



# Mount Vernon Civic Association, Inc.

Winter 2020

[www.MountVernonCivicAssociation.org](http://www.MountVernonCivicAssociation.org)

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

*"Tell me and I forget; teach me and I may remember: involve me and I learn."* – Ben Franklin

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a great holiday season. Please join us Wednesday, Jan. 8, 2020 in the Washington Mill Elementary School library for our annual meeting. Pizza and drinks will be served at 7:00 p.m. and our meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Agenda items include elections, budget, committee reports and a guest speaker – Edythe Kelleher from the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation.

### Changing of the Guard

After three years as President, I will be stepping down. I have enjoyed working with our team and our local elected officials. We have a great neighborhood and an active full Board. It has made for a fun and fulfilling experience.

I can't thank all our volunteers enough who have donated both time and money to keep our community a vibrant and fun place to live.

We have a full slate of officers and directors with the exception of President. I want to thank all of our Board and committee chairs for their great work. We have had a lot of fun working on our various projects. The proposed slate is as follows:

### Officers

President: VACANT

1st Vice President: Jason Leaver

2nd Vice President: Karan Cerutti

Secretary: Lisa Faustlin

Treasurer: Sarah Fidd



### Directors

John Hurley

Dan Rinzel

Sean McCarthy

Mary Jo Jensen has transitioned to our Picnic Chair and Sarah Fidd has agreed to be our new Treasurer. Paul Schray, after many years of service, is stepping down from the Board to spend more time with family. Please thank all of these folks for their many volunteer hours that make our neighborhood special.

However, we still need a President and can take floor nominations at our meeting. Please feel free to reach out to our Nominating Committee Chair, Jason Leaver, or myself if you would like to take on this important community position.

I will be staying on as a director and will be more than happy to mentor and assist. (I have been promoted/"volun-told" to the MVCCA treasurer position and will continue to be active on our behalf.)

*Continued on page 7*

## HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

One would think that by now the issue of sunscreens would be straight forward.

However, because these ultraviolet protection agents are still a source of controversy and they are being used with greater frequency – in larger amounts and in broader populations – it is more important than ever to ensure that they are safe and effective for daily, lifelong use.

Recently, a review of sunscreens as published in an article in the medical journal, JAMA, tested in a randomized study, looked at the plasma concentrations of their active ingredients. In this study, several sunscreens were applied over seven days and the subjects had their blood plasma concentrations measured. The chemicals that were tested for were avobenzone, oxybenzone, octocrylene and ecamsule. The plasma levels for all were 0.5mg. /ml., which raised concerns about the risk of carcinogenicity developmental/reproductive adverse effects. In previous studies, sunscreens that have zinc oxide or titanium oxide as their active ingredient were found to be both effective and safe to use. These are “barrier creams which are thick and difficult to apply.” The topical products tested

in the JAMA study are easier to apply and are more cosmetically attractive due to the ease of application to large surface areas of the skin.

Two major concerns are being addressed with ongoing studies. These are the presence of the non-barrier active ingredients in blood, urine, amniotic fluid and human breast milk. The other big concern is the impact of these non barrier chemicals on the environment, specifically on barrier reefs. Because of their ability to destroy these reefs, starting in 2021, Hawaii has banned their sale.

In short, if I were washed ashore on a tropical island with no shade and found a bottle of non- barrier sunscreen only, I would reluctantly use it. When I go to the store to purchase these products, I choose zinc or titanium and put up with the spreadable issue. We know that five million cases of skin cancers are treated yearly in the U.S., and statistically one in five adults will develop a skin cancer by age seventy. Prevention of sun induced skin cancers remains a pressing issue and safety is critical.

**Dr. Marv Chadab**

*Health & Human Services Chair*

### Public Safety

#### Situational Awareness & Crime Prevention:

**BE AWARE AND ALERT:** Utilize exterior lighting, particularly motion-sensitive lighting; keep garage doors and doors connecting garage to home locked; keep car doors locked; report suspicious persons and/or vehicles to 911.

#### JOGGING-WALKING-BICYCLING:

Visibility is limited in winter, so wear reflective hats and clothing; put lights and reflective tape on bikes, carry a cell phone, whistle (easier to

blow a whistle rather than to shout for help), some ID w/address; remember that motorists may not see you and that braking distance is longer on icy surfaces.

**PREVENT FIRES:** Gift wrap, etc. should be kept away from fireplaces and other "open flames"; use care with Christmas tree lighting; dispose of fireplace ashes with care; do not store ashes, gasoline or kerosene in house or garage; test smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, replace batteries if necessary; have a family escape plan and test it.

**John Hurley**

*Public Safety Chair*

## TRANSPORTATION

MAPS MAPS and more MAPS. For thousands of years, all forms of transportation have depended on maps. We are all familiar with the large paper road maps used for navigating or system of local streets and highway systems, now being replaced by our GPS and smart phone devices.

Fairfax County now has available over 75 specialized maps online showing the location of various geographic characteristics (ground elevation profile, property lines, flood zones); and services (libraries, schools, parks, senior centers, etc) The collection is available at: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/maps/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/maps/). One of the more useful maps I found is the street light reporter map. This map shows the exact location of each light pole in the county with its official Dominion Power number identification and the nearest property street number. The specific light pole is shown as a little dot. After clicking on the dot, a pull-down menu is displayed on which the

specific problem such as light out, light on continuously, broken globe, etc.

Here are more details: Once you log onto the GIS and Mapping Services home page, scroll down to the bar that reads "Browse the entire collection of interactive..." to see locate the street light reporting map about 70<sup>th</sup> map down. We are located in the southwest corner of Dominion Power's Springfield district. Use the navigation arrows and size controls to navigate and enlarge the street area of interest. Once the adequate enlargement is reached each light pole location is displayed. By pointing on the pole dot and clicking, the problem reporting process is started.

**John Reiser**  
*Transportation Chair*

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# ENVIRONMENT & RECREATION REPORT

## UPDATE ON RECYCLING

What happens when you mix plastics in the recycle bin?

Short answer: It ends up in the dump.

Plastics must be clean to recycle (think water bottles or similar shapes) For specifics see:

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-and-trash](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/recycling-and-trash).

Our area depository is the American Recycling Center in Manassas: a sorting center where plastics are sorted and bailed for resale. It's all about what re-salers are available for the various recycling products.

Here's a little known fact: the triangle on the bottom of items with a number on it mean nothing to recyclers, it is an industry code only. Everything is NOT recyclable in Fairfax County.

**\*\*UPDATE: Glass now needs to be separate from regular recycling and brought to the purple bins now available at various locations in the county.**

The closest bin is at the Mt. Vernon Government Center next to the Fire Station. They are emptied every time they are filled. As more people learn about the availability, the faster they are coming to empty it. There is no plan for the county to create purple bins for our homes. (If you include glass in with your recycling it will be sent to the dump automatically.) Glass products are sent to the glass



crusher in Lorton where the end product is currently used in construction projects, just an example.

Regarding yard waste, it was made clear that if yard waste is in plastic bags, it again ends up in the dump, since they can't empty each bag to dump into a composting area. **Yard waste must now be in brown yard waste bags** available at Costco, Home Depot, Lowe's and other hardware stores.

Other recycling possibilities in our area: at Lorton:

Donation Station for household items like paint, plastic bags, composting, etc. At My Organic Market (MOM's), they accept plastic bags, corks, shoes, etc.

Many of the plastic bags to the Treks' plant in Winchester where they make decking and some goes to make shoes again.

The county is also looking into a Glass Return Program because they have found in their research this type of effort creates more recycling. In addition, in July 2019, the county created the position of Office of Environmental and Energy Coordinator. Betsy Martin of the Fairfax County Litter Project said that homeless individuals are hired to pick up litter giving them some income.

**Gale Curcio**

*Environment & Recreation Chair*

## EDUCATION REPORT

In case you missed it over the summer, the **2020-21 Fairfax County Public School (FCPS) calendar has been announced**. For planning purposes, notable dates include: First day of school - Tuesday, August 25, 2020; Labor Day Break - September 4-7, 2020; Thanksgiving Break - November 25-27, 2020; Winter Break - December 21, 2020-January 1, 2021; Spring Break – March 29, 2021- April 2, 2021 (**Note:** Monday, April 5, 2021, is a teacher workday and a holiday for students); Last day of school for students - Friday, June 11, 2021.

**Inclement Weather and Emergency Closing Plans:** Wintry weather will soon be here! Due to inclement weather or other emergency situations, it may be necessary to close schools for the entire day, to open schools late or to close early.

**Parents are urged to make arrangements now for child care** when schedule changes are made (and to provide for the rare situation when it is necessary to close an individual school because of a power failure or other circumstances). Children should know where to go if a parent will not be home.

FCPS has several schedules set up to deal with inclement weather; these are put into effect when conditions threaten the safety of students and staff members, including keeping schools closed, opening two hours late or closing two hours early.

When FCPS has a schedule change (closing or delay) due to inclement weather or other emergencies, the information is [communicated in several ways as soon as the decision is made](#).

### 2019 Bond Referendum

The voters of Fairfax County approved the 2019 Bond Referendum for school renovations and improvements. More than 77% of those voting in the election in November supported the \$360 million bond referendum, one of the highest approvals in bond history. We are grateful for the support shown for FCPS and the 189,000 students who learn and thrive in our schools.

These funds will enable FCPS to proceed with construction, renovations, enhancements and planning for improvements to 17 schools. Projects funded by the 2019 bond referendum will provide upgraded, current facilities for students, staff members and the residents who use the schools for recreation, meetings and community events.

**\* Included in the referendum is the update to Washington Mills Elementary School.**

### Important Dates

January 20 - Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday - Student Holiday

January 24 - End of Second Quarter

January 27 - Student Holiday

January 28 - Student Holiday

February 17 - President's Day - Student Holiday

### Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Association Update

The Education Committee was scheduled to meet on December 4. However, the meeting was cancelled due to the illness of the scheduled speaker, Dr. Nardos King, Assistant Superintendent for Region 3.

The meeting has been rescheduled for 8 p.m., Jan. 8, 2020, in the Whitman Middle School library. Many members may recall Dr. King from her service as a teacher and Principal of Mount Vernon High School. She is in her first year as Assistant Superintendent but has many years of experience in our area and its challenges. The meeting will be a chance to learn of plans to continue progress in all our schools particularly regarding the new Virginia Standards of Accreditation (SOA).

**Sarah Fidd**  
*Education Chair*

## BUDGET & FINANCE REPORT

The following is taken almost entirely from the Fairfax County website. Here is the link to the **fiscal year (FY) 2021 Budget forecast**: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/news2/fy-2021-budget-forecast/>.

The forecast was presented by Fairfax County government and FCPS representatives on Nov. 26, 2019 to a joint meeting of the Board of Supervisors and school board. Each November, the county and FCPS announce their budget forecast, which includes expected tax revenues and significant funding needs for the upcoming fiscal year budget. By state law, the county must have a balanced budget.

As you may know, more than half of the county's general fund budget is disbursed to FCPS. County government and FCPS are working together to make the most efficient use of tax dollars while maintaining our high level of services. The budget forecast for FY 2021 is similar to what was experienced last year – disbursement requirements continue to increase for both county and FCPS budgets to address board and community priorities, school enrollment growth, new public safety facilities and employee compensation (this does not ring true when comparing predicted county expenses. Predicted expenses are down about \$17 million for FY 2021. However, revenue growth is not projected to be sufficient to meet anticipated needs, due in part to lower interest rates. Additional revenue will be considered as part of the FY 2021 Budget process to advance several of the Board's priorities, such as affordable housing and school readiness. The [county's strategic plan](#) is being finalized and will be presented alongside the FY 2021 Advertised Budget Plan. The strategic plan will inform the development of future budgets.

### Bottom Line Forecast for FY 2021

Based on data available to date, county revenue growth is projected at 1.9%, which generates \$85.7 million in additional revenue for FY 2021

(begins July 1, 2020) to cover:

- **\$ 111.8 million** in county funding priorities.
- **\$ 163.8 million** in FCPS disbursement requirements (funding needs), offset by \$39.5 million in projected increases in FCPS revenue.

As a result, a budgetary shortfall forecast for FY 2021 is \$71.3 million for the county and \$79.1 million for FCPS, which must be addressed before the budget is adopted in May 2020. By comparison, last year's November budgetary shortfall forecast for FY 2020 was \$54.33 million for the county and \$15.60 million for FCPS. Predicted revenues are down for both the county and FCPS needs. FCPS forecast needs are up, but the county's are down.

### County Budget Revenue Forecast

Real estate tax revenue accounts for approximately 65% of the county's general fund budget. Budget impacts from real estate taxes include:

**Residential Real Estate:** Home values in the county are projected to increase 2.08% in FY 2021.

- Home prices are up 3.6% through October.

**Commercial Real Estate:** Commercial (nonresidential) property values are projected to increase 1.84% in FY 2021. As of mid-year 2019, the overall vacancy rate is 14.4%, the fourth straight leasing period (half year) drop.

### FCPS Budget Revenue Forecast

FCPS receives more than 72% of its funding from the county government. In FY 2020 that amount is 52.8% of the county's general fund budget, or \$2.35 billion. In addition, FCPS receives state and federal funding. The FY 2021 forecast for non-county revenue includes a \$36.1 million increase in state revenue and sales tax, part of a total \$39.5 million increase in revenue from non-county sources.

**Jason Leaver**  
*Budget and Finance Chair*

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Continued from Page 1*

### **Air Traffic Control**

I received an update from Congressman Beyers' office that he is sponsoring a bill on the Cleaner, Quieter Airplanes Act. Although it falls short of what we have demanded in the Mt. Vernon neighborhood, it does appear to address some of our noise and pollution concerns.

Please thank Poul Hertel for his continued hard work on keeping our voices heard on the inequities of moving all air traffic over the Mt. Vernon neighborhoods. This is a thankless and contentious battle that sometimes pits neighborhood against neighborhood. However, over time, we are being heard as the battle grinds on.

### **Entry Monuments**

I would like to thank everyone who made contributions to the entry monument fund. We have raised over \$2,500 for these improvements. We are still looking for a Chairperson to manage this project. We need to put a plan together to update and improve these prominent points of contact within our neighborhood.

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

**Sean McCarthy**  
*MVCA President*

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MATT MATHES

## PLANNING & ZONING REPORT

Happy New Year, everybody. Hope your holidays were great.

We received another briefing, a Special Exception and for information only, to permit a service station and food service store at the old Sunoco site.

The service station would include: 1) six fueling stations, 2) six REV charging stations, 3) high quality food service area, York Street Market, with possible plaza or seating area, 4) 20 year interim use with a five year administrative extension, 5) Four sided architecture, 6) Green building initiatives, 7) Solar, 8) Clean up VDOT parcel with possible public art, fencing and seating. Proposed access would be right-in only access on Richmond Highway and a full movement across Old Richmond Highway. Nineteen parking spaces are required and would be provided. Streetscape would be added consistent with the recommendations of the EMBARK Plan. Mark Murray, VP Chamber of Commerce, expressed the Chamber's support. Huntington Community also voiced their support.

Both P&Z and Transportation Committees on Volume II, Urban Design Guidelines. They are tailored specifically for each Community Revitalization District/Areas (CRD & CRA). The public draft of Volume II will be out in November/early December with a six week review period. Transportation Committee minutes have more details.

The County briefed the P&Z and Transportation committees on an update on North Gateway Community Business Center, (CBC), Plan Amendment. Issues with VDOT concerning the

Embark transportation plans, including grid streets, has been delayed. An updated schedule will be posted to the MVCCA P&Z webpage.

Transportation committee has more detailed info.

Both the P&Z and Transportation committees were briefed, as information only, on a proposed Dunkin Donuts at Woodlawn Shopping Center.

Transportation Minutes have more details. The presentation shown is on the P&Z webpage. No application has been filed.

In a joint session with Transportation, we received two briefings: One on a 5,000-square foot restaurant with a drive through at 5863 Richmond Highway - at Fort Hunt and Huntington intersection. The second on residential Railroad Cottages. They are for 55+ and ideal for weirdly shaped parcels of land. They're built on walkability to shopping areas. Structures themselves are 1,000 sf., one story, 1 ½ bedrooms. Concept was well received, especially with the CBCs of the future Richmond Highway. Transportation Committee Minutes have more details on both.

Corey Miles, Northern Virginia Regional Commission, Coastal Resources Program Manager, briefed on extreme climate issues and how to prepare or react to them. For example, in extreme heat, know where cooling shelters are located, or additionally, knowing what to do or where to go for storm water surges.

**Karan Cerutti**  
*Planning & Zoning Chair*

***What is the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation?***



Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation (SFDC) is a nonprofit economic development organization dedicated to promoting the redevelopment and revitalization of the Richmond Highway corridor of U.S. Route 1 from the beltway to Fort Belvoir in Fairfax County, Virginia. Since 1981, SFDC has helped direct nearly \$2 billion of private investment to the Richmond Highway corridor.

As southeast Fairfax continues to grow with more residents and new business, our organization serves as a helpful resource for business owners, developers, property managers, and members of the community.

**Their Mission**

To develop, implement and support projects designed to stimulate economic growth in the Richmond Highway corridor by working closely with business owners, developers and local residents.

**NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS**

- BREATH DEEPLY
- ROLL UP YOUR SLEEVES
- REACH FOR THE STARS
- DANCE IN THE RAIN
- PURSUE A PASSION
- TAKE BREAKS
- REMEMBER MAGICAL MOMENTS
- HAVE A GOOD CLEAR-OUT
- STRETCH MORE
- BE CREATIVE EVERY DAY
- DON'T GIVE UP
- PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE
- STOP OVERANALIZING
- FINISH SOMETHING
- HONOR THE PROCESS
- COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS.
- CUT STRESS.
- BE INSPIRING.
- STAY FOCUSED.
- HAVE FUN.
- EAT MORE VEGETABLES.

Make new year's goals.  
 The new year stands before  
 us, like a chapter in a  
 book, waiting to be  
 written. We can help write  
 that story by setting goals.

## Proposed MVCA Budget: CY 2020

Inflows and Outflows (Expenses)	Proposed Amount
<b>Beginning Cash Balance</b>	<b>\$10,160</b>
<b><i>Cash Inflows (Income):</i></b>	
Dues (checks)	<b>\$7,000</b>
Dues (PayPal)	<b>\$1,200</b>
Advertising	<b>\$720</b>
Interest	<b>\$3</b>
Monument	<b>\$600</b>
Other:	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Total Cash Inflows</b>	<b>\$9,523</b>
<b><i>Cash Outflows (Expenses):</i></b>	
Picnic	<b>\$2,000</b>
Association Dues	<b>\$200</b>
Appearance & Maintenance	<b>\$0</b>
Contributions(PTA, boyscouts)	<b>\$0</b>
Meetings (WMES)	<b>\$400</b>
Directory	<b>\$0</b>
Membership Billing	<b>\$1,200</b>
Newsletter	<b>\$5,000</b>
Utilities	<b>\$1,000</b>
USPS Box Rental	<b>\$150</b>
Supplies	<b>\$0</b>
Miscellaneous	<b>\$0</b>
Entry-way Monument	<b>\$2,500</b>
1&1 Internet/GoDaddy	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Total Cash Outflows</b>	<b>\$12,450</b>
<b>Ending Cash Balance</b>	<b>\$7,233</b>



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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: Jason Leaver.....703-799-6739  
Education: Sarah Fidd .....703-780-0816  
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, January 8, 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 –  
Edythe Kelleher from the Southeast Fairfax  
Development Corporation.