



# Mount Vernon Civic Association, Inc.

April 2022

[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



## LET'S CELEBRATE!



*You are invited to the  
Mount Vernon Civic Association Annual Picnic!*

*FREE to all MVCA residents*

**DATE:** Saturday, May 14, 2022

**LOCATION:** St. James Episcopal Church, 5614 Old Mill Rd, Alexandria, VA

**TIME:** 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

**SUNNY?** We will celebrate on the lawn **RAIN?** We will meet inside

**SAFETY:** All COVID 19 protocols will be followed

*Please RSVP to [maryjomalik@yahoo.com](mailto:maryjomalik@yahoo.com) to ensure we have enough food!*

**FOOD:** Pork brats and all-beef hotdogs, buns, coleslaw, potato salad, veggie and fruit platters, condiments, cookies, water and sodas. You are welcome to bring foods of your choice to cook with us and BYOB.

### ACTIVITIES

**1 p.m.:** Registration

**1:30 p.m.:** Welcome everyone, thank first responders and special guests

**2 p.m.:** Start serving food

Band

Bouncy House for children

Raffle & Door Prizes

COVID Pinata Smash

**5 p.m.** Conclude clean-up



## **PUBLIC SAFETY**

### **George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP)**

– The MVCCA Public Safety Committee and the Transportation Committee will have a joint meeting on May 3 mainly for the purpose of meeting with the National Park Service (NPS) to discuss results to date of the NPS "traffic calming/lane reduction" measures on the Parkway. As your PS rep we will also urge additional US Park Police presence to patrol the Parkway, as we expect the out-of-state tourist and school bus traffic will be picking up on the Parkway and Route 235 after the two years of pandemic.

### **Mount Vernon Memorial Highway (Route 235) –**

The County has started extensive work on improving the Mount Vernon Trail along Mount Vernon Memorial Highway from Route One at the EXXON Station corner towards the Mount Vernon Estate. Construction now underway includes a new parallel bridge for pedestrians, bicyclists, etc. across Dogue Creek adjacent to the Mount Vernon Mill; numerous relocations of overhead and sub-surface utilities and drains; and tree and brush removal, etc. Traffic delays can be expected along 235. Travel on Old Mill Road is also limited until August 2022.

**Fort Belvoir Walker Gate** – The replacement bridge for the former vehicle bridge across Dogue Creek has been completed and the Gate is now manned and open to authorized traffic from 6 am to 6 pm weekdays.

### **Washington Mill Elementary School**

**Construction-** Please use extreme care due to school buses and construction-related vehicles.

**STOP** when school bus red lights are flashing.


**FCPD and FC Fire/ Rescue** – We will be inviting our First Responders and their families to our annual MVCA Picnic on May 14. Be sure to welcome them and thank them for their service.

**MVCCA** – The MVCCA Joint Resolution re: the FY 2023 County Advertised Budget noted that because the FCPD “is experiencing an unparalleled level of staffing shortages and needs to double the number of new officers hired each year to offset attrition, additional funding should be considered to improve compensation, benefits and working conditions in order to attract and retain the most qualified police force in the region...”. Your rep participated in numerous ZOOM and other sessions on this vital initiative. The MVCCA Resolution was sent to the County Board of Supervisors and County Executive Hill on March 24. The BOS Hearings were on April 12-14 following the March 23 Mount Vernon District-level meetings.

**911-** Call if you need to report an EMERGENCY.

**John Hurley**  
*Public Safety Chair*

OVER 65 YEARS OF FAST DEPENDABLE SERVICE



# **Griffin**

## **Plumbing and Heating, Inc.**

8601 RICHMOND HWY.  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22309  
780-5400

MATT MATHES

## BUDGET & FINANCE

The 2023 Fairfax County and FCPS proposed budgets were recently released. For the comprehensive FY Advertised Budget Plan, please visit: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget/fy-2023-advertised-budget-plan>.

The new FY 2023 Fiscal Year will begin on July 1, 2022. Below are some key takeaways:

Highlights of the County Executive's proposed Fairfax County budget include:

- Recommends no change in the Real Estate Tax rate of \$1.14 per \$100 of assessed value.
- Recommends fully funding County schools.
- Recommends a 4.01% Market Rate Adjustment for County employees and makes changes to step increases.
- Funds modest investments in Board priorities, including Public Safety staffing, Diversion First, Opioid Use Prevention Efforts, Environmental Initiatives, Affordable Housing and Health Department positions.
- Recommends set asides for paydown expenses of \$5 million to be shared equally between the County and Schools.
- Funds programming for Original Mount Vernon High School (OMVHS) and the Lorton Community Center.
- Recommends no County Bond issuance for 2022.

Some additional details on a couple of budget highlights that I believe residents will find helpful:

Growth in Real Estate and Personal Property assessments are significant, and the County recognizes this. The total increase in residential equalization is 9.57%, and 92% of residents saw an increase in assessed value. The Fairfax County

Board members are committed to looking for ways to minimize this impact on the residents during the budget process. For instance, the budget currently proposes no change to the Real Estate Tax rate of \$1.14 per \$100 of assessed value and Personal Property Tax rate of \$4.57 per \$100 of assessed value, which rates are consistent with FY 2022. Additionally, the County has left an \$80 million balance in the budget proposal for a potential Real Estate Tax rate deduction.

Highlights of the Fairfax County Public Schools budget include:

Recruitment and retention issues for FCPS employees have been challenging for both the County and Schools. A majority of the funding requested in the budget is included to address these concerns. The proposed budget recommends a 4.01% Market Rate Adjustment for County employees and makes changes to step increases.

Additionally, the budget includes a recommendation for a new 25-year longevity step for all uniformed pay plans, with the hopes to incentivize uniformed employees to further their careers with the County and curb the rising retirements.

Below are some helpful infographics that synthesize and summarize the proposed budget:

[https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget/sites/budget/files/assets/documents/fy2023/advertised/fy2023advertised\\_final.pdf](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget/sites/budget/files/assets/documents/fy2023/advertised/fy2023advertised_final.pdf)

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/budget/sites/budget/files/assets/documents/fy2023/advertised/fy2023advertisedcitizensguide.pdf>

**Kirsten Quackenbush**  
*Budget & Finance Chair*

# WASHINGTON MILL ELEM. SCHOOL UPDATE

To make sure that students are not disturbed while they are taking their State SOL tests, Fairfax County Public Schools will allow the contractors to begin their interior work hours earlier at the construction site during this month. The contractors will work Monday through Friday from 5am-2pm. The contractors must still be in accordance with the Fairfax County Noise Ordinance - no loud exterior work prior to 7am on weekdays and 9am on Saturdays.

FCPS is committed to ensuring that noise is minimized when the construction workers park

and gather. FCPS has reminded the contractors of these agreements and does not expect there to be any issues.

The Washington Mill Elementary School project is in its final approximate six months of work. A majority of the exterior work has been completed. All involved in the project have expressed appreciation for the continued patience and support shown by the community during this much needed renovation.

## Block Captains Needed!

Jorie O'Donnell, Block Captain Committee Chair, reports that new Block Captains are needed for West Gate Drive and Carriage House Court.

Our Block Captains are extremely important, as they are the first to welcome new neighbors to their community, they disseminate valuable information, and they provide ongoing support. If you are able to serve, please call Jori at (703) 765-6470.



## Current MVCA Membership

At this date, we have 277 paid members.

If you have not yet paid your 2022 dues, please do so.

Thank you very much.



## MAY MVCA MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at 7:30 pm.

Our speaker will be Ronald L. Chase, President, Gum Springs Historical Society and Museum, who will share with us the history of Gum Springs, founded by West Ford, a freed formerly-enslaved man.

The town was named after the gum trees which once marked the marshy land, highly prized for farming.

Quietly nestled on George Washington's side of the Potomac, Gum Springs was a place for runaway

blacks to assimilate and for freed slaves, who migrated there by way of the nearby port of Alexandria.

Many of the town's forebearers tended General Washington's estate at Mount Vernon before they were freed at the death of his wife, Martha. The skills and trades they learned as estate slaves added to their growth towards independence.

Today, Gum Springs has more than 2,500 residents and as many as 500 are descendants of the original families.

**LONG & FOSTER**<sup>®</sup>  
REAL ESTATE

**CHRISTIE'S**  
INTERNATIONAL REAL ESTATE



No one knows the Mt. Vernon - Ft. Hunt area better than Chris and Peggy White. Their names are synonymous with local Real Estate. Chris and Peggy's unique knowledge of the area's communities, each with their own characteristics have earned them the title, "The Mount Vernon specialists." Chris and Peggy's longstanding tradition of extraordinary service, unique knowledge of the market, and track record of success has resulted in them selling many houses several times over! Chris and Peggy's legendary capacity to serve their clients is now enhanced by their twin sons Mark and Michael who have joined the family business. Let our family help your family!

[Chris.White@LNF.com](mailto:Chris.White@LNF.com) | 703.283.9028

# HEALTH UPDATE

## Who Goes to the Hospital?

*By Peter Bernad, MD*

(Dr. Bernad is a member of the MVCA Board and offers guidelines for what to do when there is a possibility of a brain injury caused by an accident)

Based on the brain trauma survivor's apparent state, the survivor or others are likely to call Emergency Rescue Personnel. These health workers gather early information about the survivor's state and decide whether the person should go to the Emergency Room for further evaluation. Often enough the injuries and pain that the survivor reports, as well as on-site physiological and structural damage that the emergency medical technicians (EMT) see, help to influence whether the survivor goes to the ER.

At the accident site, EMTs can check the survivor's level of consciousness and general responsiveness to the environment. EMTs can use the Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) (1997) to help determine the client's responsiveness to his surroundings. On a scale of one to four for eye movement, one to five for verbal responses or one to six for motor responses, the scale measures the survivor's responsiveness to his or her surroundings on three dimensions:

1. Eye movement to verbal request (1-4)
2. Verbal response to verbal request (1-5)
3. Motor response to verbal request (1-6)

Clinicians then add the patient's three responsiveness scores and the total determines the severity of the individual's brain injury.

1. Severe impairment or coma show scores 3-8
2. Survivors with moderate impairment rest at scores of 9-12
3. Survivors with mild impairment rest at scores of 13-15

Health workers can use this scale at the accident site, in the ER, and when health professionals admit the TBI survivor into the hospital, should they decide to do so. The scale helps the clinician to know how poorly or how well the survivor responds to potential damage from the accident.

These health workers can also try to determine, or at least start to estimate, the survivor's length of coma based on severity markers established by Williamson, Scott and Adams (1996):

1. Severe LOC: more than 36 hours
2. Moderate LOC: 24 hours and 20 minutes to 36 hours
3. Mild Loc: less than 24 hours

On the scene EMT workers, and health workers who later see the patient in the ER and the hospital, also use Post Traumatic Amnesia as a way of assessing severity of the TBI survivor's health situation.

Health workers often use TBI survivor information to assess PTA by asking questions like, "What is the last thing that you remembered before the accident?" or "What is the first thing that you remembered after the accident?" Williamson et al. (1996) give the following guidelines for PTA:

1. Severe PTA: more than 7 Days
2. Moderate PTA: 1-7 Days
3. Mild PTA: less than 24 Hours



We love the Mount Vernon community and have appreciated the support now and through the years. We hope everyone is staying healthy and safe. We hope to reopen our doors soon and look forward to seeing you all again. In the meantime, we are open for carryout Tuesday through Sunday. See our website for full hours and menus.

[www.cedarknollva.com](http://www.cedarknollva.com)



*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 spaces! Walk-ins Welcome, Reservations Recommended 703.780.3665  
reservations@cedarknollva.com 9050 Lucia Lane Alexandria 22308 www.cedarknollva.com*

Mount Vernon Civic Association, Inc.  
P.O. Box 61, Mount Vernon, Virginia 22121

**Please join us next week for our  
MVCA Membership Meeting:**

Our next virtual MVCA Membership Meeting is Wednesday, May 11 at 7:30 p.m. Please join us.

**Using the Internet:** Go to Zoom, put in meeting ID number 634 598 1220 and passcode #743225 if requested.

**From your phone:** Dial 301-715-8592, when asked use 634 598 1220# and then passcode 743225.

**Mount Vernon Civic Association, Inc.**

**Officers**

President: Tom Russell.....703-360-0257  
1st Vice President: Jason Leaver .....703-799-6739  
2nd Vice President: Karan Cerutti .....703-778-4442  
Secretary: Lisa Faustlin.....303-396-5164  
Acting Treasurer: Jason Leaver .....703-799-6739

**Directors**

John Hurley .....703-799-9353  
Dan Rinzel .....703-360-4627  
Sean McCarthy .....703-360-0372

**Committee Chairs**

Air Traffic: Poul Hertel.....703-780-1909  
Block Captain: Jorie ODonnell .....703-765-6470  
Budget: Kirsten Quackenbush.....kirsten.quackenbush@gmail.com  
Education: Jana Gutu.....240-475-7575  
Environment & Recreation: Peter Bernad... ..202-437-6874  
Health: Alison Huffstetler .....757-303-2254  
Membership/Directory: Marcelle Brown .....703-371-7552  
Neighborhood Watch: Ted Thompson .....703-780-1972  
Picnic: Mary Jo Jensen .....248-245-7224  
Planning & Zoning: Karan Cerutti .....703-778-4442  
Public Safety: John Hurley .....703-799-9353  
Transportation: John Reiser .....703-780-4824  
Web: The Hollands .....www.MountVernonCivicAssociation.org