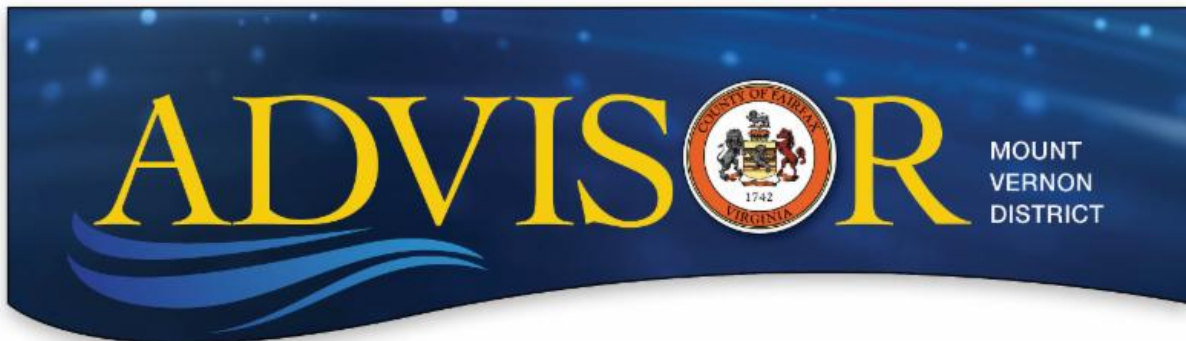


February 2020



A big thank you to everyone who helped make our **33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Mount Vernon Town Meeting a community success!** With more than **250 attendees and 300 more watching our live streams** on Channel 16 and Facebook, 75 exhibitors and **many local leaders**, this year's event highlighted the **Year of the Woman** and again concluded with a **virtual "flying" tour** of all that is happening in the District! Wish you had attended? Well, there is **always next year** to get the in-person vibe, but this year you can still **watch the video** on our [website](#), [Facebook](#), as well as on Channel 16 [streaming on demand](#) and replaying on February 18 at 8 p.m.

Since it is February, I will share with you one of my **favorite quotes from my favorite president** and role model, Abraham Lincoln. "*The best way to predict your future is to create it.*" **Engaging in your community** is one of the best ways to **create your future and the future of those around you**. There are many simple steps you can take to start engaging more deeply - attend town meetings and community events, join a chamber or advocacy group, provide public comment on County issues, read our newsletter and volunteer your time. Making a few **small changes will return amazing results**, connect you with your neighborhood and **empower the change** you want to make! **Connect with TEAM MVD in 2020!**

Tragically, this past weekend the Mount Vernon area redevelopment saw a serious setback in the **fire that raged through new construction** on the South Alex site. Thanks to our **very capable County fire fighters** who were joined by **Alexandria, Arlington, Fort Belvoir and the Prince George's Fire Departments**, the very challenging blaze was contained with **only 2 injuries and limited impact on occupied adjacent homes**. While it is too early to tell **how this will impact this redevelopment**, Fairfax County has appointed a recovery champion to **expedite, closely monitor and provide** the necessary land development support.

Recently, the County has **kicked off the South County Site Specific Plan Amendment (SCSSPA) process** which is our **every five year process** for formally reviewing our community comprehensive plan. There are **eight nominations** for the Mount Vernon District. I have stood up an **SCSSPA community task force to review and advise** on the accepted nominations. While it is very **early in the process**, you can **learn more** about the [SCSSPA process](#) and the [nomination accepted](#).

We have several events coming up this month. On **February 18 at 7 p.m.**, we will co-host a **Community Information Session** with the Mount Vernon Station and County Police Department to discuss the **recent homicides in the area**. Please attend to get the latest information and ask questions you may have. We will also host the **Mount Vernon District Budget Town Hall on Wednesday, February 26 at 7 p.m.** at the Gerry Hyland Government Center. Join us to learn about the budget process, the **County Executive's FY 2021 proposed budget** and provide your feedback. Finally, remember it is free and a great time to visit the **Mount Vernon Estate on Presidents' Day, February 17** to honor our first President, George Washington.

Respectfully yours in public service,



Dan Storck  
Supervisor, Mount Vernon District  
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors



*The Suffragist Ladies at the Town Meeting.  
(photo courtesy Fort Hunt Herald)*

Visit our Website

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## 33rd Annual Town Meeting

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**Thank you to everyone who joined us in-person or virtually on Saturday for the 33rd Annual Town Meeting! It was a huge success, thanks to you!**

Missed the meeting? Watch it below, on our [website](#), [Facebook](#) or on Channel 16 [streaming on demand](#) or rebroadcasts on **February 18 at 8 p.m.**

For those who attended, please [take our survey](#) to help make this an even better event!



*(click image to play)*

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## Police Community Meeting

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### **DETECTIVES TO PROVIDE UPDATES ON RECENT HOMICIDE INVESTIGATIONS AT COMMUNITY MEETING**

Detectives continue to investigate **several recent homicides** in our Mount Vernon Police District. In an effort to **keep the community informed**, Captain Brian Ruck of the Mount Vernon District Police Station and I are **hosting a community meeting** to provide updates on the investigations, and **answer as many questions as possible**.

**Tuesday, February 18, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at Mt. Vernon High School Auditorium, Entrance 4**

Cases to be discussed are:

- *On May 22, 2019, a body was located in North Hill Park in a shallow grave.*
- *On October 26, 2019 officers responded to the Meadow Woods Apartments for a man who had been shot multiple times.*
- *On Dec. 18, 2019 a body was discovered by a resident near a bridge at Old Mill Road and Gateshead Road.*
- *On Dec. 30, 2019 officers responded to Sausalito Place and Buckman Rd. in the Mount Vernon Woods neighborhood and found two subjects shot, one dead and one wounded.*

**Arrests have been made** in some of these cases, but **detectives are continuing to conduct interviews**, examine evidence and pursue all investigative leads.

[Read more and download the flyer...](#)

[Please register to attend...](#) (not necessary, but appreciated)

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## 2020 U.S. Census

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### The Census is Coming, The Census is Coming! Be Counted!



The census informs how **billions of dollars** are allocated every year to **health clinics, senior services, education, job training, housing** and hundreds of other critical services and programs that we rely on every day. In March, you will receive a **postcard in the mail** from the U.S. Census Bureau with information and directions. Complete the **simple questionnaire online, by phone or by mail**. It only takes a few minutes, but the impact will be felt for years. **Share this information with your family and friends!** [Learn why you should be counted...](#)

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## Public Safety Update

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### Pedestrian Safety Improvements on Frye Road!



I am pleased to announce several enhancements aimed at **improving driver and pedestrian safety** are complete on **Frye Road just north of Richmond Highway**. The improvements include **rectangular rapid-flashing beacons (RRFBs)** with push buttons and audible indications for the visually impaired. RRFBs provide a **strobe-like flashing** to drivers after a pedestrian pushes the button before crossing. **Crosswalks and safety improvements like these will save lives!**

### New Fire Boat 420

Construction of the **new fire boat for the Gunston Fire & Rescue Station 20** is well underway! At this time, it is projected to be **complete by late-Spring** in order to be **in-service by Memorial Day**. Since the last fire boat was **decommissioned two years ago**, our Fire & Rescue Department has been without a boat. This much needed

vehicle will **improve safety and response times** to emergencies on the Potomac and Occoquan Rivers.



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## Upcoming Events

- [February Arts Guide](#)
- Saturdays: [English Conversation Group](#) - 12:30 p.m.
- Feb 11: [Fairfax County Human Services Council Community Engagement Session](#) - 7 p.m.
- Feb 11: [South County Federation Meeting](#) - 7:30 p.m.
- Feb 12: [Story Time with Officer Watts](#) - 4 p.m.
- Feb 14: [Workhouse Arts Center LOVEworks Sign Unveiling](#) - 10 a.m.
- Feb 15: [Stuff the Bus](#) - 9 a.m.
- Feb 15: [Child Safety Seat Inspections](#) - 9:30 a.m.
- Feb 17: Presidents' Day - County Offices & Libraries Closed
- Feb 18: [INOVA "Ask the Experts" Youth Vaping](#) - 6 p.m.
- Feb 18: [Community Meeting Providing Updates On Recent Homicide Investigations](#) - 7 p.m.
- Feb 22: [Lorton Library Foundation Sip and Spell](#) - 6 p.m.
- Feb 22: [Workhouse Arts Center Collect 2020](#) - 6:30 p.m.
- Feb 24-25: [DMV2GO at Hollin Hall Senior Center](#) - 9 a.m.
- Feb 26: [DMV2GO at Sherwood Library](#) - 10 a.m.
- Feb 26: [Mount Vernon District Budget Forum](#) - 7 p.m.
- Feb 26: [Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations Meeting](#) - 7 p.m.
- Feb 27: [Shepherd's Center & RSVP Volunteer Information Session](#) - 1:30 p.m.
- Mar 3: [Lunch with AARP Fun Bunch](#) - 11:30 a.m.
- Mar 3: [FREE Tax Relief Workshops for Older Adults & People with Disabilities](#) - 10 a.m.
- Mar 6: [Sustainable Solutions to Landscaping](#) - 9:15 a.m.
- Mar 7: [LCAC Annual Monopoly Tournament](#) - 9 a.m.

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## In the News



### **Pentagon Finalizing Agreement to Allow County Police to Patrol Fort Belvoir's Jeff Todd Way**

Fort Belvoir **Garrison commander Michael Greenberg** is confident that an **agreement by the Pentagon** regarding **local traffic management and enforcement** along **Jeff Todd Way** can be signed "by the end of February" following deliberations between the Defense Department and U.S. Army Corps of

Engineers. [Read more in the Fort Hunt Herald...](#)

### **Huntington Affordable Housing Development Awarded \$1.6M Grant**

**The Arden, a 126-unit apartment building** approved to be built next to the **Huntington Metro station**, recently received a **\$1.6 million grant from Virginia**. The grant award is part of nearly \$12 million in funding from the state for **affordable housing and homeless programs**

announced by Gov. Ralph Northam. [Read more on Covering the Corridor...](#)



### **Injured Bald Eagle Makes Full Recovery, Released into Wild at Burke Lake Park**

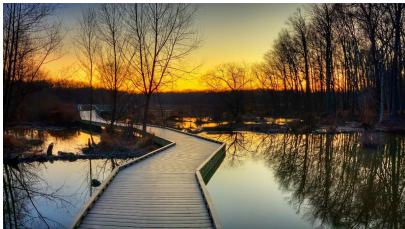
Almost a month after an **injured bald eagle** was found and **nursed**



**back to health**, the Fairfax County Park Authority released the bird back into the wild at **Burke Lake Park** with more than **500 onlookers**. The eagle recovered with the help of **Belinda Burwell, a veterinarian at Wildlife Veterinary Care**, after suffering a shoulder injury and lead poisoning. [Read more in the Washington Post...](#) [More photos...](#)

## Metrorail Ridership Grew by 20,000 Trips per Weekday in 2019

**Customer-focused improvements** implemented last year contributed to the **increase in rail ridership**. These changes included **extending Yellow Line service to Greenbelt**, extending all Red Line trips to the ends of the line, offering **new money-saving pass options**, and doubling down on **Rush Hour Promise**, Metro's first-of-its-kind service guarantee that automatically gives customers back their fare if their rush-hour trip on Metrorail is delayed more than 10 minutes. [Read more...](#)



## Huntley Meadows Photo Wins People Choice Award

On January 1, 2020, the **County Park Authority** joined America's state parks and Virginia State Parks to **encourage everyone to start 2020 with a hike**. Nearly 200 hikers submitted photos as part of the **First Hike Fairfax 2020** Photo Contest. **Mike Crosby** took this beautiful photo of **Huntley Meadows**. [Read more on Fairfax Newswire...](#)

# Mount Vernon Police Station in the Community



On December 20, 2019 the **Officers at the Mt. Vernon Station** along with the **Public Safety Cadets** of Post 2252 partnered with **Target and the Community Service Board** for **SHOP WITH A COP** for **16 middle school students** from the Mt. Vernon Community. Then, on December 21, 2019 the **Officers at the Mt. Vernon Station** and the **Public Safety Cadets** of Post 2252 held a **toy give away** at the Station for the **children of the Mt. Vernon community**.

## Community Champion

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**Shirley Short is an indomitable force** in the Mount Vernon District office, known as our **volunteer extraordinaire!** A career **Fairfax County Fire Fighter**, Shirley first started volunteering at our office after she met former Supervisor Gerry Hyland in 2006 while responding to the Huntington flood. **Former Supervisor Gerry Hyland fondly recalls, "I met our magnificent volunteer Shirley Short as she acted like Florence Nightingale helping the flood victims in Huntington and helped them to put their lives back together. Her tireless and compassionate spirit help helped hundreds of persons in need. She is extraordinary!"**

Since that day, **Shirley has volunteered many 100s of hours** with TEAM MVD! Whether **organizing people, places or events**, papering neighborhoods with flyers, sharing information about TEAM MVD and the District, Shirley is always present, **smiling and helping!** She even has her own "pet" project, the **Ides of Bark Dog Festival** held each year in March. **I cannot thank Shirley enough for all her support!** We truly value **her leadership!**

When she is not helping TEAM MVD, Shirley enjoys **traveling across the country** with her husband and two dogs!

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## School News

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### **New NVCC, GMU and FCPS Partnership Creates Dual Enrollment Program for High School Students**

I am incredibly proud to announce **NOVA Mason Advance**, a new partnership between FCPS, **Northern Virginia Community College and George Mason University** will allow FCPS High School students to **earn college credits** while taking high school classes. [Read more in the Fort Hunt Herald...](#)



## Community Information

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### **2020 Housing Challenge Seeks Innovative Policy Solutions to Increase Affordable Housing**

The County is at a **crossroads when it comes to affordable housing** — particularly for low- or moderate-income households. The number of people spending more than 30% of

their monthly income as housing is growing: more than 44% of renters and about 23% of homeowners. **Rents are also rising at a faster pace than incomes.** To find **creative affordable housing solutions**, the County and the George Mason University School of Business are holding a **policy hackathon** on **Wednesday, March 11**, called the **2020 Housing Challenge**. [Read more...](#)

## Lorton Library Closing for Renovation April 11, 2020

Lorton Library is expected to **close for renovation on Saturday, April 11**. Renovations to the branch are expected to take a **minimum of 21 months**. The footprint of the renovated branch will be **60% larger than its current 10,000 sq ft**, and the layout will be **more efficient for customer use**. Infrastructure will be updated to meet **modern technology requirements**, and building systems nearing the end of service life will be renewed. [Read more...](#)



## Absentee Voting at the Mount Vernon Governmental Center

Absentee voting for the **March 3, 2020 Presidential Primary Election** will be available at the **Mount Vernon Governmental Center from February 22 - 29, 2020**. Monday - Friday hours will be 3 p.m. - 7 p.m., with Saturday hours from 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. [For more locations...](#)

## Libraries Team up to Offer Scholarships for Online High School Diplomas

The Fairfax County Public Library system is partnering with **Career Online High School (COHS)**, an online high school diploma and **workforce-readiness certificate program**, to **offer scholarships** to a limited number of adults. [Learn more...](#)

## **INOVA** FREE Ask the Experts Youth Vaping, What Parents Need to Know

INOVA is hosting an **"Ask the Expert"** discussion for **parents on youth vaping** that will be held from **6 - 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 18, 2020**, at the Inova Fairfax Hospital campus. This **free program** will be led by an **INOVA medical director specializing in lung disease** and an **adolescent psychiatrist specializing in substance abuse**. Options include attending in person and **watching live online**. [Register...](#)

## Human Services Council Community Engagement Session

The **County Human Services Council** will hold a Community Engagement Session on **February 11, 2020, from 7 - 9 p.m.** at the Gerry Hyland Center to share **important information with community members**, system stakeholders and others interested in Health and Human Services in the County. Through a series of Community Engagement Sessions, the Council will **gather information** to inform County Executive and Elected Leaders about the **strengths and opportunities in the County's Housing, Health and Human Services' Organization**. The Council is excited to partner with the community to **create opportunities** for individuals and families to be safe, be healthy, and realize their potential. [For more information...](#)



## Help Stock Food Pantry Shelves this Winter

**Food Pantries** are full at holidays, with giving at its peak as people celebrate the season. However, after the **New Year "giving fatigue"** has set in and most **pantries' supplies run low**. To help, Fairfax County runs **"Stuff the Bus"**, a food pantry giving campaign that **partners with nonprofits**, grocery stores and MV transportation to restock depleted shelves. Stuff the Bus will be at the **Fort Hunt Safeway (7900 Fort Hunt Road)** on **Saturday, February 15, 2020, from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.** to benefit **United Communities**. [Learn more...](#)

## Free Tax Prep

The AARP Foundation **Tax-Aide program** provides **free federal tax return preparation and e-filing** from **February 1 - April**

**15, 2020** by volunteers certified by the IRS. Counselors handle almost **all forms of income**, and work with taxpayers to help them get all the **deductions and credits** for which they qualify. Although the program has **no income or age limits**, Tax-Aide clients are generally low and middle income taxpayers. Services are available at the **Sherwood Regional Library**. [Learn more...](#)



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## Saving Our Environment

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### Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP) Launches

The County is continuing its journey toward a **more sustainable and healthier future** with the launch of the **Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan**, or CECAP. This **community-oriented initiative** will develop the County's goals for **reducing greenhouse gas emissions** and will **identify actions that community members can take** to help achieve those goals. Learn more about the CECAP [with this introductory article](#), and follow all the CECAP news on the county's [climate action blog](#) or [on Twitter](#).

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## Year of the Woman

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### The Overlooked History of Women at Work

A Grolier Club exhibition **explores 500 years of women** as scientists, midwives, writers, activists, undertakers and more. The phrase **"women's work"** may conjure up domesticity (if not drudgery), or **"women's professions" like teaching or nursing**. "But there is an enormous breadth of vocations women have been part of," exhibit curator Lisa Unger Baskin said. **"Women have been working people, always."** [Read more in The New York Times...](#)

*The African-American poet Lizelia Augusta Jenkins Moorer, in 1907. Credit...Rubenstein Library, Duke University*

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## Team MVD

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*Mount Vernon District Staff: Abdul Shaban, Donna Slaymaker, Sally Kidalov, Supervisor Dan Storck, Christine Morin, Camela Speer & Volunteer Shirley Short.*



### January 2020 Activities:

- Phone calls: 942
- Meetings: 83

### Stay Connected:

Mount Vernon Governmental Center  
2511 Parkers Lane  
Mount Vernon, VA 22306  
703-780-7518 (TTY 711) 703-780-1491 (fax)  
[mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov)

### Office Hours

Monday - Wednesday, Friday:  
8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Second Saturday Each Month (except August)  
Lorton Library: 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
MV District Office: 12:30 p.m. - 3 p.m.  
Walk-ins and by appointment

### Want to Join Team MVD? We Are Hiring!

Team MVD is looking for a **Land Use Aide**. Interested applicants should **read the [job announcement](#)** and submit a **resume and cover letter** outlining education, experience, and availability to [Mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov). Include "**19-02454 Land Use Aide/Community Liaison**" in the subject line. **Know someone who might be interested?** Please help us spread the word!

[Visit our website](#)

Mount Vernon District Office | 703-780-7518  
[MTVernon@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:MTVernon@fairfaxcounty.gov) | [FairfaxCounty.gov/MountVernon](http://FairfaxCounty.gov/MountVernon)

STAY CONNECTED

