



Mount Vernon Civic Association, Inc.

Fall 2017

www.MountVernonCivicAssociation.org

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"In popular government, results worthwhile can only be achieved by those who combine worthy ideals with practical good sense."

— Theodore Roosevelt

I hope everyone enjoyed the summer. MVCA had a great kick-off to the summer with the annual neighborhood picnic. Thank you again to Adam Roca and Chris Pegher for their hard work – that was some fantastic Cuban BBQ! We had a great turnout and enjoyed the music of local rockers, The Johnny Artis Band. Many thanks also to Father Chuck and the St. James Church community for their support.

Please join us for our next meeting on **October 11** at the Washington Mill Elementary School library at 7 p.m. for pizza and drinks. The meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. Our guest speaker will be Josh Toth from Burke and Herbert Bank. Josh will discuss ATM skimming and fraud. There have been numerous devices found in the Mount Vernon area. He will share with attendees what these devices look like, and how to protect against this form of theft.

In our ongoing battle against air traffic noise, Poul Hertel, MVCA's Air Traffic Noise Chair, is hard at work keeping us informed and ensuring that our voices are heard. We are working on reporting updates for our **January 10, 2018**, meeting.

During this meeting, we hope to have some of our elected officials weigh in on why moving the traffic down to our area is a good idea.

(Spoiler alert: It's not!)

MVCA's next election will also take place during our January 10 meeting. Our nominating committee has already been established and is being chaired by neighbor Lisa Faustlin.



Please feel free to reach out to us if you have an interest in serving on our Board of Directors. We have several committee chair spots opening up this fall.

However, the majority of our current team is willing to continue serving. Please thank each of them for dedicating their free time to making our community a better place.

We do have one leadership change to report. Ron Leffler is stepping down after many years of service as our Membership and Website Chair. Congratulations to him and his wife, Bailey, on the arrival of their baby girl. I cannot think of a better place to start a family than our great neighborhood.

Ron has done a great job, and he will be missed. Neighbor Crystal Tully is now officially MVCA's new Membership and Website Chair. We look forward to working with Ron and Crystal during the transition.

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HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

As a local dermatologist, I am privy to many common health issues that affect our neighbors and friends. Now that school is back in session, hair lice seems to be a recurrent problem.

Head lice are found worldwide, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In the U.S., infestation with head lice is most common “among pre-school children attending child care, elementary school-age children and household members of infested children,” states the CDC.

Head Lice 101

Head lice move by crawling; they cannot hop or fly. This annoying parasitic insect spreads by direct contact with the hair of an infested individual. Anyone who comes in head-to-head contact with someone who already has head lice is at greatest risk. It can be spread by contact with clothing – hats, scarves, coats – or other personal items, including combs, brushes, hair ribbons, stuffed animals and towels.

It’s important to realize that personal hygiene or “cleanliness” has nothing to do with getting head lice, according to the CDC. Head lice and head lice nits (or eggs) are found almost completely on the scalp, specifically around and behind the ears, and near the neckline at the back of the head.

Egg/Nit: Nits are lice eggs laid by the adult female head louse at the base of the hair shaft nearest the scalp. Nits are firmly attached to the hair shaft and are oval-shaped and very small and difficult to see. They appear yellow or white although live nits sometimes appear to be the same color as the hair of the infested person.

Nymph: An immature louse that hatches from the nit, a nymph looks like an adult head louse, but is smaller. To survive, a nymph must feed on blood. They mature into adults about nine to 12 days after hatching from the nit.

Adult: The adult louse is about the size of a sesame seed, has six legs, and is tan to grayish-white in color. Adult head lice may look darker in individuals with dark hair than in people with light hair.

Treatment Options

Plenty of useful information can be found online, including information about home remedies like olive oil, hair dryers, mayonnaise and more.

My recommendation is to try the “usual” remedies, such as over-the-counter treatments like Rid or Nix, first. If these treatments fail after correct usage, you can assume the strain is resistant. The next step involves having a doctor suggest some of the newer prescription remedies, such as Ivermectin or Spinosad (Natroba).



Bye-Bye Bugs!

In most cases, getting rid of adult lice is easy. The hard part: the NITS. The nits are the eggs cemented to the hair shafts. You must remove every egg, or the problem will return. Note: There are no shortcuts; a fine-tooth, nit-picking comb and a magnifying lens, many hours and the patience of a saint are required. Recheck the infested individual’s head bi-weekly to ensure he or she is lice-free.

Finally, if the above approaches are not for you, there are local professional services that will get rid of lice, and it may be cost effective to utilize their services.

The bottom line: you should not view head lice as a public health hazard. Rather, the affliction can be an extreme annoyance because its presence can cause itching, frustration and loss of sleep.

By Marvin Chadab, M.D.
Health & Human Services Chair

Editor’s Note: For more information, contact Dr. Marvin Chadab’s office at (703) 370-0073, or visit www.cdc.gov

BUDGET AND FINANCE

Happy Fall to all. I, for one, am looking forward to the cooler weather.

In this fall update, I was planning to explore Virginia’s contribution to the Fairfax County budget but decided to write about more recent events, as well as explore the major sources of revenue our County receives to finance its operations.

The 2018 budget was approved in May and was effective July 1. There were no surprises from the summary of the proposed budget we published in our last newsletter.

Here is a summary statement by Sharon Bulova, Board of Supervisors:

“[The] calendar year 2017 marks almost a decade since the Great Recession first caused property values to plummet. Since then, values have increased annually only modestly, if at all. This year the average sales price of homes increased by only 1%. The marked-up budget is built on an increase in total revenue of just 1.9%. It is balanced in part with \$13 million in savings, reductions and efficiencies.”

It is not surprising that her comments centered on real estate, as property taxes are the number one source of revenue for the County. Some individuals believe the County is over-reliant on the real estate tax – its revenue makes up about 64 percent of its \$4B budget, and is mostly residential parcels.



The Board of Supervisors voted to maintain the current real estate tax rate at \$1.13 per \$100 of assessed value. Virginia is one of 39 states that operate under the Dillon Rule, which limits the County’s flexibility to raise revenue and diversify the tax base as it only has those powers expressly granted to them by the General Assembly. Here is a breakdown of the revenue sources from a 2016 presentation (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/lob/2016/2016-lines-of-business-revenue.pdf>):

There are three potential revenue sources not currently levied: meals tax, admissions tax (movies, live theater) and probate tax. A meals tax requires voter referendum for counties or council approval for cities and towns. Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax City and Falls Church levy the maximum rate of four percent, so be sure to patronize our local restaurants.

Please feel free to email me with any budget and finance related questions: Jason.Leaver@icloud.com

By Jason Leaver
Budget and Finance Chair

Fairfax County Revenue Sources

Real Estate Tax	64%	The largest source of revenue for all Virginia localities
Personal Property	15%	Vehicles /business property—in-line with other NOVA localities
Sales Tax	5%	6% rate; 4.3% to State and much coming back to Ffx County
Licenses	4%	Levied on businesses gross receipts
Utility Taxes	1%	Gas and electricity, and at maximum rates
Vehicle License Fee	1%	Same as state; covers emergency services
Other Misc.	10%	

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Continued from Page 1

Many of you may be aware of the significant flooding and sewage backup that occurred on August 11. One of our local homes was damaged to the point that it was deemed uninhabitable by Fairfax County. The homeowners, Dominique and John Lee, noted that they had only been in the home for a couple of months. Their story can be viewed here: <http://www.wusa9.com/news/local/virginia/friday-storm-leaves-mount-vernon-couple-homeless/464127499>

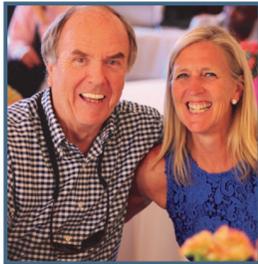
MVCA has initiated a letter to Fairfax County Supervisor Dan Stork requesting that he keep us advised of the outcome of the County’s review of potential liability on the County’s part. However, due to the number of homes affected by the recent flooding, MVCA is considering creating a special committee to stay on top of the County’s response. Feel free to reach out to me if you are one of the

homeowners impacted, or would like to chair this committee. You have our support.

Finally, remember to mark your calendar for the upcoming election on November 7. Our Virginia state delegate, Dave Albo, has stepped down after many years of service and has left an open seat. The candidates interested in filling this seat are Republican Lolita Mancheno-Smoak and Democrat Kathy Tran. Also, MVCA has invited the candidates to our general membership meeting to introduce themselves. (*Editor’s Note: We were awaiting their responses upon our newsletter going to print*).

I look forward to seeing everyone around the neighborhood in the coming months. Have a great fall, and as always, feel free to email me at mclucid@verizon.net.

Sean McCarthy
MVCA President



CHRIS & PEGGY WHITE

“THE AREA’S LEADING REAL ESTATE TEAM”

Consistently leading the Mt. Vernon Area in real estate sold. See what your neighbors are saying about the services we provide!



★★★★★ Highly likely to recommend

02/18/2017 - *hiratas*
Sold a Single Family home in 2017 in Alexandria, VA.

- Local knowledge: ★★★★★
- Process expertise: ★★★★★
- Responsiveness: ★★★★★
- Negotiation skills: ★★★★★

Chris White is an exceptional real estate professional. In January 2017, Chris White sold our home three days after he listed it. Our home languished on the market for 6 months from June to December 2016, we made a change in agents, and Chris White sold our home at our full asking price.

He is a consummate professional. We highly recommend using him. We would use him again.[Less](#) ^

★★★★★ Highly likely to recommend

02/01/2017 - *viju nasir dilley*
Bought and sold a Single Family home in 2017 for approximately \$475K in Alexandria, VA.

- Local knowledge: ★★★★★
- Process expertise: ★★★★★
- Responsiveness: ★★★★★
- Negotiation skills: ★★★★★

Chris and his team are simply the best! We talked to Chris back in November about making an offer on a house and getting our current house sold. Last week we settled on both properties and it would not have been possible without Chris. Anyone who knows the Mount Vernon area is familiar with the pages of properties The White Team is credited with selling in the weekly Gazette. Knowing how busy he is, everyday time we communicated with Chris either via email or phone we always felt as if we were his only customer, knowing full well he was very busy. He worked tirelessly on our behalf, negotiating with the other realtors and always had our best interests in mind. We have two small children and two dogs and would try to make showings as convenient and stress-free as possible. We have referred many friends to Chris who are looking to buy and sell just as we did. The Whites are the best realtors around, we could not have asked for better agents![Less](#) ^

Your home is your most valuable asset! When it is time to sell, don’t take a chance—always call CHRIS & PEGGY WHITE — THE AREA’S PROVEN LEADERS!

CHRIS & PEGGY WHITE ● (703) 283-9028 ● Chris.White@longandfoster.com

Cedar Knoll



With seasonal menu changes, a waterfront patio, and a fireplace in each room, Cedar Knoll is the perfect setting for a romantic evening, a gathering of family and friends, or special events small and large.

Lunch, Dinner, and Brunch service weekly. See our website or call us for more information.

Ask us about our private event space! Walk-ins Welcome, Reservations Recommended 703.780.3665
reservations@cedarknollva.com 9030 Lucia Lane Alexandria, VA 22308 www.cedarknollva.com

BOARD MEMBER NEWS



New MVCA Board Member Welcome!

The Mount Vernon Civic Association officially welcomes our newest Board member, neighbor, Crystal Tully.

Crystal is originally from Bedford, NH and moved to the Washington, D.C. area to work for her hometown Senator John Sununu (R-NH) after graduating from the University of New Hampshire in 2005.

Following her first job on the Hill, Crystal has since worked in the technology and telecommunications sector, and earned her law degree from George Washington University.

She is currently counsel for technology and communications to Senate Commerce Committee Chairman John Thune (R-SD).

Crystal lives with her husband, Ryan, whom she met on the Hill, and their two bullmastiffs, Annabelle and Tony. She enjoys running, hiking and cooking.

Please give Crystal a big Mount Vernon “welcome” as she takes over our MVCA website and membership responsibilities.

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100% of our proceeds remain in this community.

Public Safety - Fall

Here are some public safety tips for fall:



- More and earlier darkness in late afternoon/early evening.
- Walkers, joggers, bicyclists in dark clothing;
- Need for anti-intruder lighting, such as motion-sensitive lights.
- Parked cars should be locked.
- Anticipate and follow road signs, such as STOP signs, speed limit signs, double unbroken "do not pass" lines.
- Please drive very carefully during the Halloween trick or treating season as masked and costumed neighbors may be in the streets.
- Bicyclists and bikes ideally should be equipped with helmets, bells/horns, signals, reflectors.
- Exercise extreme driving caution when school buses are near.
- Report missing traffic signs and malfunctioning traffic signals to VDOT.
- Replace batteries in smoke detectors.
- Install carbon monoxide detectors.
- Check your fire extinguisher(s).
- Sign up for the various Fairfax County Internet Alert Systems.
- Be aware: Route 235 (Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway) will be repaved in the next few months mostly in hours of darkness. Be alert for detours and slow-moving heavy equipment.
- Carry ID, whistle and cell phone on long walks and runs.
- Call 911 for Police-Fire-Rescue/Ambulance emergencies.

Your neighbor,
John Hurley,
Public Safety Chair

Epiphany Weekday School
5521 Old Mill Rd. Alex. VA. 22309

Our preschool offers an early childhood program for children 2-5 yrs of age. A half day program with extended day options.

Call 703-780-3852

Epiphany Lutheran Church

Worship service 9:30 Sunday mornings



Let Your Voice Be Heard.

The MVCA Board makes every effort to keep the neighborhood informed on the challenges that confront our community. Our goals are to add value, push transparency and try to stay out of politically charged issues.

Here are some challenges we need to stay on top of in the coming months. Feel free to reach out if you want to join a committee or voice a concern:

1. Air traffic noise and the potential rerouting of take offs from the airport to our neighborhood.
2. Significant changes to Route One and the potential for a "Super Highway" concept complete with sound barriers and elimination of left hand turns.
3. The redevelopment of the Old Mount Vernon High School and potential elimination of the George Washington Rec Center. Two RFP's have been submitted to Fairfax County and can be found on their website. There is not much detail, but we will continue to monitor this situation.
4. Fairfax County budgets and the long-term sustainability of our County's financial health.

Mount Vernon Civic Association, Inc.

MVCA Membership Meeting

Wednesday, October 11, 2017

Washington Mill Elementary School
7 p.m. pizza and soda; 7:30 p.m. program

Speaker:

Josh Toth, Burke & Herbert Bank

Josh will discuss ATM skimming and fraud. There have been numerous devices found in the Mount Vernon area in recent months. He will share with meeting attendees what these devices look like, and how to protect yourself against this form of theft.

Officers

President: Sean McCarthy703-360-0372
1st Vice President: VACANT
2nd Vice President: Karan Cerutti703-778-4442
Secretary: Lisa Faustlin303-396-5164
Treasurer: Jessica Mazur703-517-8468

Directors

Terry Enright 202-299-7459
Dan Rinzel703-360-4627
Paul Schray703-619-9377

Committee Chairs

Budget and Finance: Jason Leaver703-799-6739
Education: VACANT
Environment & Recreation: VACANT
Health & Human Services: Marv Chadab703-360-9537
Membership/Directory: Crystal Tully202-774-0427
Neighborhood Watch: Ted Thompson703-780-1972
Planning & Zoning: Karan Cerutti703-778-4442
Public Safety: John Hurley703-799-9353
Transportation: John Reiser703-780-4824