



Mount Vernon Civic Association, Inc.

Spring 2018

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

"In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing, the next best thing is the wrong thing, and the worst thing you can do is nothing."

– Theodore Roosevelt

I hope everyone is staying warm this winter! Please note our next general membership meeting is Wednesday, March 14 at Washington Mill Elementary School. Join us before the meeting officially begins at 7 p.m. for pizza and drinks. Our guest speakers are Vanessa Wheeler and John Johnson of local garden center, Hollywood and Vine. This is a great opportunity to talk about spring plantings, yard maintenance and soil issues. I know I've had my own fun with marine clay and soil amendments over the years.



Following on the spring planting theme, Kate Offringa is leading the charge on our neighborhood clean-up efforts. We have scheduled Saturday, April 7 as the neighborhood clean up date. We plan to focus on the entrance signs at Cherry Tree Drive and Route 235. If you would like to join us, please meet at 9 a.m. on the corner. Please be careful of traffic.

On a serious note, a car hit one of our MVCA neighbors when she was attempting to cross Route 235 last month. Many of you may have heard the helicopter or remember the road closure that day.

Luckily, she is recovering, with no life-threatening injuries. On behalf of the MVCA residents, we send our best wishes and hopes for a speedy recovery.

The MVCA Board has received numerous complaints about the 45-mph speed limit on Route 235. As many of us know, traffic on this road is rapidly increasing. Motorists are even passing cars turning left on the right side of the road. Many times, this scenario occurs in the bus lane and at high speed.

The MVCA Board, led by our Traffic and Safety and Transportation Chairs, is recommending reducing the speed limit on that stretch of Route 235 to 35 mph and increasing visibility on our pedestrian crosswalks. Please give us your feedback and suggestions at the March meeting.

On another note, please join me in extending a big thank you to Board Chair Jess Mazur for working hard to update our MVCA website. Check it out and feel free to make recommendations on what you would like to see posted. Our goal is to use our website to house information for long-term reference, including updated calendars, newsletters, letters sent on behalf of the MVCA, pictures and historical information. We will also post links and updated public service information. Please direct new neighbors to the website; it's a great local resource. Many thanks again, Jess.

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HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Hello neighbors!

Because we are in the midst of a particularly severe flu season, I'd like to share some basic flu information.

Let's start with the most common symptoms:

- Nasal congestion
- Sinus congestion
- Fever
- Headache
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Body aches
- Runny nose
- Sneezing
- Chest congestion

Of course, each symptom has some type of treatment, and your pharmacist and doctor can offer recommendations.

First and foremost, having the flu vaccine is a must. It is still not too late to get a flu shot, but keep in mind that it takes two weeks to build an immune response.

Note: individuals who are immunosuppressed should avoid the nasal version. And anyone on a biologic agent for psoriasis must avoid all live/attenuated vaccines.

It is estimated that this year's flu strain is about 30 percent effective – not great, but better than none. Antivirals can be prescribed by your physician but are usually limited to patients at risk.



Prevention Tactics

Another strategy to battle the flu is prevention. Sanitation cannot be overemphasized and frequent hand washing, hand sanitizers and surgical masks (when appropriate) can go a long way.

If your symptoms become intense, a doctor's visit or an emergency room visit would be appropriate.

Final Thoughts

As a side note, this is the 100th anniversary of the Great Pandemic Flu of 1918. It is estimated that 500 million people were infected, and a staggering 50 to 100 million succumbed to the illness. Certainly an outbreak today of the same proportions would profoundly change society as we know it. Researchers of this catastrophe agree that the strain of the flu was not much different than the current strains, but the state of our society has improved as well as the state of medicine.

Marv Chadab
MVCA Health & Human Services Chair

BUDGET AND FINANCE

As many of you know, Fairfax County Executive Bryan Hill recently presented his proposed Fiscal Year 2019 Budget to the Board of Supervisors on Feb. 20., 2018

The proposed General Fund budget is \$4.29 billion, a \$192.32 million, or 4.69 percent, increase over the current FY 2018 Adopted Budget. Including other appropriated funds such as federal and state grants, the total proposed budget is \$8.42 billion.

The proposed budget includes a 2.5 cent increase in the real estate tax rate, which would result in an average tax bill increase of \$268 for homeowners. The real estate tax rate would increase from the current rate of \$1.13 to \$1.155 per \$100 of assessed value.

Please see the Fairfax County proposed budget summary that was presented to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors:

<https://www.slideshare.net/fairfaxcounty/county-executive-budget-presentation-on-the-fy-2019-advertised-budget-plan>

County Executive Bryan Hill on Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS):

Hill recommended general fund transfers to FCPS that total \$2.26 billion – a 4.38 percent, or \$95.10 million, increase over the current FY 2018 budget. The proposed operating transfer meets the FCPS Board's requested transfer after accounting for an anticipated increase in state revenues. The top priority for the FCPS FY 2019 Budget is teacher salaries and benefits.

FCPS receives almost 72 percent of its funding from the county government. It accounts for 52.8 percent of the county's general fund budget.

The proposed budget also includes fully funding employee compensation to retain and attract

quality County employees. This would be only the third time in 10 years that compensation is fully funded for both uniformed public safety and general County employees. Public budget hearings will be April 10, 11 and 12.

In Other News

Because I was conducting research for this article, another piece in the Feb. 22 *Mount Vernon Gazette* by the D-36 senator (representing the northern Ft. Hunt area) caught my eye: "Negotiating the State Budget." Unfortunately, the article was primarily about the senator's bills that he had introduced.

However, our senator, Adam Ebbin, wrote an excellent and extensive commentary entitled "Working on Strategy To Fund Metro," if you want to learn more. Here is the online version: <http://www.mountvermongazette.com>

Regarding the Virginia budget, Virginia's House and Senate approved starkly different state budget plans on Feb. 22, one flush enough for teacher raises, expanded health care and more financial aid for college students, the other filled with painful cuts. There was a shift in Medicaid expansion, however. More than a dozen House Republicans abandoned their long-standing opposition to expansion, teaming up with Democrats to include it in their two-year spending plan, which would take effect July 1.

The two houses will debate each other's bill, with the adopted budget going into effect on July 1. Here is a website covering budget FAQs: <http://dpb.virginia.gov/budget/faq.cfm>.

Please feel free to email me with any budget and finance related questions at jason.leaver@icloud.com.

Jason Leaver
MVCA Budget & Finance Chair

A Warm Welcome to Our New Environmental & Recreation Chair

Gale Curcio currently runs SALE by GALE, a full/service estate sale business in the Northern Virginia area. She has a booth at Evolution Home, where she sells some of her treasures.

Previously, she ran a marketing business called Curcio Communications. She also spent 10 years as a writer/editor for the *Connection* Newspapers, and worked for numerous non-profit organizations.

Gale is married to attorney, Tom Curcio, and has two boys. She enjoys traveling, volunteering and spending time with her family and her border collie, Roxie.

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



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 - [hirates](#)
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

MVCA Block Captains Needed!

Have you been looking for a way to support your neighborhood and local civic association but feel you may not have the extra time?

Here's a great opportunity to help out and get to know your neighbors!

Main responsibilities include:

Welcome Wagon - Deliver a MVCA Welcome Packet to new neighbors on your block

Communications – Handout summer newsletter and directory (no more than twice a year).

The time commitment is minimal. There are no meetings required and each captain is responsible for 10-20 houses, depending on your block size.

If you are interested in supporting the MVCA and becoming a Block Captain, please go to the MVCA website (www.mountvernoncivicassociation.org), click on the "More" tab and then tap "Block Captain Program." Thank you for your support,

Jessica Mazur
MVCA Treasurer

Cherry Tree
Tyler Cremer
703-795-4465
Lawn Care

Neighborhood High School Student
Lawn Mowing and Trimming
Plant Watering for Vacations
Clean up Debris & Branches
Has Own Equipment
Free Estimates
Great Service

MT. VERNON BARBER ZONE

\$10.99 Men's Haircut
Reg. Price \$14. Not valid with other discounts. Valid Mon - Fri only.

8733 Cooper Rd. • 703-704-5300
Located in Mt. Vernon Cooper Center. Behind McDonalds.



President's Message Continued

Continued from Page 1

Finally, I recently had a meeting with the new President of Mt. Vernon, Doug Bradburn. We have his support on combating air traffic noise. He will reach out to his contacts to help us push back against sending departures down river towards our neighborhoods. We will keep you posted.

Doug also advised that they are working with Fairfax County to continue the sidewalk to Route 235. Many of you may have noticed the Ladies of Mt. Vernon reviewing the land with our County officials. According to Doug, they are still on track to get this project done.

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

Sean McCarthy
MVCA President

PLANNING & ZONING

The Planning & Zoning Committee received informational briefings on four projects:

1. The first update was from Michael Dreher, Project Manager, who provided information on the construction of the new larger Woodlawn Fire Station on the lot next to the current fire station. The County purchased the property (R2) in 2013. Mr. Dreher has not met with the community yet and is applying for rezoning, map amendment and a change to Comp Plan. They will reschedule with us closer to the public meetings. We discussed environmental issues, including storm water management, water gardens, building appearance (more residential) and material, and windows.
2. Mr. Dave, representative of the Fenton property at Richmond Highway and Shields Avenue, is studying the possibility of developing the 6.37 acre site with a 4-6 story apartment building. There is an apartment building on the site now. There is a contract on its purchase. The development supports the Comp Plan and future BRT and CBC of EMBARK.
3. The purchaser of the single family home at 8728 Lukens Road briefed the committee on his desire to open a private school for Kindergarten through third grade for a maximum of 12 students. The community accepted his plan. He met with County staff in late September and they did not accept his plan, and require a Special

Exception. We discussed pupil-teacher ratio, accreditation and parking.

4. Sarah briefed us again on the Sunoco on Richmond Highway. There is a potential contract for purchase, but is not a done deal. Based on a previous disapproval, the potential new owners will modify the access to and from Richmond Highway and incorporate a more historical design. The site will also be more environmentally sound. Riverside has also agreed to incorporate the property with their area.

Lastly, there was a brief discussion about the Zoning Modification (Z Mod) committee and its effort to streamline zoning laws. The process for development is one to two years (previously, it was about 18 months). The goal is to have a draft, outlining all changes within 18 months.

Karen Cerutti
MVCA Planning & Zoning Chair

Sneak Peak!

MVCA May Meeting

Detective Matthew Hrubes,
the **Fairfax County Police**
Gang Coordinator will speak about
gangs and gang activity in our schools
and neighborhood at MVCA's
May 9. general meeting

If you think gang activity or presence in
our community is nonexistent, you need
to attend this very important meeting!
Stay tuned for additional details.

Mount Vernon Civic Association, Inc.

MVCA Membership Meeting

Wednesday, March 14, 2018

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

Our guest speakers during this meeting
will be **Vanessa Wheeler** and
John Johnson of local garden center,
Hollywood and Vine.

This is a great opportunity to talk about
spring plantings, yard maintenance
and soil issues!

Officers

- President: Sean McCarthy703-360-0372
- 1st Vice President: Jason Leaver703-799-6739
- 2nd Vice President: Karan Cerutti703-778-4442
- Secretary: Lisa Faustlin303-396-5164
- Treasurer: Jessica Mazur703-517-8468

Directors

- John Hurley703-799-9353
- Dan Rinzel703-360-4627
- Paul Schray703-619-9377

Committee Chairs

- Budget and Finance: Jason Leaver.....703-799-6739
- Education: VACANT
- Environment & Recreation: Gale Curcio...703-360-3621
- Health & Human Services: Marv Chadab.....703-360-9537
- Membership/Directory: Crystal Tully.....202-774-0427
- Neighborhood Watch: Ted Thompson703-780-1972
- Planning & Zoning: Karen Cerutti703-778-4442
- Public Safety: John Hurley703-799-9353
- Transportation: John Reiser703-780-4824