

WINTER 2024

Mount Vernon Civic Association

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

Consider Volunteering With Us!



You lead a busy life. I know! I do, too. But if you can spare an hour or two hours a month, we'd love to have you join us on the MVCA. Currently we have an opening for the education and newsletter positions. The **education committee representative** works with the Mount Vernon Council of Civic Associations to identify the most pressing education needs and changes in our communities. This position works closely with leaders in our school system and works to improve the educational opportunities for our community. The time commitment is 2 hours per month. The **newsletter position** will take over from me, your president! I've been running this show- and it takes about 2 hours every quarter, but it's an easy lift. The newsletter editor wrangles the cats to get articles, comes up with a few original ideas, and then works with our wonderful designer and printing team to get the newsletter in your mailbox before our quarterly meetings.

We are always looking for new neighborhood watch volunteers! If you'd like to take 1 week of volunteering annually or biannually, please contact MVCANeighborhoodWatch@gmail.com.

To volunteer for education or the newsletter, email me, Alison, at Alison.N.Huffstetler@gmail.com.

Thanks for considering.

I'd also like to thank all of our current board and committee representatives. Keeping up to date with the county and local changes takes work. These folks make it happen: Jason Leaver, Karan Cerutti, Alexis Waters, Amy Reitz, John Hurley, Sean McCarthy, Hannah Wolf, Brian Paro, Christina Reitz, Peter Bernad, Marcelle Brown, Mary Jo Jensen, Bryan Wood, Mark Yonchak, and Mike Holland.


January Association Meeting




Please join us on Wednesday, January 8th, 2025 at 7:30 pm. We will meet at the Washington Mill Elementary School and are hosting Mr. Cary Dimmick, Principal, Mount Vernon High School.

If you're in search of a winter outdoor activity that doesn't require snow, the Friends of the Mount Vernon Trail have volunteer opportunities almost every weekend! They are listed on the website at mountvernontrail.org/events. You might spot several varieties of ducks and geese over winter (including swans!) so bring your binoculars!

The Old Farmer's Almanac is predicting a mild winter with less snow, but even so, you'll probably see higher energy bills this winter. Besides obvious tips, like running your heater at a lower temperature, Dominion Energy has some advice for using less energy during the winter that I found interesting. Once, change the filter on your HVAC each month to improve its efficiency and get a tune up. Fall and Spring would likely be the cheapest time of year to schedule a tune up on your HVAC, a good thing to place on your calendar for next year. Two, limit the use of space heaters. Lowering the overall temperature and running a space heater makes sense to me, but not Dominion Energy. While you're on an energy efficiency kick, walk around your home and make note of colder rooms. Check windows, thresholds, and vents to make sure you don't have leaks. Offer busy and older neighbors help with this task – it's something that is easy to put off but can make a huge difference in electric bills.

Dominion Energy also offers home energy assessments and will send you high efficiency products based on your home needs (for free). Complete the survey here <https://www.dom-savings.com/home-program/home-energy-evaluation>.



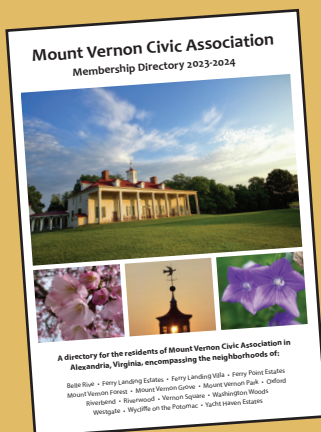




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We are updating our MVCA Directory!



This year, the MVCA will be updating our neighborhood directory. If you have updates to the current directory, feel free to send me a note and we are happy to update your phone or contact information. Importantly, if you are interested in advertising personal services for FREE, please send a message to mountvernoncivicassociation@gmail.com. This includes: babysitting, house sitting, pet sitting, free rides to the doctors office, live music, or whatever service you'd like to offer your neighbors. For professional and organizational advertising, there is a small fee for an advertisement. The MVCA board will also be updating the content of the directory. Send content on the history of Mount Vernon, great bike routes, wonderful local adventures, or other activities our way to the email above if you would like to have it considered for inclusion.

**MEMBERSHIP
 DRIVE**

We will be back in your mailbox seeking membership for 2025! Please join the MVCA to support local efforts like: our rad community picnic including a bounce house and band, updating the neighborhood directory, hosting local speakers at our quarterly meetings, and supporting neighbors in need. Send us your membership fee and we will keep working on your behalf! A little goes a long way.

W⁹ CHRIS WHITE

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There are several items ongoing in the community that will impact development just around our neighborhood. If you'd like to hear more about them, please join us on the public MVCCA planning and zoning virtual calls found on the calendar here: <https://www.mvcca.org/events>.

1. A Mount Vernon Steering Committee was formed and is in the preliminary stage to begin discussing land use around the Mount Vernon Government Center, the Police and Fire station, and Sherwood Library.
2. New fire station – The new station, emergency shelter for homeless, and 30 units of supportive housing still planned along Route 1.
3. New Huntington Development – Board of Supervisors approved with designated green space. The proposed green space will have 1-2 events throughout the year. The development has been put on hold until floodplain issues have been resolved.
4. IMP building, 8850 Richmond – The commercial building has been vacant. The owners don't anticipate leasing it as a commercial site. The developers' updated plan considered our comments and concerns for the site. Their plan would require a zoning amendment to change the site use from office, retail, or hotel/conference center uses to residential. This would require the developer to have their plan considered through the county's Site-Specific Plan Amendment process. The county is currently treating the redevelopment as a Tier 3 plan – which makes it a low priority for county consideration. The developers reportedly want the county to increase the development to Tier 1. The Supervisors office has commented that this area should be labelled as Mount Vernon District Cultural Corridor in order to ensure that the project follows the Woodlawn Historic District overlay.
5. Grist Mill – A group of private citizens from the Mount Vernon community approached representatives from our area and the Supervisors office regarding a tentative plan to upgrade the barn to an eatery funded by the private group. Currently, the Park Authority owns the land. No further action was taken, to date. The variety of studies, traffic, environmental, etc, must still be done for the site.
6. Alexandria Crossing redevelopment effort – of particular interest to the committee was the sewer upgrade that is part of the overall effort. The site plan was updated and approved to include the utility work to upgrade the sewer. The upgrade will require disturbance and partial disturbance of green space that was to be a sight and sound buffer between the Belle Haven Community and Richmond highway. The green space was deeded to the county for perseverance and protection. It has yet to be resolved.

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Cherry Tree Drive Traffic-Speed Mitigation Update

All four devices (speed limiting humps and tables) were installed in October. The process is complete. Individuals continue to work through the school signage for Washington Mills Elementary School with FCPS.

South of Airport Noise Mitigation Project and Public Survey Findings

The project to address airplane noise, with recommendations of how to mitigate noise impacting Fairfax County residents to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), continues in its second year under contract. In October, the contractor VIANAIR Inc published their study of the latest summary of data collected that will be used in the design of recommendations to be reviewed by FFX Co members in a Steering Committee, along with other jurisdiction (Arlington, PG Co, City Alexandria) members. The accepted recommendations for the FAA will be presented to the Washington Metropolitan Airport Authority (WMAA) Community Working Group as what will be in the best interest of residents as recommendations to the FAA on how to mitigate airplane noise overhead in our neighborhoods.

Supporting data that was collected in June-July 2024 included results of the public survey that many of you completed. Thank you! FFX Co respondents numbered 832 of the 2598 that responded to questions like “is aircraft noise a concern for you?”, and “are you disturbed by aircraft noise”, and “what is your primary concern (too loud, too many overflights, too low)” as the top 3 concerns. These geographically plotted data points based on respondent residential areas, along with noise data (Db threshold data) from select noise monitoring sensors, will be used in weighing, formulating, and designing a recommendation to FAA for moving flight paths and changing altitudes for airplanes approaching DCA from the South. Research and conversations with the contractor have revealed missing data that should be included in any recommendation to the FAA. Missing data is flight activity data not used by the contractor and FAA data not shared with the public both have adverse and misleading effects on any study’s final recommendations. This perspective has been offered to the member to the Steering Committee from FFX Co Supervisor Storck’s Department of Planning & Development to review as recommendations are prepared for FAA consideration.

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Winter is here.

Carry a cell phone and a whistle on your person. Consider eye glasses to prevent falls. Carry blankets, water, flashlights, compasses, gloves or mittens, snow boots, hand-crank and/or battery-operated radio in your car.

Please, do not pass school buses when their red lights are flashing.

Protect against injury, fires, accidents, falls, vehicle collisions. Protect against escaping fire, ashes and smoke and minimize operating cars and creating carbon monoxide gas. Keep Fire Extinguishers filled and pressurized. Call 911 when necessary!

There are several scams ongoing to be aware of.

1. Impersonating Law Enforcement - Individuals may allege unpaid fines, missed jury duty, or legal issues and demand immediate payment. Often, scammers will say that you have an outstanding warrant when you truly do not! Know that police will never demand payment to resolve legal issues (especially not through gift cards or financial apps!) If you receive a suspicious call, hang up and verify the identity by contacting FCPD's non-emergency line at 703-691-2131. Scammers rely on urgency. Take things slow.
2. Bank Impersonators- fraudsters pose as banks and warn of account breaches and fraud. Instead of falling for this, don't respond to unsolicited calls or texts. Verify identity with your bank directly and NEVER share bank information via telephone unless you initiate the call. Banks don't ask for login and passwords, confirmation codes or remote access to devices.
3. Missed Delivery- we've all gotten these texts! Ignore them. Unless you're expecting a delivery, these are likely attempting to get money for "undelivered packages". If you're missing something, call the delivery service directly.

Check out the Fairfax County Safety Dashboard! <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news/countywide-strategic-plan-launches-safety-security-dashboard>. Be Safe.



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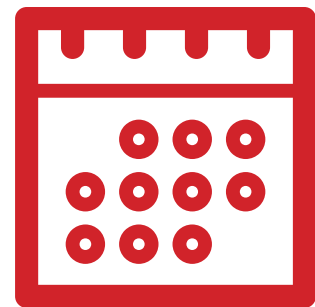


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Mark Your Calendar!

Join Us For Association Meetings

All meetings will take place at Washington Mill Elementary School
7:30 pm • Pizza and drinks served.

January 8, 2025: Hosting Mr. Cary Dimmick, Principal, Mount Vernon High School

March 12: Hosting Mr. Mateo Dunne, Mount Vernon District Representative, Fairfax County School Board

May 14: Hosting Julie Coleman Almacy, VP of Media and Communications, George Washington's Mount Vernon
October 8, 2025

Mount Vernon Civic Association, Inc.

Officers

President: Alison Huffstetler757-303-2254
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2nd Vice President: Karan Cerutti703-778-4442
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Treasurer: Amy Reitz202-735-6710

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Dan Rinzel703-360-4627
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Committee Chairs

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Budget and Finance: Brian Paroparobrian@gmail.com
Education: VACANT Reach out if interested in chairing
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Health and Welfare: Peter Bernad202-437-6874
Membership/Directory: Marcelle Brown703-371-7552
Neighborhood Watch: Bryan Wood ..mvcaneighborhoodwatch@gmail.com
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