



# Mount Vernon Civic Association, Inc.

Spring 2020

[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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*"Hoping for the best, prepared for the worst, and unsurprised by anything in between."*-**Maya Angelou**

Please join us Wednesday, March 11, 2020 in the Washington Mill Elementary School library for our annual meeting. Pizza and drinks will be served at 7 p.m., and our meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Agenda items include organization elections, our budget, committee reports and our guest speaker – the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation. We look forward to the update on all the changes taking place on the Route One corridor.

### Changing of the Guard

I hope you all weathered the great storm of 2020 that cancelled our annual meeting. As it turns out, it gave us the opportunity to get up to speed with our incoming President Tom Russell. We now have a full slate of officers and directors. I want to thank all our Board and Committee Chair members for their great work. The proposed slate is as follows:

- President: Tom Russell
- 1<sup>st</sup> VP: Jason Leaver
- 2<sup>nd</sup> VP: Karan Cerutti
- Secretary: Lisa Faustlin
- Treasurer: Sarah Fidd
- Directors: John Hurley, Dan Rinzel and Sean McCarthy

Tom is a great addition to our team and brings a fresh perspective and energy to our Board. A longtime resident of Yacht Haven neighborhood, he has experience working as a volunteer and in the non-profit arena. Please extend a hello to Kirsten for stepping up to report on budget and finance. This is the fourth member of the Belle Rive neighborhood to join our team.



### Entry Monuments

I want to thank everyone who made contributions to the entry monument fund. We have raised over \$2,500 for these improvements. Incoming President Tom Russell is actively working on solutions to improve these highly visible neighborhood entry points.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions. I look forward to seeing you around the neighborhood.

**Sean McCarthy**  
*MVCA President*

## HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

As a dermatologist – and not an infectious disease specialist – I will borrow heavily from author Michael Specter’s article, as seen in the New Yorker magazine.

Recently, a new infectious *Coronavirus* (CoV) has been reported and has the potential of becoming a pandemic. This CoV, which has been designated as the COVI D-19 virus by the World Health Organization (WHO), was first seen in the Chinese city Wuhan with a population of 11 million. Although this city is now closed off, it is impossible to determine how many infectious individuals have left and infected others in other areas of the world. The incubation period of the disease is unknown, and the question of the spreadability of asymptomatic carriers is also still unknown. Even the source of the virus is uncertain, however, it is thought the virus started in bats and then spread to a mammalian anteater, the pangolin. It is important to know the animal harboring the virus so the source can be eliminated.

Viruses transmitted from animals are known as zoonans. The epidemic that occurred 18 years ago was spread by fruit bats and caused an acute

respiratory syndrome and was spread by upper respiratory droplets. The bat was also the source of the hemorrhagic diseases of Ebola and Marburg, both very deadly, but spread by body fluids. The swine flu virus H1N1 resulted in the slaughter of so many pigs that there is now a shortage of pigs in China. These viruses pose a threat to humans since we have no antibodies to counter them.

With CoV, the hope is that modern science will come to the rescue with a vaccine that will be effective and head off an epidemic. There is even talk of making vaccines for entire classes of viruses and stockpiling them for future outbreaks. Of course, this will take time and expense. For the moment, all we can do is maintain awareness and rely on our governments to do the right things. Our practical practices require monitoring the news of this outbreak and continue proper hygiene, such as proper handwashing. The more science learns about the particulars of these viruses, the sooner we can deal with them.

**Dr. Marv Chadab**

*Health & Human Services Chair*

### Spring Public Safety

- Check bikes (brakes, gears, reflectors, lights, batteries, tires, seat/handlebar height, wheel nuts, bells, chain guard, kick stand, lock); lube and oil as needed. Check bike helmets and replace if shell is cracked. Put reflective tape on helmets, backpacks, book bags, outer jackets
- Pedestrian Safety is a critical concern both day and night in the MVCA area. There are many areas without sidewalks, "crossings" without signs, crosswalk stripes and signs, as well as higher vehicle traffic.
- Carry your ID on walks/runs. Cell-phone, small flashlight and whistle also recommended.

- Keep car doors, garage doors, house doors locked.
- Install exterior motion-sensitive lighting.
- Check smoke detector batteries and pressure gauges on fire extinguishers; do not store gasoline in house or garage.
- Have at least one battery-operated radio. You can also use your car radio for weather alerts.
- Have a family conversation about where to shelter in your house in the event of tornado, and establish exits and a meeting point in case of fire.

**John Hurley**

*Public Safety Chair*

## BUDGET & FINANCE REPORT

### Fairfax County Executive Bryan Hill's "Bumper Sticker" on the fiscal year 2021 proposed budget:

The investments required to make progress on our collective goals — including employee compensation, the development of affordable housing, the expansion of school readiness opportunities, environmental stewardship and support for Fairfax County Public Schools — are substantial. **Unfortunately, we cannot provide appropriate levels of funding in these areas with no adjustments to our tax rates.**

Hill presented his proposed fiscal year 2021 Budget to the Board of Supervisors on February 25, 2020. The budget focuses on board priorities including school readiness, affordable housing, environmental stewardship and education, and aligns with the priority outcome areas identified during the development of the [Countywide Strategic Plan](#). The Advertised Budget Plan includes a three-cent increase in the Real Estate Tax Rate and a new 4% Admissions Tax.

The proposed General Fund budget is \$4.63 billion, a \$175.9 million (3.95%) increase over the FY 2020 Adopted Budget. Last year's increase was 3.67%. Including other appropriated funds such as federal and state grants, **the total proposed budget is \$8.86 billion. The proposed budget increases the real estate tax rate from \$1.15 to \$1.18 per \$100 of assessed value** (the last increase was two years ago). This results in an average annual tax bill increase of about \$346. Of the proposed three-cent increase, two cents would be used to balance the General Fund and fund board priorities. The third cent would be earmarked for affordable housing, tripling the amount of dedicated funding for this initiative.

**Proposed Admissions Tax:** Fairfax is **one of 13 counties in Virginia permitted to charge an admissions tax** of up to 10% on items like tickets for movie, theater, concerts and sporting events, and entrance fees to museums, gardens and zoos. The

proposed 4% tax would **apply only to the sale of movie, theater and concert tickets**. It would take effect in October and would generate approximately \$2.31 million in revenue in the first year. Revenue would be deposited into the Contributory Fund and used for arts and tourism.

**Schools:** The county executive's plan includes an increase to Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) of 3.65%, or \$86.52 million, over the current FY 2020 budget. This is \$4.18 million short of the \$89.7 million request. It is anticipated that FCPS will be able to make up the difference between the increase and the amount requested through increased funding from the state. Transfers to the Schools Operating, Debt Service and Construction Funds make up 52.6% of General Fund disbursements in this proposal.

The FY 2021 Budget maps major spending initiatives to the nine strategic plan priority outcome areas. He highlighted the development process including extensive engagement with the community, staff and other stakeholders. Next steps for the plan include additional engagement opportunities, with plan adoption concurrent with the FY 2021 Budget.

Budget committee meetings take place in March and April, and public hearings are scheduled for Tuesday-Thursday, April 14-16. Markup (when the Board makes changes to the advertised budget) takes place on Tuesday, April 28, and the board adopts the FY 2021 Budget on Tuesday, May 5.

I am passing the Budget and Finance baton to volunteer Kirsten Quakenbush after this newsletter, but staying involved with the MVCA Board. Please feel free to email me anytime at [Jason.leaver@icloud.com](mailto:Jason.leaver@icloud.com).

**Jason Leaver**  
*Budget & Finance Chair*

## ENVIRONMENT & RECREATION REPORT

### Native 2020 Seedling Sale

The district's annual seedling sale makes low-cost bare-root native shrub and tree seedlings available to Northern Virginia residents. Seedling packages are announced in January, go on sale in February and are available for pickup in April. Trees and shrubs help cleanse water, prevent soil erosion, provide habitat, cool our climate and clean our air. Consider adding native trees and shrubs to your community today.

This year's seedling sale features small shrubs and trees, which are hardy in small spaces and bear gorgeous flowers and fruits and display beautiful colors. The fruits and flowers that these plants grow are important food sources to birds and pollinators, and are delicious treats for us. By planting these native species, you are directly contributing to the betterment of our environment. The plants in each package clean our water and air, prevent soil erosion, provide valuable habitat and add beauty to your property.

Two packages are now being offered: [Super Shrubs & Tiny Trees](#) and [Space Savers](#). Both seedling packages feature 8 shrub/small tree seedlings for \$15. No large tree packages are offered this year. A full, nonrefundable payment must accompany your order. View online seedling sale store, where you



can also buy pre-made rain barrels and composter DIY kits while supplies last: <http://nvswcd-velocitypayment-com.3dcartstores.com/>.

### Low-Cost Rabies Clinics

Rabies is a deadly virus spread through saliva, and most often transmitted through bites by an infected animal. There is no cure for rabies. You can protect your pet against this virus by having them vaccinated against rabies, and Virginia state law and Fairfax County ordinances requires that dogs and cats four months of age and older be vaccinated against rabies.

Here are several ways to reduce your risk of exposure to the rabies virus:

- Get your pets vaccinated against rabies, and keep current on their revaccinations.
- Stay away from wildlife, and keep children and pets away from wildlife.
- Always walk your dogs on a leash to keep them from running after wildlife.
- Deter wildlife from coming into your yard by eliminating possible food sources and keeping trash can lids tightly closed.
- Do not keep wild animals as pets!
- Report any strange behavior by wildlife or any bites by wildlife to the Animal Protection Police by calling (703) 691-2131.
- If you are bitten by a wild animal or stray dog or cat, wash the wound immediately, seek medical attention, and report the incident to Animal Protection Police by calling (703) 691-2131.

The Fairfax County Animal Shelter holds many low-cost rabies vaccination clinics throughout the year, at locations around Fairfax County.

**Gale Curcio**  
*Environment & Recreation Chair*

## EDUCATION REPORT

### Student Mental Health and Resiliency

Many students struggle with emotional and behavioral issues that can affect learning and overall wellness. If you have any concerns about anxiety, peer relationship problems, depression, or other social and emotional issues your child may be experiencing, please contact your school psychologist, school social worker or school counselor. They are available for consultation and support. Visit <https://www.fcps.edu/resources/student-safety-and-wellness/mental-health-and-resiliency> and <https://www.fcps.edu/student-wellness-tips> to learn about local mental health resources and fostering resiliency in your child.

### Registration Open for Select Summer Programs

Registration is available for the following FCPS summer programs: CTE Summer Academy, Elementary Institute for the Arts, Institute for the Arts, Tech Adventure Camp and CTE Summer Career Academy. Students should register for programs based on the grade they are in during the current school year. Details including program dates, tuition and registration information will be posted as they become available on <https://www.fcps.edu/academics/summer-learning>.

### Equity Profile

Want to know how our schools are doing? Check out the FCPS Equity Profile, a part of the work outlined in the [One Fairfax Policy](#) which states, "Fairfax County Public Schools will incorporate data and publish performance measures that can be analyzed, quantified, and disaggregated to evaluate the extent to which our systems are achieving goals." The Equity Profile data was updated on January 31. The student demographics data provides information about all students, various demographic groups and specific student populations. A page for each of the four goals of the Strategic Plan outlines the work around division-wide desired outcomes and metrics.

### FCPS to Add Electric School Buses to Its Fleet

FCPS has been selected to receive funding assistance to purchase eight electric school buses as part of Dominion Energy's initial deployment of 50 buses across the Commonwealth. These buses will join FCPS' current fleet of roughly 1,625 diesel-fueled buses. Dominion Energy will cover the difference in cost so that school districts pay no more for electric buses than they would for diesel models. Dominion will also subsidize the cost of necessary charging infrastructure.

Electric school buses in FCPS will benefit not only the school division and its community but the entire national capital area as they will help reduce carbon emissions, serve as a resource for national emergency planning efforts, provide stability and capacity to the grid with meeting increasing energy demands, and provide charging facilities for other jurisdictions in the area to use when traveling through Fairfax County.

### 2019 Bond Referendum Update (Washington Mill Elementary School)

The 2019 bond passed with Washington Mill funded for construction. We are currently in permit phase. Building Permit is scheduled to be acquired early Fall of 2020. Once the permit is secured, bidding and award will follow which is currently scheduled for early winter 2021. Upon a successful bid, construction will start right after that and will complete late fall of 2022 (approximately 22 month construction duration).

**Sarah Fidd**  
*Education Chair*

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\*Tickets are valid any regular operating day of the 2020 Season. Last day of the 2020 Season is Sunday, November 1, 2020.

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# 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: Mary Jo Jensen ..... 248-245-7224

## Directors

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

## Committee Chairs

Budget and Finance: Kirsten Quackenbush  
Education: Sarah Fidd ..... 703-772-3688  
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

## MVCA Membership Meeting

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

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

Our agenda will include elections, budget,  
committee reports and a guest speaker  
from the Southeast Fairfax  
Development Corporation.