



Mount Vernon Civic Association, Inc.

Summer 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

“Economy, prudence, and a simple life are the sure masters of need, and will often accomplish that which, their opposites, with a fortune at hand, will fail to do.”

– Clara Barton

Please join us at 7 p.m. at Washington Mill Elementary School for pizza and drinks for our Wednesday, May 9 meeting. The meeting will start at 7:30 p.m. Our special guest is Detective Matthew Hrubes, the Fairfax County Police Gang Coordinator. Matthew will discuss gang activity in our community and schools. This should be an informative and eye-opening discussion.

The Mount Vernon Civic Association (MVCA) would like to thank Vanessa Wheeler and John Johnson of Holly, Woods and Vines for a fun, helpful presentation at our spring meeting. It was a timely presentation as we had our neighborhood cleanup on April 7.

We would like to thank neighbors Kate Offringa, Jason Leaver and Chris Pegher for all of their help with the cleanup effort. The Cherry Tree entrance monuments look much better. However, we have more work to do in the coming months.

Please note our local membership drive for the Yacht Haven Garden Club in the newsletter. In addition to the great work they are doing for the Yacht Haven entry monuments, they have offered to make recommendations on the remaining MVCA entry monuments. We hope to have uniform and low maintenance plant and shrubbery solutions for our neighborhood monuments.



The MVCA has been servicing our entrance monuments at Cherry Tree, Yacht Haven, West Gate and Riverwood since 1971. We will continue this strong tradition and put forth a plan to clean up the flowers, lights and some brick work. We are working to form a long-term plan, which we will present to the membership soon. Please feel free to reach out to us if you would like to join the Monument Upkeep Committee or have knowledge of the history of the monuments.

Thank you to our members for a lively discussion on the Route 235 safety solutions at the Spring meeting. Based on this feedback, our Traffic and Public Safety Chairs and I have drafted a resolution asking Fairfax County and the State to review the overall safety issues on our stretch of Route 235. The general consensus is to make Route 235 safer and our pedestrian crosswalks more visible. We will post a copy of the resolution online.

Continued on Page 7

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Hello neighbors!

In this issue, I'd like to address poison ivy (oak and sumac) treatment.

Avoidance is of course the key. Should you be exposed – such as when gardening – a soapy shower can reduce the amount of this antigen and lessen the intensity of the outbreak.

How It Works

The poison ivy's are a delayed reaction immunity type so the interval between exposure and reaction can vary from one to three days. Another interesting insight is the timing of new areas of involvement. Those areas of skin with the thickest coating will react sooner, but as more immune cells are synthesized by the body, lesser areas of exposure will react.

As a result of this phenomenon, many people misinterpret it as spreading of the reaction - but this is not the case. Treatment is with anti inflammatory agents such as steroids.

How to Treat

Most outbreaks can be handled with topicals; rarely is systemic intervention necessary. The over the counter cortisone creams are too weak to make much of a difference but are better than nothing. Topical fluorinated steroids (require a doctor's prescription) should do the trick. Itching can be treated with internal antihistamines: Benadryl at night and a nonsedating antihistamine in the

morning, such as Claritin). In my opinion, topical antihistamines are not useful. For blisters and weepy areas, I suggest a dark, room temperature tea compress for its tannic acid drying properties. Secondary bacterial infections may require internal antibiotics, so avoid scratching.

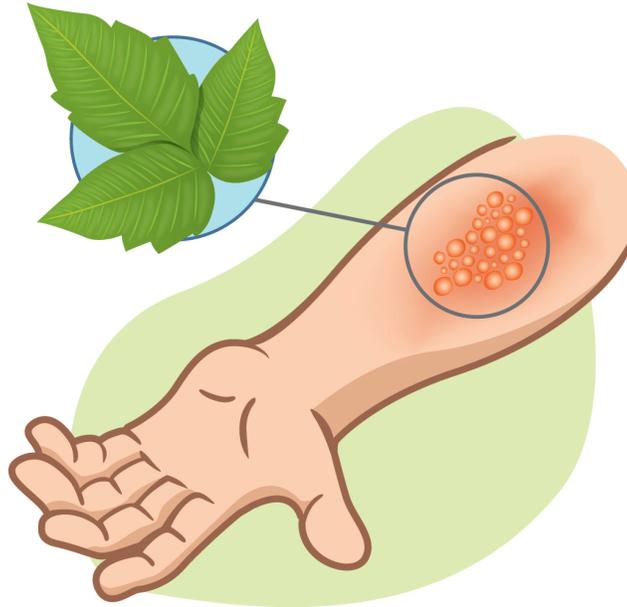
Avoiding the plant is far more desirable than treating, so be aware and cover up when gardening.

Final Words of Wisdom

A final word of caution is how internal steroids are prescribed. Many non

dermatologists will use a Medrol dose pack. This pack consists of six rows of pills with the first row (day) of six pills and the last sixth row of one. I find that this rapid taper results in a return of the rash (rebound) in many people.

Ask for a longer taper (usually three weeks) to avoid this rebound. Systemic steroid can have accumulative side effects so it's best to minimize or avoid them altogether.



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

BUDGET AND FINANCE

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voted on the FY 2019 budget on May 1. The budget year begins July 1. 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.

Here is a link to the details of the plan: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget/advertised-budget-plan>.

Not surprisingly, the budget was the lead story of the most recent issue of the *Mount Vernon Gazette*. I had to search for the article in the online version, and found it under the Education section. I suppose this was as good a place as any since the school system receives over half of the County's budget. The proposed budget would transfer 54 percent of the total to the school system to fully fund the Fairfax County School Board budget request. It would also fund pay increases for teachers and county employees.

Here is a link to that article: <http://www.mountvernongazette.com/news/2018/apr/18/two-sides-two-and-half-cents-fairfax-county/>

More than 150 of our residents spoke at the public hearings held April 10-12. The article implied that the majority of the speakers were in favor of the tax hike, voicing passionate pleas on multiple county services including the environment, health and human services, people with disabilities and who are aging, early childhood education, fire and rescue services, pay for public safety personnel, the opioid epidemic, affordable housing, diversity, mental



health treatment, school bonds and capital improvements, the triple A bond rating, the arts, libraries, competitive pay for teachers and more. Because of Virginia law, Fairfax County depends almost entirely on real estate taxes for revenue, putting a burden on homeowners in particular, whose increasing property values don't always demonstrate an ability to pay more.

In Other News

The *Mount Vernon Gazette* recently published an article on one of my interest areas, financial literacy. April was Financial Literacy Month, and the article, Teaching Lessons in Money Management, interviews local financial advisors on how parents can teach their children to become financially responsible adults. I also believe that one of the most important lessons a parent can teach their child is how to save.

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 Membership Chair

Maggie Jones moved back to the Mount Vernon area in 2016 from Charleston, SC. She has been a RN for the past 26 years, and currently works in administration.

Maggie is married to Jeff Jones, and they have two children. She enjoys traveling, singing and spending time with family and friends.



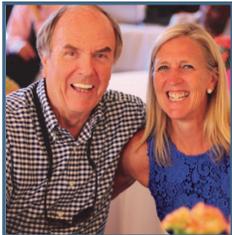
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★★★★★ Highly likely to recommend

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

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reservations@cedarknollva.com 9030 Lucia Lane Alexandria, VA 22308 www.cedarknollva.com

ENVIRONMENT & RECREATION

Update on King's Crossing

• Justin Pistore, Fairfax County's Department of Public Works & Environmental Services, gave an update on the environmental work being done behind King's Crossing.

- Final Plan Approval – June 2018.
- Permits required from US Army Corp. of Engineers, VDOT, and Dept. of Env. Quality.
- Bidding Process – Three months.
- Funding Allocation – Fall/Winter, 2018.
- Construction will last 10-12 months.

Richmond Highway Corridor Improvements- Environmental Issues

- VDOT and Fairfax County should take effective steps to capture and prevent trash generated by pedestrian and vehicular traffic along Richmond Highway from getting into local streams, including at Little Hunting Creek and Dogue Creek crossings.
- Storm water management ponds will not be placed in or near and will not impinge on or compromise Environment Quality Corridors, Resource Protection Areas, nor Floodplains
- www.virginiadot.org/projects/northernvirginia/richmond_highway.asp

Dyke Marsh – Sanitary Sewer Pipe replaced - \$16M project.

Buses Idling at Mount Vernon

• At the April Board meeting, it was noted that the tour buses at Mount Vernon are idling even though it is clearly marked that they should not. Sean McCarthy plans to follow up with Mount Vernon.

The Mount Vernon Trail public meeting information can be found here in the Covering the Corridor news blog.

- <http://coveringthecorridor.com/2018/03/public-meeting-mount-vernon-memorial-trail-project/>

Fairfax County Park Authority's Lake Accotink Park Master Planning Process

- <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/planning-development/lakeaccotink>

Virginia Department of Environment Quality's Salt Management Strategy (SaMS) project.

- <http://deq.state.va.us/SaMS.aspx>
- <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-zoning/environmental-quality-advisory-council/minutes>

Upcoming Events

May 9 - Butterflies and Dragonflies: 7:30 p.m.

Norma Hoffman Visitor Center at Huntley Meadows

Join Fairfax Master Naturalists and Friends of Dyke Marsh for a talk by Georgetown University biologist Dr. Leslie Reis. She will discuss butterflies, their host plants and how both are responding to climate change. Summarizing her work with the Monarch, the Baltimore checkerspot, and the silver-spotted skipper, Dr. Reis will show how she builds on work by citizen scientists such as Jim Waggener, who has contributed 25 years of data on behalf of the Audubon Society of Northern Virginia at the Occoquan Bay National Wildlife Refuge.

May 9 and 19 – 8 a.m. to noon: Native Tree Planting at Dyke Marsh

Toward a Healthier Dyke Marsh

FODM needs many volunteers to help FODM and the National Park Service plant trees, shrubs and plants along the Haul Road trail, a project to better control harmful invasive plants and put in native plants that support native wildlife.

May 9, 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.: Help with students' planting

May 19, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., FODM to put in remaining plants

Gale Curcio
Environment & Recreation Chair

President's Message Continued

From page 1

Also, during our Spring meeting, we discussed moving the annual picnic to every other year and/or directory years. The membership had mixed feelings on the idea of every other year. Based on the general membership's input, the Board has agreed to forego this Spring's picnic. We may recommend that the funds for the picnic be allocated toward the neighborhood entrance monuments. Not to worry though, we will continue the tradition of the neighborhood picnic and are already in the planning stages with our new committee. We will report back in the fall.

Lastly, I had the pleasure of attending the open house for the Old Mount Vernon High School Project. They are still in the planning stages and are soliciting input from the community. They are publicly advising that the Mount Vernon Recreation Center pool will not close, and the County is trying to enhance this service. Please monitor and provide input to the County on how you would like them to develop this property. Until they present a plan, we are not sure how this will impact our community.

Please note that the annual dues notices have been mailed. Please take the time to mail or drop off your payment. We have a great community due to your leadership and volunteer spirit. With your continued support, MVCA will continue to be the premier civic association in Northern Virginia.

Thank you again for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your President. I want to thank our Board for all of their hard work and dedication. They are a great group, and it is a pleasure working with them. I will continue to bang the drum of transparent, data-driven and sustainable decision-making with our County leaders. Have a great summer and as always, feel free to email me at mclucid@verizon.net.

Sean McCarthy
MVCA President



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Alexandria, VA 22309

****Ask about our Fall trips:
Atlantic City, Lancaster,
and New York City!!!***

AIRPORT TRAFFIC UPDATE

The April 26 DCA National Airport Noise Committee meeting concerned the “Final Option” regarding the routes that DCA planes take when heading South (South Flow). The FAA gave a Power Point presentation similar to past presentations, but this time, they were more forthcoming in explaining the practical aspects.



The presenters clearly stated that the planes would be much closer to the Mount Vernon estate and our neighborhood than suggested by the drawings, as we have been saying all along. They also said that the Way-Point heights were maximum heights, not minimum, meaning that the planes will be lower than people have been telling us.

So, the planes are going to fly closer and lower, but they will also need to start accelerating from Fort Ward as they cycle around our neighborhood. The Arlington representative said that the affected residents (our neighborhood) would go nuts when this is implemented, and that we have no idea what is coming our way, and compared it to the situation in Palisades.

The second presentation (which for some reason rattled the noise group) was the need for an Environmental Review. This is a process that involves public input as to the scope and critique of a draft report before it becomes final. The public will be notified by the Noise Group as to when these steps will take place.

Poul Hertel
MVCA Guest Contributor

Public Safety

Spring is here! Lots more fresh-air opportunities for: walkers, joggers, bicyclists, motorcyclists, motorists and more to enjoy the outdoors.

We all need to be mindful of: speed limits, cautionary signs, stop signs, traffic signals, flashing red lights on school buses, no turn on red signs, etc and the many crossings and crosswalks in our neighborhoods as some are well-marked and some are not.

There are many types and varieties of safety shirts, hats, vests, pin-on reflectors and battery-powered flashers and lights. Consider carrying a whistle, small flashlight, cell phone and ID when on walks, bike rides, etc. Install additional reflectors on bikes.

Fire safety is a year-round need. Use care with BBQ's, fire-starters, charcoal and ash disposal.

Lock parked cars, use motion-sensitive outdoor lighting, install smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

Your neighbor,

John A. Hurley
Public Safety Chair

MEMBERSHIP



Welcome all new MVCA members and families. We appreciate the support of those of you who have already joined or renewed your membership. The table below shows the current number of members by street. Please consider joining, it's never too late! You can pay your dues online or by mail. Please visit www.mountvernoncivicasociation.org for information on how to join/renew.

Your membership, attendance and dues allow MVCA to stay engaged in our county; provide you with quarterly newsletters featuring events and

topics relevant to our area; support a strong neighborhood watch program and neighborhood picnic; and much more. Also, I would like to thank Maggie Jones for stepping up as Membership Chair! Maggie: we appreciate your enthusiasm and willingness to help.

Jessica Mazur
Treasurer

Street Name	Homes	Members
Allwood Dr. + Ct.	25	8
Belle Rive Terrace	20	8
Belwood Ct.	4	1
Boothe St.	20	5
Brambly Ln.	21	5
Brookmay Ct.	4	1
Carlby Ln.	9	1
Carriage House Ct.	18	4
Cherrytree Dr.	32	5
Chickawane Ct.	14	1
Congressional Ct.	3	0
Continental Dr.	8	0
Coral Ln.	13	3
Craig Ave.	19	6
Densmore Ct.	6	3
Dolphin Ln.	34	7
Fairfax St.	17	3
Ferry Hall Ct.	7	1
Ferry Harbour Ct.	12	4
Ferry Landing Ct.	29	6
Ferry Landing Rd.	52	11
Forest Haven Dr.	35	5
Great Neck Ct.	17	0
Heather Glen Dr.	17	4
Kimbreelee Ct.	10	1
Ludgate Dr.	27	7
Lynnhall Pl.	24	5
Macklin Ct.	7	2
Mavis Ct.	4	0
Maybrook Ct. + Pl.	17	4
Millburn Ct.	11	4
Mt Vernon Mem Hwy	13	0
Neitzey Place	4	2
Nellie Custis Ct.	4	2
Neptune Dr.	51	9
Old Mansion Rd.	18	4
Old Mill Rd.	3	0
Old Mt. Vernon Rd.	39	10
Picardy Ct.	6	2
Presidential Dr.	11	2
Reef Ct.	5	1
Rive Dr.	12	7
Riverwood Ct. + Rd.	45	10
Roberston Blvd.	48	14
Scotland Rd.	11	3
Tarpon Ln.	45	5
Tidewater Ct.	6	1
Volunteer Dr.	47	12
Warburton Ct.	4	0
Washington Woods Dr.	19	6
Westgate Dr.	15	2
Total	942	207 (22%)

Block Captains

A big thank you to everyone who signed up to be a Block Captain for your street! If you were a captain in the past, feel free to continue your role and sign up on the MVCA website. Currently, we need volunteers for the following streets:

Belwood Ct., Brookmay Ct., Carlby Ln., Carriage House Ct., Cherrytree Dr., Chickawane Ct., Congressional Ct., Continental Dr., Coral Ln., Densmore Ct., Dolphin Ln, Fairfax St., Ferry Hall Ct., Ferry Landing Ct., Ferry Landing Rd., Great Neck Ct., Kimbreelee Ct., Ludgate Dr., Mavis Ct., Millburn Ct., Mt. Vernon Mem Hwy., Neitzey Place, Nellie Custis Ct., Neptune Dr., Old Mansion Rd., Old Mill Rd., Old Mt. Vernon Rd., Picardy Ct., Presidential Dr., Reef Ct., Riverwood Ct. + Rd., Robertson Blvd., Scotland Rd., Warburton Ct., Washington Woods Dr., Westgate Dr.

Please visit: mountvernoncivicasociation.org block-captain-program for more information and to sign up.

Also, I would like to thank Marjorie O'Donnell for volunteering to manage the Block Captain program. We really appreciate your help!

Jessica Mazur
Treasurer

**YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN
THE YACHT HAVEN GARDEN CLUB**

**MEETINGS ARE THE FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH
IN SEPTEMBER THROUGH DECEMBER,
AND FEBRUARY THROUGH MAY**

**MOUNT VERNON YACHT CLUB,
4817 TARPON LANE, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22309**

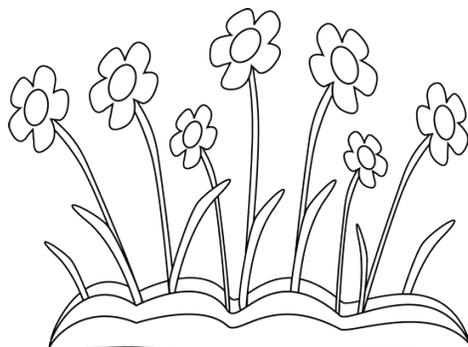
THE FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH, 9:30AM – 12PM,

FIRST YEAR ANNUAL DUES \$35

**FOR MORE INFORMATION,
CONTACT PATSIE AT PMUCHELLO@AOL.COM**

OUR CONTINUING PROJECTS INCLUDE:

- **YACHT HAVEN FASHION SHOW AND SILENT AUCTION**
- **CHRISTMAS DECORATING AT MOUNT VERNON YACHT CLUB**
- **AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY SUPPORT**
- **ENTRANCE MARKER BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT**
- **SHERWOOD HALL LIBRARY GARDEN**
- **SUPPORT TO WOODLAWN PLANTATION NEEDLEWORK SHOW**
- **NATIONAL CAPITAL AREA GARDEN CLUBS SUPPORT**
- **DISTRICT II SUPPORTMEMBER OF THE NATIONAL GARDEN CLUBS OF AMERICA**





Mount Vernon Yacht Club
Established 1956

The members of Mount Vernon Yacht Club extend a warm invitation to our annual Commissioning Day and Blessing of the Fleets.

Sunday, 6 May 2018 at 2:00 PM

The Mount Vernon Yacht Club celebrates its annual “Commissioning Day” and “Blessing of the Fleets” ceremony every spring. Passed down through generations of sailors and navies around the world, the centuries-old ceremony is intended to safeguard crews and ships from the danger of the seas through a traditional blessing given by a clergyman at the water’s edge. Our ceremony is brief and highlighted by a performance of the United States Coast Guard Ceremonial Honor Guard Silent Drill Team.

The Mount Vernon Yacht Club, located at 4817 Tarpon Lane, Alexandria, VA 22309, is a neighborhood-based social club located near George Washington’s Mount Vernon Estate just south of Washington, D.C. Some people think a “yacht club” is only for boaters, but MVYC has something for everyone, every month of the year!

As active members of the community and stewards of the Potomac River, it is our hope that you will join us in ushering in another wonderful boating season while enjoying light refreshments and sweeping views of the mighty Potomac River.

Mount Vernon Yacht Club – the gem of the Potomac since 1956!

www.mvyc.net

MVCA Membership Meeting

Wednesday, May 9, 2018

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

Our guest speaker will be
Detective Matthew Hrubes, the Fairfax
County Police Gang Coordinator.

Matthew will discuss gang activity in
our community and schools.

This should be an informative and
eye-opening discussion.

Mount Vernon Civic Association, Inc.

Officers

President: Sean McCarthy 703-360-0372
1st Vice President: Jason Leaver 703-799-6739
2nd Vice President: Karan Cerutti 703-778-4442
Secretary: Lisa Faustlin 303-396-5164
Treasurer: Jessica Mazur 703-517-8468

Directors

John Hurley 703-799-9353
Dan Rinzel 703-360-4627
Paul Schray 703-619-9377

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: Maggie Jones 703-360-4750
Neighborhood Watch: Ted Thompson 703-780-1972
Planning & Zoning: Karen Cerutti 703-778-4442
Public Safety: John Hurley 703-799-9353
Transportation: John Reiser 703-780-4824