



# Mount Vernon Civic Association, Inc.

Summer 2016

[www.MountVernonCivicAssociation.org](http://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

It may be just me, but 2016 is flying by with wondrous speed. Spring is in all of her glory, and Summer is beckoning. I daresay the reason time is passing quickly is all of the activity in our community—a sign that we are fortunate to live in the Mount Vernon area.

We are celebrating this luck on Saturday, May 14th, at our tenth annual Mount Vernon Civic Association Community Picnic. Although we've been calling it a picnic, it really is a party, complete with a band, food, drinks, and a bouncy house. This year, we are stepping up the fun: there is a corn hole tournament where you can show off your accuracy and earn your spot in Mount Vernon history as the inaugural winner (see the flier inside for the details).

Despite all of the exuberance, items in the news can dampen our joys. Mosquito season is upon us, and discussions of the Zika virus can cause worry. The Fairfax County Health Department sent our association information to help control mosquito spread illnesses. There is not a specific problem in our area, but knowing how to control mosquito populations is a good first step in preventing disease. Education is the first step to nipping worry in the bud, and this is a good source. The health department's information is found inside this issue.

Locally, residents along the Potomac River are raising concern about increased air traffic. Because we live in an historic and nationally prominent area, Ronald Reagan National Airport is seeing more airplanes arriving and departing. To some, the increased traffic is a sign of a steady economy, to others it causes an auditory nuisance. Please see the note inside our newsletter from Coilin Owens concerning

## MVCA

### Membership Meeting

Wednesday, May 11, 2016

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

### Speaker

Sabrina Campbell of  
Occasionally Cake—  
champion in Food Network's  
*Cake Wars*



the formation of a committee so we, the MVCA residents, can remain an integral voice in any discussions our local communities have to stem the tide of noise pollution. We will continue the discussion at our May membership meeting.

You can be—and we want you to be—a part of these local happenings and so much more. Please join me, the other board members, and our neighbors at our general membership meeting on Wednesday, May 11. We meet in the Washington Mill Elementary School's library, beginning with pizza at 7:00PM and leading into our meeting at 7:30PM. This month, as we finish the Spring cycle of meetings to break for the summer months, we will host Sabrina Campbell, owner of Occasionally Cake. Sabrina is a local business owner and neighbor and now boasts the title champion of Food Network's *Cake Wars*. Come hear about her experience.

As you can see, there is much to be grateful for in our community. We are able to join not only to enjoy company, but also to ensure our community remains rich in its assets.

*Louise Sloan, MVCA President*

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Since the annual membership mailing in early March, we have received just over 300 paid memberships. Thank you for your support!

Did you know the MVCA represents nearly 1,000 households? Your dues help pay for our quarterly newsletters (approx. \$1,000/per mailing), lighting of our neighborhood signs (approx. \$100/month), and the fabulous annual family-friendly community picnic (May 14th - Don't miss it!) to name a few.

If you would like to join or renew your membership, please sign up using one of the following options:

**Mail:** Send a \$20 check made payable to "Mount Vernon Civic Association" to MVCA, P.O. Box 61, Mount Vernon, VA 22121;

**Online:** [www.mountvernoncivicassociation.org](http://www.mountvernoncivicassociation.org) and click on the Membership tab, and use PayPal's "Pay Now" link. No PayPal account is necessary

**Cash or check** Bring cash or check to the next membership meeting (May 11th) or the community picnic (May 14th).

There has been discussion in upgrading our neighborhood sign lights to LED fixtures to help save in utility costs. Would you be interested in volunteering your time to help with this project? Do you have any suggestions?

We are also looking to freshen up some of our neighborhood signs in the fall. Do you have experience in gardening and/or landscaping and would like to share some of your expertise?

Please send an email to [info@mountvernoncivicassociation.org](mailto:info@mountvernoncivicassociation.org) expressing your interest in either of these projects. Your input and time is greatly appreciated!

Thank you!

*Jessica Mazur*  
MVCA Treasurer

## NOISE POLLUTION

### *Air Traffic*

There does not appear to be general agreement that aircraft noise is a serious problem in our neighborhood. However, our upstream neighbors in the Villamay and Hollin Hall Associations have begun a door-to-door campaign to have departing and arriving planes make their turn 10 miles south of Reagan National Airport. That means us!

Potential response: the formation of a "South Flow Alliance" with other affected neighborhoods, including Marlan Forest, Westgrove, and Mason Neck to seek a fair and equitable distribution of this noise. This could function within the purview of the Reagan National Community Noise Working Group (see online reports), and the office of Mount Vernon Supervisor, Dan Storck ([www.danstorck.org](http://www.danstorck.org)).

### *Lawn Power Equipment*

The revised Noise Ordinance for Fairfax County (effective 2/17/16) restricts the use of lawn equipment, leaf blowers, chainsaws, and power washers between 9 p.m. and 7 a.m.

### *Loudspeakers, Instruments*

The same ordinance restricts the use of amplification between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.

### *Dogs*

Similarly, it is a violation of the ordinance to permit barking dogs for more than 5 minutes in any 10-minute period so as to be heard across property boundaries at any time of the day or night, and not at all between the hours of 10 p.m. and 7 a.m.

See the Noise Ordinance Applicability Chart at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/zoning/noiseordinance](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/zoning/noiseordinance)

I venture to suggest that, beyond the requirements of the ordinance and as a courtesy to neighbors, the use of noisy equipment be voluntarily curtailed on weekend mornings and dinnertimes?

*Cóilín Owens*  
[Cowens7@gmu.edu](mailto:Cowens7@gmu.edu)

# 10th Annual Mount Vernon Civic Association Picnic

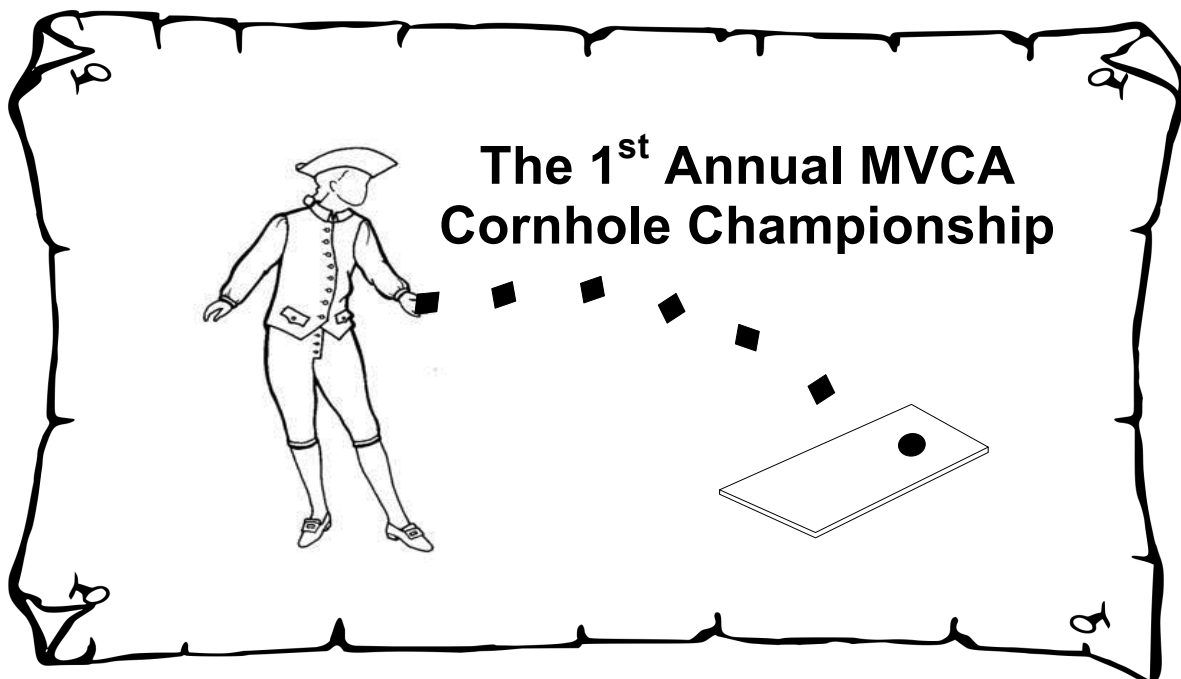
MVCA looks forward to seeing all our friends and neighbors on Sunday,  
May 14, 2016 for our Annual Picnic

Where: St James Episcopal Church 5614 Old Mill Rd, Alex. VA

When: Saturday May 14th from 1 pm to 5 pm

What: A celebration of great neighbors, community and start to  
another fun summer on the banks of the Potomac!

We'll have our traditional fare of grilled beer brats and burgers with sides. Beverages will be on hand to keep you cool. We'll have the band Panic for the Vibe playing modern music with a touch of Reggae. Come enjoy the festivities including MHC, MVYC, MHYC, scout sign ups and moon bounce for the kids and..the 1st Annual Corn Hole Championship sponsored by our great new (but old) neighborhood restaurant Cedar Knoll. Top prize will be a dinner for two at Cedar Knoll.



## PREVENT AND PROTECT AGAINST MOSQUITOES

Reduce the number of mosquitoes around your home and neighborhood and protect yourself from their bites by taking the following steps this spring, summer and fall

### ***Control mosquitoes in your yard***

Eliminate standing water. Check your yard weekly for containers that are holding water.

Treat standing water with a larvicide\* if it cannot be eliminated.

If mosquitoes are biting you may want to spray your yard with an insecticide\*, particularly the places where mosquitoes like to hide, such as bushy green plants, ivy, other ground-covering plants and bamboo.

### ***Protect yourself and your family from mosquito bites***

Wear insect repellent\* containing DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus or IR 3535.

Wear loose-fitting, light-colored long-sleeved shirts and pants.

Keep doors and windows closed and make sure screens are in good repair.

### ***Watch for symptoms of mosquito-borne diseases***

Symptoms of Zika include fever, rash, joint pain, muscle pain, headache and conjunctivitis (red eyes). Symptoms of West Nile virus range from mild (fever, headache, body aches or a skin rash on the upper body) to serious (high fever, headache, neck stiffness, stupor, disorientation, tremors, convulsions, weakness, paralysis or coma).

If you think you have a mosquito-borne disease, consult your physician.

For more information, visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fighthebite>, call 703-246-8931 or email to [fighthebite@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:fighthebite@fairfaxcounty.gov).

*\*Use EPA-registered insecticides, larvicides and repellents. Follow label instructions.*



## PUBLIC SAFETY

As summer approaches, consider joining the Neighborhood Watch. Contact Neighborhood Watch Chair Coilin Owens for information.

Consider taking a free series of classes such as the CITIZEN's POLICE ACADEMY and/or CERT—Fairfax County Community Emergency Response Team (CERT). CERT is a joint partnership between the Federal Government and Fairfax County. The CERT objective is to help YOU fill the gap (up to 72 hours) in YOUR neighborhood between an extremely major area-wide incident and arrival of first responders. Classes are free and open to anyone 16 or over who lives or works in the County. There usually are 7 sessions of 3 hours each-

given once a week at various loci in the County. Lots of information on CERT at [www.fairfaxcountycert.org](http://www.fairfaxcountycert.org); [facebook.com/FairfaxCountyCERT](https://www.facebook.com/FairfaxCountyCERT) or to register <http://bit.ly/InterestCERT>. The information provided in the CERT training is of use in minor incidents as well as major crises as it covers inter alia Preparedness, Fire Suppression, Light Search and Rescue, Medical Aid, Disaster Psychology, etc. CERT Program funds are provided by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Have a great and safe summer !

*Your Neighbor,  
John A. Hurley*

## BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

### 2017 Budget

The 2017 Fairfax County (FC), fiscal year, budget mark-up was released on April 19th. Chairman Bulova has referred to the budget mark-up as a "Booster Shot to Ensure our Quality of Life."

The property tax rate will be increased from \$1.09 to \$1.13 per \$100 of assessed value. On average, this will amount to about a \$304 increase in our tax bills. The tax increase will go towards "environmental, public safety and human services arena." In addition, County employees will receive a pay raise of about 3.3-3.6%.

The school budget has also increased by \$33.6 million. This increase includes extra money from the state, carry over from the 2016 budget and the remaining advertised balance in the 2017 budget. This amounts to a total increase in the school transfer of about 4.84% or \$88.4 million over last year.

### 2018 Budget

Moving forward, there is a projected shortfall of \$75 million for the 2018 budget. County Executive (CE) Long has advised that the real estate market continues to show "sluggish growth." At the May 3rd budget meeting, CE Long directed staff to review a proposed meals tax. In addition to a meals tax, they will also look at raising revenue through increasing BPOL, alcohol and cigarette and personal property taxes. It is clear that the needs in the County appear to be out growing our revenue.

### Meals Tax and FCPS

I'd like to thank everyone who attended our last meeting. I appreciate everyone's feedback on the proposed meals tax and support of the Fairfax County Public Schools. The attendees of the last MVCA meeting support funding the needs of the Fairfax County Public Schools. Although, many of us would consider approval of a meals tax if it came with specific guarantees, there are concerns about how this money is earmarked for use.

There seems to be strong support for the meals tax to be allocated to the aging infrastructure and capital improvements in the school system if it were to be put on the ballot. We are all concerned about how money is spent in FCPS.

Transparency in the budgeting and spending process continues to be a concern along with the potential expense of the changing demographics in our school system. At the MVCCA, we will continue to push our elected officials for more transparency. We will also continue to push for our fair share of tax revenue from the State and Federal government.

The 2017 Budget documents can be found online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/). As always, please feel free to email me at [mclucid@verizon.net](mailto:mclucid@verizon.net).

*Sean McCarthy, Budget and Finance Chair*

Support Washington Mill Elementary School through BoxTops for Education.\* Collect these labels and bring to the meetings or contact Louise Sloan. Even though each label is only worth 10 cents, the PTA collects nearly \$1,100 each year through this program. In turn, the PTA pays for school trips and after school enrichment programs for WMES students.



*\*Many WMES students go hungry during the weekends, which is why a donation of a canned good like tuna, chicken, or vegetables to the Food For Thought Program is so helpful. That donation will in turn nourish a child not just for the weekend, but for a full week of learning ahead.*

## PLANNING AND ZONING

### ***Starbucks Drive Through?***

Starbucks, at former Checkers Restaurant location, has requested a Special Exception Amendment. It seeks to use the drive-through window on the building and modify its hours of operation from 5:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. (from 2:00 a.m.), on Friday and Saturday nights. Additionally, the amendment was to allow a change from an eating establishment to a fast food restaurant. The vote to allow this amendment was 17 (in favor) to 0.

### ***Martial Arts Studio May Expand***

We received a briefing, for information only, from owners from the martial arts studio/educational facility at 6321 Richmond Highway. They're interested in the property close to the intersection of Fordson Road and Richmond Highway. The property is presently undeveloped. The studio/facility will have to move because the owner of the current building is seeking other uses for that land.

Discussion included the following comments: a) The two lots 79A and 79B are zoned, respectively, R-2 and C-8. b) The owner and Jane Kelsey, her representative, have sought to obtain access to these two lots from Fordson Road, but those owners on Fordson Road were unwilling to do so. c) Are these two lots within the Community Business Center (CBC) for the Revitalization Area? The owner's representative will double-check this issue.

It does appear that these two lots are within the Gum Springs Conservation District. The Comprehensive Plan states that these lots are to be high-density residential. The representative, Jane Kelsey, said that she had sent in a request to change the Comprehensive Plan for these two lots. The committee has not seen this proposed change to the Comprehensive Plan.

### ***Extenet DAS Update***

Documentation has been approved for the area east of Little Hunting Creek, including Wellington. Construction of the small antennae on top of 70 existing telephone poles will take approximately 9-12 months to be on-line. Commissioner Earl Flanagan complimented the sub-committee of P & Z that worked so hard to make this happen.

### ***Embark Update***

Earl Flanagan provided information about the new process to be used to calculate density needed at proposed Metro stops. Presently, Floor Area Ratio (FAR) is used. For Embark, the expectation is that within a one-mile radius of a proposed Metro stop, population plus jobs will be used to determine whether the site will support a Metro stop. A one-mile radius comprises 514 acres. If the population plus jobs available is large enough, then dividing 514 into the total population plus jobs should be greater than 35. For example, the Eisenhower Ave. stop is 37 at present, which is sufficient population plus jobs to support the location of the Metro stop. In contrast, Beacon Hill has a score of approximately 19, which is far short of what would be needed to justify a Metro stop at the present time.

### ***Storage Facility***

Lastly, we had a short discussion about the proposed storage facility to replace the Brookside Motel at 6001 Richmond Highway. Co-Chair Donley sent a letter on behalf of P & Z to Supervisor Storck suggesting that the Supervisor meet with the developers. Nothing more has happened on this matter.

*Karan Cerutti, Planning and Zoning Chair*



## CALLING ALL TRASH TALKERS!

Have you ever noticed the large number of trash trucks going through our neighborhoods all week long?

Do you feel that our neighborhoods would benefit with fewer trucks on our streets or a more consolidated pick up schedule?

Please take a few minutes to complete our short survey regarding this matter. Your input is greatly appreciated!

If you would like to complete this online (preferred method), please go to:

**<http://goo.gl/forms/k2xMKS7F9n>**

*If completing survey by mail, please complete form and mail to  
MVCA, P.O. Box 61, Mount Vernon VA 22121*

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>1. What trash company do you use?</p> <p>AAA Recycling and Trash/Republic Services</p> <p>American Disposal Services</p> <p>Nightingale Trucking, Inc. (N.G.T.)</p> <p>Other: _____</p> | <p>2. How often is your trash (only) picked up?</p> <p>A. once-a-week</p> <p>B. twice-a-week</p> <p>C. other</p>   |
| <p>3. Are you in a contract?</p> <p>A. yes</p> <p>B. no</p>  | <p>4. How much do you pay quarterly</p> <p>A. \$65 - \$70    B. \$80 - \$85</p> <p>C. \$70 - \$75    D. \$85 - \$90</p> <p>E. \$75 - \$80    F. Other: _____</p> |
| <p>5. Would you consider switching companies if you were offered a comparable rate for MVCA neighborhoods?</p> <p>A. yes</p> <p>B. no</p>  |  |
| <p>6. Would you be interested in supporting an effort to have the different trash companies come, if possible, during the same days of the week?</p> <p>A. yes</p> <p>B. no</p>            |  |
| <p>7. Is there additional information you would like to share?</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>_____</p>  |  |

**Mount Vernon Civic Association  
Area Happenings**

**MVCA General Membership Meeting**

*May 11, 2016*

*7:00PM pizza, 7:30PM meeting*

*Washington Mill Elementary School*

**Tenth Annual MVCA picnic**

*Saturday, May 16, 2016, 1PM-5PM*

*St. James Episcopal Church*

*5614 Old Mill Road, Alexandria VA*

**Mount Vernon Civic Association, Inc.**

**Officers**

President: Louise Sloan .....703-360-6038  
1st Vice President: Sean McCarthy .....703-360-0372  
2nd Vice President: Ron Leffler.....703-593-4149  
Secretary: Lisa Faustlin .....303-396-5164  
Treasurer: Jessica Mazur .....703-517-8468

**Directors**

Terry Enright ..... 202-299-7459  
Dan Rinzel .....703-360-4627  
Paul Schray .....703-619-9377

**Committee Chairs**

Budget and Finance: Sean McCarthy .....703 360-0372  
Consumer Affairs: Cindy Brown.....703 348-7175  
Education: Vacant  
Environment & Recreation: Terry Enright .....202-299-7459  
Health & Human Services: Jim Brown .....703-348-7175  
Membership/Directory: Ron Leffler.....703-593-4149  
Neighborhood Watch: Coilin Owens .....703-780-5218  
Planning & Zoning: Karan Cerutti .....703-778-4442  
Public Safety: John Hurley .....703-799-9353