "the Advertised Budget, as amended by these actions, results in some changes that will make some folks happy, some relieved, and some disappointed; it is, however, a responsible package that maintains our current tax rate at \$1.09."

Although the tax rate will remain at \$1.09, real estate assessment values have increased. This increase will result in a tax increase for most FC home owners. On average, the increase will amount to \$185.00.

The County found an extra \$2.7 million from the state over the original budget proposal from County Executive Long. Plus the remaining \$3 million in the original budget gave the Board of Supervisors about \$5.5 million to work with for the budget mark-up process.

According to the Chairman's remarks, a recurring theme in this year's budget was "invest in Fairfax." The top five categories of increases in the mark-up include, an increase in pay or, market rate adjustments, for all county employees of about \$2.9 million: restoring about \$1.8 million to health and human resources budget; restoring \$275,000 funding for the rent relief program; restoring \$275,000 funding and three positions in the diversion to detoxification outreach program; and accelerate funding to \$211,000 for two probation officer positions in the General District Court for the Veterans Docket.

My favorite was the restoration of funding of \$120,000 for a team of six, part-time, engineer technicians to investigate about 1,800 complaints of sloppy yards each year. So, for those of you with sloppy yards: be prepared for continued brow beatings from this County team. I guess the grass truly is greener in other peoples yards.

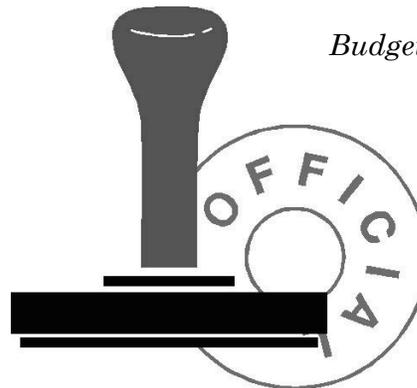
The FC Budget does include raising reserve requirements. Hopefully, this will keep the

bond rating agencies at bay. Additionally, the County seems to be moving away from using one-time money for recurring expenses. Although, there does seem to be some delaying of projects to help ease current budget limitations. Much needed renovations at Washington Mill Elementary School seem to have been delayed.

The 2016 Full Year Fiscal Budget gives about 2/3 of the increased revenue to the FCPS system. This Budget funds most of the School Boards transfer request. The school transfer amounts to 52.7% of the General Funds Budget in the 2016 Full Year Budget.

The 2016 Budget documents can be found online at fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/. The formal adoption of the Budget takes place on April 28th. As always, please feel free to email me at mclucid@verizon.net.

Sean McCarthy
Budget and Finance Chair



SCAMS ON THE RUN

The police are asking for the public's help in reporting scam artists posing as legitimate contractors. Soliciting without a license is **ILLEGAL** and perpetrators are often involved in other criminal activity.

- Be leery of work from solicitors who approach you in person.
- Ensure that they are insured and properly licensed. Call 703-324-5966 for licensing information.

MOUNT VERNON ESTATE

Be a Part of the History in Your Own Back Yard

Did you know that you live on one of the original five farms of Mount Vernon Estate? As a member of the Mount Vernon Civic Association you live on the original land owned by our foremost founding father, George Washington. Residents living in 22309, 22308, and 22121 live on the original 8,000 acres once part of Mount Vernon Estate. 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.

If you are not already a member, please consider joining! By becoming a Neighborhood Friend of Mount Vernon you receive complimentary admission to the Estate, as well as a 10% discount at the Shops of Mount Vernon, the Mount Vernon Inn and Pavilion. Further, all members receive member presales opportunities for over 15 special events on the Estate, including the very popular Spring and Fall Wine Festivals, Mount Vernon by Candlelight Tours, and the Lunch and Fellowship Lecture Series through The Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington. For higher giving membership levels, members will also receive guest passes and an invitation to an exclusive Mount Vernon by Candlelight Holiday Reception.

As special recognition to our Neighborhood Friends, the Estate holds an annual Neighborhood Friends Family Night Picnic. This year's picnic will be held on Sunday, August 23, 2015. There is no more beautiful setting for a picnic with friends and neighbors than on the East Lawn of Mount Vernon overlooking the Potomac River. The complimentary picnic event includes picnic fare and beverages, tours of the Mansion, live music, as well as colonial games and wagon rides for the children. Further, this year, in recognition of the Neighborhood Friends 2015-2016 sponsored project, a new Fire Suppression and Prevention system in the Mansion, Mount Vernon will have one of the Estates fire trucks on hand staffed by members of the Estate's fire department.

How to Become a Neighborhood Friend of Mount Vernon

Mount Vernon offers several levels of membership and most recently has rolled out a Family Membership. Families can take advantage of this special membership level which allows unlimited admission for two adults and all children under the age of 18. You can visit Mount Vernon's website at <http://www.mountvernon.org/become-a-member/> for information on the membership levels and to become a Neighborhood Friend, or you can contact Tammy Eddy, Mount Vernon's Membership Manager at 793-780-0338 or teddy@mountvernon.org.

SCAMS (CONTINUED)

- Scam artists often target seniors demanding payment for work that was never completed or claim non-payment after payment has already been made.
- Seniors are often victims of distraction thefts. A "contractor" may be showing items "in need of repair" while another member of the crew sneaks in the back door to steal valuables.
- Scamming crews will often claim your home is in need of "emergency repair" and insist that work be done immediately. Common

claims are repairs to chimney flashings, "cracked foundations," or driveway sealing.

- Scammers will often require a large down payment and never complete promised jobs.

If you think you have been a victim in past or have questions regarding these types of scams, call Mount Vernon District Station, Criminal Investigations Section, at 703-360-8403.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Our May 13 General Meeting speaker will be Master Police Officer (MPO) Robert "Bubba" Urps, who will discuss "Human Trafficking," a very current and growing problem.

On Saturday, May 16 FCPD and FC Fire/Rescue Personnel will drop by the MVCA picnic subject to calls and other duties.

Traffic Safety-With warmer weather and longer daylight hours be particularly vigilant re traffic safety, safe bicycle riding, School Bus laws, speed limits, tourist buses, bicycle and mini-motorcycles, etc. Walkers, joggers and bike riders can consider wearing "High Viz" and/or reflective clothing and carrying a cell phone, some ID and small flashlight.

Traffic Enforcement-Mount Vernon Police Station now has a full-time dedicated and highly professional traffic enforcement officer. FCPD PFC Seth Masterson accompanied MPO Urps to our March MVCA meeting and presented many useful insights. He can be reached through FCPDMTVtraffic@fairfaxcounty.gov.

MPO Urps and TEO Masterson can also be reached via the Mount Vernon Police Station NON-emergency number: 703 360 8400.

Crime Prevention- Consider motion-sensitive external lighting. Keep garage doors closed and locked. Parked cars should be locked.

Fire Safety — be careful filling the tank on lawn mowers and in disposing of BBQ cinders and ashes. Replace batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

Emergency Calls — 911 FIRE/RESCUE, AMBULANCE/POLICE

FCPD TEEN SUMMER PROGRAMS

The Fairfax County Police department is hosting two new exciting summer programs for high school students who may be considering careers in the challenging world of law enforcement. Application deadline for the programs is May 15 so don't delay; apply today. Both programs are free of charge.

The new Teen Police Academy will expose teens to a wide variety of law enforcement duties, such as crime scene investigation, traffic stops, K-9, and patrol. The program runs August 3-8 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Falls Church High School, 7521 Jaguar Trail. For specific information, qualifications and application forms see:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/services/pdf/2015teenpoliceacademy.pdf>.

Future Women Leaders in Law Enforcement is being offered to young women entering grades 10, 11 or 12 who haven't decided on a career path and want to learn what it takes to work in law enforcement, whether sworn or civilian. In addition to career exploration, participants will meet active female police personnel and discuss topics from safe teen dating, "sexting" and social media safety, as well as the importance of gaining self-confidence and how to hold and negotiate difficult conversations. The program will be held August 10-15, from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Fairfax County Public Schools Administration Building, 8115 Gatehouse Road, Falls Church. For specific information, qualifications, and application forms see:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/police/services/pdf/2015fwlle.pdf>.

Help your teen have a full and exciting summer; consider FCPD programs and apply today.

For more information on these programs, please call 703-280-0713 or email CPA@fairfaxcounty.gov.



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 biscuit.break@verizon.net

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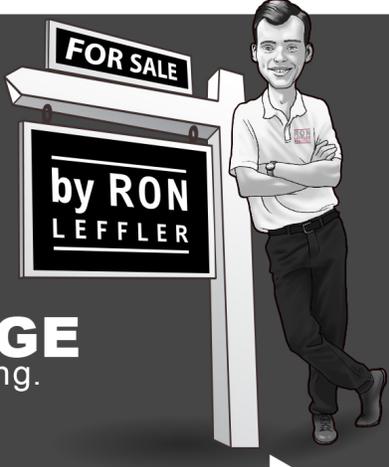
RON LEFFLER REAL ESTATE

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



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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

Happenings in Mount Vernon

MVCA General Membership Meetings

Wednesday, May 13, 2015

Washington Mill Elementary School

7:00 PM pizza, 7:30 PM meeting

Wednesday, October 14, 2015

Washington Mill Elementary School

7:00 PM pizza, 7:30 PM meeting

MVCA Annual Picnic

Saturday, May 16th from 1-5 PM on the grounds of St. James Episcopal Church, 5614 Old Mill Road

FCPD Teen Summer Programs

May 15 signup deadline. See Page 6 for details.

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