



# Mount Vernon Civic Association, Inc.

Summer 2017

[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

*"America was not built on fear. America was built on courage, on imagination and an unbeatable determination to do the job at hand."*

— Harry S. Truman

Thanks to everyone for the warm reception and the honor to serve as your MVCA President. We have a strong tradition of great leadership in the MVCA. I have had the pleasure to serve the Association over the last eight years as your Budget and Finance Chair. I definitely have some big shoes to fill, but our team makes this an edifying and enjoyable task.

Thanks to former MVCA President Louise Sloan who I have worked with for several years; we will miss her energy and enthusiasm. Please join me in sending a big *thank you* to the entire Sloan family. Rumor has it, she has already joined her new neighborhood civic association board in Michigan.

We have a lot going on in our community this summer, starting with our monthly meeting on May 10. Please join us at 7 p.m. for pizza and drinks in the WMES Library for our 7:30 p.m. meeting. Our guest speaker will be from the Cedar Knoll restaurant. As part of the discussion, the Cedar Knoll team will talk about the history of the restaurant, the background of their ownership team, summer entertaining tips and provide a

demonstration of an easy summer recipe you can use at home. Please be sure to thank them for all their support.

Next on our plate is the neighborhood directory. We are wrapping up the rough draft and expect this to go to print soon. The Board has worked tirelessly on this signature project. New features to look out for: Neighbor Tammy Eddy with Mount Vernon Estate has offered us photos and support; Dominion

Survey and the O'Quinn family have provided an updated neighborhood map; and, Fairfax County is celebrating its 275th anniversary and has provided us with a history of the County. If you have not had a chance to turn in your membership dues, please do so. The new directory is well worth the \$25 fee.

On another note, the neighborhood picnic will take place **Saturday, June 3** at 1 p.m. at St. James Church (*please see the ad inside newsletter for details*). The picnic crew has been working hard with preparations and will be providing a Cuban-style BBQ pig, complete with all the fixin's. We will also hold our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Cornhole Tournament, with the top prize being a \$100 gift certificate to Cedar Knoll restaurant. Back by popular demand, local musician Johnny Artis will provide live music.

*Continued on Page 5*



# AIR TRAFFIC UPDATE

In response to nearby resident concerns about increased aircraft noise, the Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority (MWAA) formed a Community Noise Working Group in 2015.

As part of this working group, representatives from Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax County, Montgomery County, Prince George's County and Washington, D.C. meet monthly with MWAA leadership, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and American Airlines (the largest tenant airline at the airport) to review aircraft landing and departure noise, and to examine feasible solutions to minimize noise.

Rather than focusing on noise reduction, the group ended up relocating the flights to fly over our houses instead, having turned the entire exercise into a "Zero Sum Game" with Mount Vernon being on the losing end. The recommendation is that the southern approach and departure paths be moved five miles down from its current path over Ft. Hunt to the Mount Vernon estate area. Planes taking off toward the south will now fly all the way down to Mount Vernon and then make a right turn in a semicircle directly over our area, so they can accomplish a north-westerly trajectory out of the D.C. region.

Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck is inviting homeowners to attend an educational and informational meeting on May 10 at Walt Whitman Middle School, 2500 Parker Lane, at 7 p.m. to ramp up the community's activism to encourage the FAA to expedite this group's proposal (*Note: May 10 is also the date of our MVCA meeting*).

## A Few More Details

Several factors add to the impending problem of increased noise:

- In addition to the noise of having the planes fly directly over us, the planes will be circling around

us instead of flying away from us, thereby increasing the time we are exposed to the noise footprint;

- The planes will need to significantly increase their power in order to meet the climb requirements in the plan, which adds even more noise;
- The FAA plans to implement the NextGen technological improvements that will concentrate flight routes and increase noise; and,
- An increase in demand has created a longer flying day with earlier and later times than customary. As an aside, the FAA has had numerous complaints and lawsuits from impacted cities about the NextGen technology. Try a Google search for more information.

As chance would have it, on October 29, 2016 at 3:18:33 p.m., during the course of a meeting in my backyard, the noise from a departing plane became intolerable at which point the time was recorded. All conversations had to cease until two and a half minutes later. The web tracker revealed that this noise was from a plane taking off from Reagan National Airport that was following the new tracking path. Although the plane was above 5,000 feet, this did not diminish the intensity of the noise, which only subsided as the plane was far enough away at 3:21:05 (see <http://webtrak5.bksv.com/dca> and follow DAL 1858).

Although I observed just a sample of the anticipated noise, no one has really experienced the full effects of this proposed solution yet, so most neighbors are blissfully unaware of these proposed changes.

By the time it is implemented, however, it could be too late to alter the course of events.

*Poul Hertel*  
Air Traffic Noise Chair

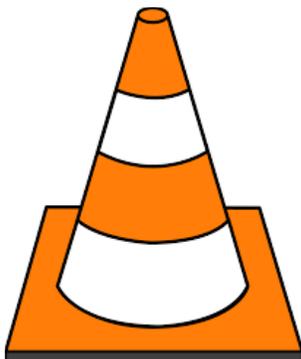
If you have noticed white, spray paint graffiti letters, numbers, arrows and white angle marks appearing on your street pavement in recent weeks, it is not the work of late-night delinquents.

In fact, it's the artistry of a Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) contractor preparing for the resurfacing and repaving of the marked-up roadways. VDOT has released a map of its 2017 repaving plans. At least 27 named roads listed below in our Association area are redlined for new blacktop this year.

Here is the list from the VDOT map of area roads to be paved:

*Bell Rive Tr., Bellwood Ct., Brambly Ln., Carriage House Ct., Cherrytree Dr., Chickawane Ct., Continental Dr., Densmore Ct., Fairfax St., Ferry Harbour Ct., Ferry Landing Ct. (1<sup>st</sup> block), Greatneck Ct., Lynhall Pl., Mavis Ct., Millburn Ct., Mount Vernon Memorial Hwy., Nietzsche Pl., Old Mansion Rd., Old Mill Rd., Presidential Dr., Rive Dr., Riverwood Ct., Riverwood Rd., Tidewater Ct., Volunteer Dr., Washington Woods Dr., Westgate Dr.*

I was unable to find out when the actual repaving will start. In driving around our area, I noted that not all listed roads have the white pavement markings, so they may be further down the schedule.



### In Other News

- VDOT held an information meeting on April 16 at MVHS presenting the preliminary proposal to widen Richmond Hwy. from Jeff Todd Way to Napper Rd. (just to the Costco location). The project is too massive to detail here. However, for more information, contact VDOT. As part of the project, a large number of identified buildings and other properties must be vacated and obtained, and some businesses relocated. A public hearing is scheduled for spring 2018; design approval in the summer 2018; property acquisition in spring 2019; utility relocation during summer 2020; and, construction expected to begin in spring 2023.
- Our district supervisor has taken up the issue of extending the green light signal timing for Old Mt. Vernon Rd. traffic at Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway with VDOT. We are waiting for a response.
- Only a few members attended the April MVCCA Transportation Committee meeting about speed control measures for Old Mill Road. The committee is currently seeking a new chairperson.

Have a great summer, and please keep me informed of any traffic issues or concerns.

*John Reiser*  
Transportation Chair

## BUDGET AND FINANCE

Hi neighbors. I look forward to serving as your MVCA Budget and Finance Chair. I promise to get up to speed as quickly as possible on the budget and finance issues that affect all of us. I know we are all appreciative of Sean McCarthy's efforts over the years to keep us informed, and I'm wishing I had spent more time reading his columns!

Sean highlighted the 2018 Fairfax County (FFX CTY) budget in the last issue. There have been some updates to the process, and I thought I would take you through some of them. Here is the link to the Fairfax County Department of Management and Budget Web Site (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/>). There are some good Financial Transparency links at the bottom of the home page which you might find useful. Also, there is an excellent short video on the budget process on the home page. I learned that by state law Fairfax County needs to have a balanced budget every year.

Another helpful online look at the 2018 budget and its process is a more modern link within the Budget website, called "5 Things to Know: County Executive Proposes \$4.10 Billion FY 2018 Budget" (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news2/5-things-to-know-county-executive-proposes-4-10-billion-fy-2018-budget/>). It is on the Fairfax County website. Additionally, there is a video available about the budget process by the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. It also has a real estate calculator so you can calculate your tax rate. Our home's assessment is slowly coming back, and is nine percent below the high in 2007-2008.

The "Five Things" highlighted, as of March 31, are:

1. **No Proposed Tax Increase.** Advertised rate of \$1.13 per \$100 of assessed value —unchanged from last year. Final tax rate to be determined in May.

2. **\$2.17 Billion to FCPS.** A 2.7 percent increase, totaling 52.8 percent of the total proposed budget.
3. **Economic Factors Impact Our Budget.** Several factors are listed, including the uncertainty about the effect of the new administration on the economy, including impacts such as tax policy, the Affordable Care Act and immigration policy.
4. **We Are Moving Forward.** A few links take you to Fairfax County's strategy for growth and its priorities.
5. **Provide Your Input.** While it is too late to provide input to the 2018 budget, the County lists several ways you can get involved with the budget process (*there is also the option of contacting me with your concerns*).

As Sean pointed out in the last newsletter, public hearings were held in April and changes were likely made. The Board of Supervisors must have a final tax rate and budget by May 15, with the County's new year starting July 1, 2017.

In the fall newsletter, I plan to explore Virginia's budget and the effect on Fairfax County. Please feel free to email me with any budget and finance related questions: [Jason.Leaver@icloud.com](mailto:Jason.Leaver@icloud.com)

*Jason Leaver*  
Budget and Finance Chair

# LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Continued from Page 1*

In other news: our ongoing battle against air traffic noise continues. Neighbor Poul Hertel is our Air Traffic Noise Chair, and is hard at work keeping us informed and ensuring our voices are heard. Dan Stork, our District Supervisor, has organized an open meeting at Walt Whitman Middle School on May 10 at 7 p.m. Poul and MVCA member Dan Rinzel will attend on our Association’s behalf. They plan to share our concerns that moving the noise to our neighborhood is not acceptable. We look forward to their report.

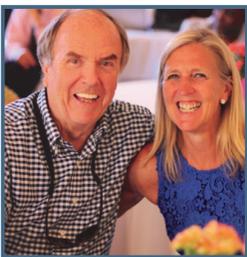
In addition to our Air Traffic Noise team, we have an outstanding team of Chairs keeping us informed on the numerous projects impacting our area. These issues include the widening of Route One;

the North Hill project; FCPS updates; our ongoing budget battles; and, neighborhood beautification and safety. We can always use extra hands, so feel free to reach out to any of us to help keep our neighborhood vibrant.

Thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your President. I will continue to bang the drum of transparent, data-driven and sustainable decision-making with our County leaders.

Have a great summer and always feel free to email me at [mclucid@verizon.net](mailto:mclucid@verizon.net).

*Sean McCarthy*  
MVCA President



## CHRIS & PEGGY WHITE

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**★★★★★ 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 \$4/5K 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](mailto:Chris.White@longandfoster.com)

# 11th Annual Mount Vernon Civic Association Picnic

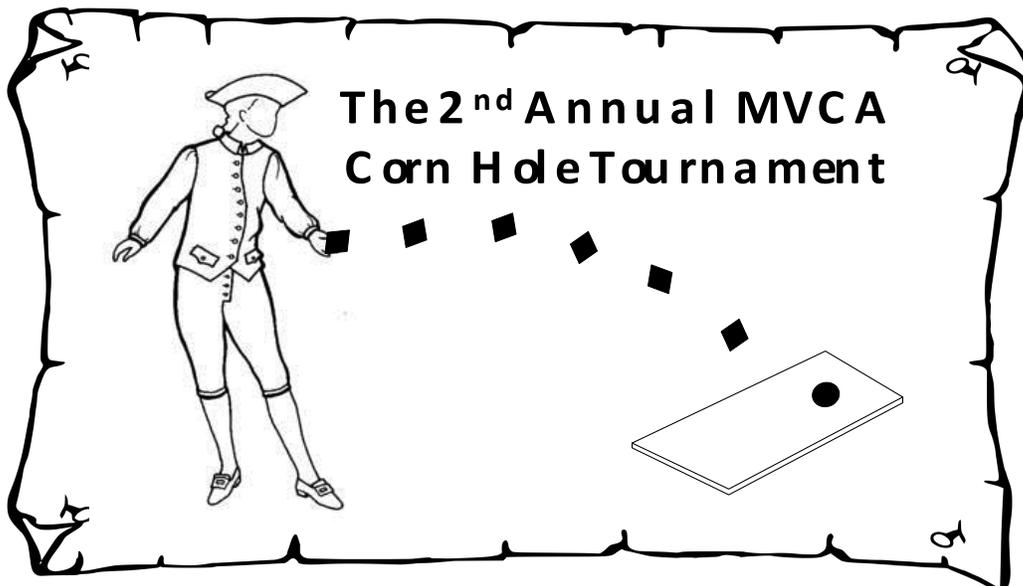
**The MVCA looks forward to seeing  
friends and neighbors at our Annual Picnic!**

**Where:** St James Episcopal Church (5614 Old Mill Rd., Alexandria)

**When:** Saturday June 3, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

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

During the picnic, neighbors and friends will enjoy an afternoon of **Cuban barbeque** and mouth-watering **sides**. **Beverages** will include **soda, water** and **juice boxes** (for the kids). There also will be **live music**. Come enjoy the festivities, including Mansion House Club, Mount Vernon Yacht Club, Mansion House Yacht Club, local scout sign-ups and a **moon bounce** for the kids. And returning this year: Our **2nd Annual Corn Hole Championship**, sponsored by neighborhood restaurant, **Cedar Knoll**. The **top prize** will be a "dinner for two" at **Cedar Knoll**.



# 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.*

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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!

Please extend a warm welcome to new MVCA Board members, Jason Leaver, our new Budget and Finance Chair, and Dr. Marv Chadab, our new Health and Human Services Chair.

Jason is a retired Naval aviator currently working for the Center for Naval Analyses in Clarendon. He and his family moved to Belle Rive in 2003, and expect to be here for long time. His wife, Cynthia, is a nurse practitioner and was involved with the Mansion House Tennis Team for several years. The couple's two children are off to college, and Jason and Cynthia are adjusting to their "empty nest." They look forward to getting to know more of their neighbors, and help build an even better community spirit.

Marv is a long-time Mount Vernon resident and has been here long enough to recall the Washington Bullets 1977 Championship. Originally from New York, Marv opened a practice in general dermatology in Oxen Hill, MD and eventually opened additional offices in Arlington and on Hinson Farm Road in Alexandria. After years of exhausting work, he is enjoying his retirement by still working part time, three days a week. As he notes, he does not like to play golf and his "duties" at the Mansion House Yacht Club require only so much attention. He is also a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary flotilla and enjoys reenacting the Great War. Marv is married to his lovely wife, Ann, and they have two children who attended Mount Vernon High School. They both currently live in the area.

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100% of our proceeds remain in this community.

### Public Safety - Summer

- The new Chairman of the MVCCA Public Safety Committee is Mr. Dean Sherrick, who has a very strong background as a former member of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Service and of the Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management.
- The recent Fairfax County bond issue has provided funds for the expansion and re-building of the Fairfax County Fire Department Company 24 fire station on Lukens Lane. The facility will have drive-through bays. Company 24 and their apparatus are a welcome feature of our MVCA picnic as are the FCPD officers and the marked and un-marked patrol vehicles of the Mount Vernon Police Station.

- Warmer weather and longer periods of sun means more walkers, runners, joggers, bicyclists, etc. All should be alert to traffic and motorists are urged to drive safely.
- Utilize outside lighting to prevent burglaries. Lock parked cars. Keep garage doors locked.
- Exercise caution with BBQ grills, fuel and ashes. Know how to utilize your fire extinguisher. Check the pressure gauge on extinguishers. The needle should be in the green area of the gauge.
- Be alert to phone scams and phone frauds.
- REPORT EMERGENCIES to 911.

*Your Neighbor,  
John Hurley*



*Cherry Tree*  
Tyler Cremer  
703.578.1283  
*Lawn Care*

*Neighborhood Student*  
*Lawn Mowing and Trimming*  
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*Clean up Fallen Branches*  
*Has Own Equipment*  
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*Great Service*

**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**




## EDUCATION

Attention parents of middle and high school students: Do *you* know about the International Baccalaureate (IB) program, an incredible opportunity offered by our neighborhood's schools?

Both Walt Whitman Middle School (WWMS) and Mt. Vernon High School (MVHS) offer IB programs, giving our students a huge advantage in preparing for college.

As Mount Vernon Principal Dr. Anthony Terrell recently announced, MVHS IB graduates are heading to Columbia, Dartmouth, Georgetown, Harvard, Princeton, Stanford, Yale, West Point and many other prestigious schools this fall. Go Majors!

### What is the IB Program?

The IB program is a rigorous, college-prep course of study offered at select Fairfax County middle and high schools. The goal of the IB program is to create students who are critical thinkers prepared for college and the global workforce. It was developed in 1968 for children of diplomats and international executives and is currently offered at more than 3,700 schools in 147 countries. It was brought to Fairfax County by School Superintendent Bud Spillaine, who also started the Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology. As Washington Post education columnist Jay Mathews wrote in his book, "*Supertest*," the IB program "has attracted many teenagers previously considered immune to deep thought." Mathews' book, which can be found at the local library, focuses on the adoption of the IB program at Mount Vernon High School and is worth a read.

- **The IB Middle Years Program at Walt Whitman** is a "whole of school" program that is built into the daily curriculum. Under the guidance of the late Principal Roger Vanderhye, WWMS increased its focus on the IB philosophy of an inquiry-based classroom that supports students in making connections among

the subjects they are learning about, rather than teaching them in isolation.

- **The IB Middle Years Program at MVHS:** As freshmen at MVHS, students have the option to continue in the middle years program, culminating in the IB Middle Years Program Certificate at the end of 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Students in this track are encouraged to take honors-level classes and are required to finish two years of a language, achieve a minimum GPA, meet community service requirements and complete a personal project. (Students do not have to complete the certificate to participate in the upper years diploma program, but it is good preparation for the coming academic rigor).
- **The Upper Years IB Programs at MVHS:** The IB college prep program really kicks off during grades 11 and 12 and offers several pathways: the IB Diploma, the IB Career Certificate or just taking specific IB classes that interest your student. Each IB class is capped by a 5-hour essay exam. Like AP classes, there is a GPA "boost" and an increasing number of universities offer college credit when certain scores are achieved. Even just one class will introduce the student to the level of effort they will face in college. Dr. Terrell's goal is to have every MVHS student take IB classes.
- **The IB Diploma.** Separate from the standard diploma awarded at graduation, the IB Diploma requires the student to take college-level courses in six subject areas and pass the related exams. In addition, the student takes the year-long Theory of Knowledge class, which is often cited by IB graduates as their most intellectually challenging and favorite class, completes a "creativity, action, and service" requirement and writes a 4,000-word research paper.

*Continued on Page 11*

# EDUCATION

*Continued from Page 10*

- **The IB Certificate Program.** This program gives students the chance to challenge themselves while exploring an interest in a specific career area, such as information technology, marketing, culinary arts and JROTC. The student takes IB courses related to their chosen career, a language, and a two-year course called Approaches to Learning that develops workplace and personal skills. Like the diploma, the certificate program requires community service and a reflective project.
- **Individual classes.** Reaching for the full IB Diploma or Certificate is not required to take IB classes. Students can register for all IB classes or just a few, although they must also take the exam for each class.

## Which One Should You Pick: AP or IB?

The passions generated in the “AP vs. IB” debate are fascinating and can be as deeply polarized as politics these days. One of the main differences between the AP and IB curriculums is that AP courses are typically stand alone courses while IB was developed as a comprehensive program. The IB program also asks more of students in terms of critical thinking and understanding and is focused on writing. The IB exams are five-hour essays vs. AP’s three-hour test that is half multiple choice.

As a former IB student wrote on the City-data.com discussion board: *“In my opinion, AP courses were a cakewalk in comparison to IB... Even just participating, really, makes the transition to university level classes exponentially easier.”* Mathew notes in his book that IB students tend to have higher average SAT scores and suffer less of a drop in GPA in their first year of college than AP students. The IB exams and projects are also graded by the IB program, so a standard level of rigor is applied worldwide.

Because it is more widely available and thus better known, AP is currently accepted at more universities for college credit. However, the rate of acceptance of IB scores is growing and the IB Program is well known and respected at the most selective colleges. There are reports of students waiving their entire freshman year requirements under both the AP and IB programs. Virginia law (Virginia SB 1077) requires state universities to be consistent in their consideration of AP and IB exams for course credit, and earning the IB Diploma is to be given special consideration. Stanford University’s Assistant Dean of Admissions, Debra Von Bargen, noted that *“Highly selective institutions perceive IB students as strongly prepared, capable, and ready to take on the curriculum.”* International universities also recognize the IB program.

## Is IB Worth the Effort?

Beyond simply waiving college courses, the rigor that is achieved from the IB program is of enormous value to achieving success in college. It is up to each family, in consultation with the IB coordinators at MVHS and WWMS, to determine whether or not the student is up to the task of the high school-level IB program. In a *Washington Post* article in January, Jay Mathews writes that many Washington-area students have told him that even if they did not score high enough to earn the IB Diploma, the improvement in their thinking and writing helped them in college and in life.

Students and parents who are interested in the any of the IB programs should reach out to the WWMS and MVHS IB coordinators to discuss pathways for joining the programs: Nate Beard at WWMS ([nbeard@fcps.edu](mailto:nbeard@fcps.edu)); Nikolas Short ([NAShort@fcps.edu](mailto:NAShort@fcps.edu)) and Berkeley McHugh ([BFMcHugh@fcps.edu](mailto:BFMcHugh@fcps.edu)) at MVHS.

Lynn Fisher  
Education Chair

# Mount Vernon Civic Association, Inc.

## MVCA Membership Meeting

**Wednesday, May 10, 2017**

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

### Speakers:

#### **Cedar Knoll Restaurant Team**

The Cedar Knoll team will talk about the history of the restaurant, the background of their ownership team, summer entertaining tips, and provide a demonstration of an easy summer recipe you can use at home.

### **Officers**

President: Sean McCarthy .....703-360-0372  
1st Vice President: Ron Leffler .....703-593-4149  
2nd Vice President: VACANT  
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: Jason Leaver .....703-799-6739  
Education: Lynn Fisher .....703-360-7091  
Environment & Recreation: Terry Enright .....202-299-7459  
Health & Human Services: Marv Chadab .....703-360-9537  
Membership/Directory: Ron Leffler .....703-593-4149  
Neighborhood Watch: Ted Thompson .....703-780-1972  
Planning & Zoning: Karan Cerutti .....703-778-4442  
Public Safety: John Hurley .....703-799-9353  
Transportation: John Reiser .....703-780-4824