



Mount Vernon Civic Association, Inc.

Winter 2017

www.MountVernonCivicAssociation.org

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Mount Vernon Grove • Mount Vernon Park • Oxford • Riverbend • Riverwood • Vernon Square • Washington Woods
• Westgate • Wycliffe on the Potomac • Yacht Haven Estates

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year, Mount Vernon!

Flipping the calendar to a new year is always exciting. The year welcomes us with the promise of new adventures, challenges, and joys. If you're anything like me, it also means the chance to create resolutions for improvements in exercise, diet, and relationships.

One of the relationships I most cherish is the one I share with my neighbors and with this community. Although my husband and I moved here in 2007, our Mount Vernon neighbors make it seem like we've been here forever. I credit that sense of community to those who have lived here long before 2007 and who formed the Mount Vernon Civic Association. These individuals, many of whom still serve on our Board and who remain active in our general membership meetings, show us what service to community means. They've built a neighborhood feeling of camaraderie and that gives residents a sense of home.

As we move into 2017, I encourage you to look around your street, block, and community and consider what you can do to keep the Mount Vernon spirit alive and well. Of course, I would love to welcome more neighbors to serve as committee chairs—we have many vacancies to choose from. Yes, these chairmanships do take time, but not as much as you may think. The work you do on the chairmanships keeps you and your neighbors abreast of issues at the Mount Vernon District and Fairfax County levels that affect our neighborhood. Our chairs help to make your voices heard at the Mount Vernon Council of Civic Association meetings so that our interests are considered.

Even if taking over a chairmanship is not in your 2017 resolutions, please resolve to maintain your MVCA membership for the coming year. This is an exciting year because the bi-annual directory will be coming out in the

MVCA

Membership Meeting

Wednesday, January 11, 2017

Washington Mill Elementary

7:00 PM pizza and soda 7:30 PM program

Speaker

Dr. Anthony Terrell

the new Mount Vernon High School Principal



Spring. The directory is a great place to learn about your local government, history, and businesses. It is also the place where you can find your neighbor's phone number to stay connected. Your membership pays for your copy of the directory, keeps our newsletter in publication, pays for community sign lights, and membership in the MVCCA.

Please join us for the general membership meeting on January 11, 2017, where we will meet the new Mount Vernon High School Principal, Dr. Anthony Terrell. Pizza will be on hand at 7:00PM and the meeting will start at 7:30PM.

I'm excited to ring in this new year, especially here in the Mount Vernon Civic Association.

*Louise Sloan
MVCA President*

BUDGET AND FINANCE

Happy New Year! The new year should be lively, given the surprising outcome in the US Presidential race. However, uncertainty will make budgeting and projecting income and expenses rather challenging in the short run. I will summarize, briefly, what has been discussed and projected in the 2018 County budget discussions.

I think it is safe to say that the new Presidential administration will actively try to make significant changes to national tax and budget policies. The Fairfax County (FC) Board of Supervisors must approve a budget based on a lot of undecided and important variables. These variables include, potential changes to the Affordable Care act, tax cuts, reduction/changes to government agencies, interest rates and global trade.

The FC budget discussions currently have revenues slightly increasing to \$74 million in 2018. However, the disbursements will grow faster, leaving us with a projected deficit of \$55 million before funding the needs of other significant items.

In addition to these local revenue and expense challenges, the Commonwealth is projecting a total deficit of \$1.2 billion dollars in FY 2017 and FY 2018. How these deficits will be managed and the effect on us locally, has yet to play out.

In addition to discussions on the 2018 budget, the budget and finance committee met in November to discuss a resolution to urge the FC supervisors to write a letter to

WMATA. They want the Supervisors to urge the WMATA to rethink the proposed late night rail service budget cuts. My position is that we need more data on the cost benefit analysis of this decision.

I understand the concern for late night workers and revelers to cheaply and safely make it home, but costs still matter. How much money are we losing by keeping the metro open late at night? Is there a better way to manage this problem? Are we jeopardizing the possibility of having funds available for a yellow line expansion?

The budget and finance committee also had a joint meeting with the education committee in December. This meeting was similar to the discussion above. There are still many challenges facing the Fairfax County Public School system. Since the meals tax did not pass, this will effect the revenue side of the budget.

I look forward to reporting again in March. I expect we will have more visibility on the pace of the changes taking place at the federal, state and local level. I hope all of you received an extra helping of patience over the holidays; we are going to need it.

As always, please feel free to email me at mclucid@verizon.net. The budget discussions and documents can be found at fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/.

Sean McCarthy, Budget and Finance Chair

Winter is Here

Be safe—if your car is coated in ice, your sidewalk, driveway and roads probably also are slippery. Avoid slips, falls and traffic accidents.

Allow additional time and space to brake your vehicle.

Drive with care where bicyclists, walkers, joggers may be. If you are in the latter 3 categories consider carrying cell phone, whistle, flashlight, ID and wearing reflective gear.

Carry water, flashlights, blanket(s), simple food in car as well as a battery-powered or hand crank radio, GPS, shovel, gloves, etc

Do not drive into or through fast-moving water particularly on or near bridges.

Be careful—if trees are down after high winds be aware of downed wires and metallic objects such as fences that may be energized.

Use extreme care re fireplaces, fireplace ashes, outdoor BBQ's in high winds, etc.

Keep car doors, trunks, and garage doors locked.

Do not leave small children alone in cars.

Utilize motion-activated outside lighting.

CALL 911 FOR ASSISTANCE FROM FIRE, POLICE, AMBULANCE/RESCUE SERVICES.

Enjoy the winter in safety and good health..

Your Neighbor, John A. Hurley

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vintage furniture, classic antiques,
and more...



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Off Rte 1 near the
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100% of our proceeds remain in this community.

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



ASSISTED LIVING RESIDENCES IN MVCA

MVCA community members have brought up the issue of assisted living homes in residential neighborhoods and questioned the propriety of these types of businesses within our residential areas. While these are homes to those in need that do not overtly impact neighbors, there are times when idling first response vehicles cause disturbances and a concern that the face of our residential area will change with the inclusion of more assisted living homes.

Mark Viani, the MVCCA Planning and Zoning Chairman, said that this type of residence is safeguarded through Virginia state statutes. According to Mark, Virginia statutes hold that up to eight individuals with a disability with one house supervisor should be considered a single family home. Because the assisted facilities in the MVCA hold the proper licenses and fall into this category, they are allowed. Additionally, this law supersedes HOA covenants.

The MVCA will continue to explore the issue. Individuals may always write their state representatives to inquire into the statute and how it affects our neighborhood's residential status.

UPDATE ON AIR TRAFFIC NOISE

Mike Rioux, the Mount Vernon District representative to the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWA) recently emailed an update to local citizens. He shared that while many problems have been identified, solutions are short in coming. MWA presented a new charter for the working group, which is celebrating a one year anniversary, to continue for another year. Fairfax County has two representatives on the board and Mike will continue to work for us. The need for the working group is apparent—a longer charter, given the issue’s complexity, would be best. Still, the extension is a positive sign.

Most of the focus has been on north flow traffic; we in the MVCA are more concerned about the south flow departures and north flow arrivals. As Mike stated at our October general meeting, these are issues that are identified but not yet solved.

Mike’s report, along with the power point and working group proposal from the December 15, 2016, meeting will be placed on our website for you to peruse.

Mount Vernon Civic Association, Inc.

Officers

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Budget and Finance: Sean McCarthy703 360-0372
Consumer Affairs: Vacant
Education: Vacant
Environment & Recreation: Terry Enright.....202-299-7459
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