



December 2020

## Dear Neighbors,

Greetings from your Hunter Mill District member of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors! For those of you not familiar with Fairfax County or how local government operates in Virginia here is a quick background. Fairfax County is governed by a 10-member Board of Supervisors. Residents elect nine members by district (including me) and one chairman countywide. The Hunter Mill District of Fairfax County includes Reston, the Town of Vienna, the southern side of greater Herndon, and everything in between. Fairfax County provides important local government services to our 1.2 million residents. Local taxes are adopted and assessed (mostly from property taxes) by the Board of Supervisors for key county functions including:

- Funding for Fairfax County Public Schools.
- Planning and zoning (except for the Town of Vienna, which controls its own land use).
- Human services and housing programs for our most vulnerable residents.
- Public safety including fire, police, sheriff, 9-1-1, emergency management, and the Fairfax County Health Department. (Town of Vienna residents are served by the Vienna Police Department.)
- Parks, RECenters, and other facilities maintained and staffed by the Fairfax County Park Authority.
- Transportation improvements, including transit and pedestrian/bicycle facilities. (Larger improvements are usually done with state and regional partners.)
- Public works and environmental services to maintain and improve our infrastructure and environment.



Public art is becoming an integral part of our neighborhoods in Hunter Mill District. I'm pictured here at Thoreau's Ensemble, which was inspired by a quote by poet and naturalist Henry David Thoreau and located at the Colts Neck Road underpass in Reston.

It has been my honor to serve as your Hunter Mill District Supervisor since I took office in January. We have been working together through this difficult year; dealing with the first global pandemic in a century and the resulting fallout on our economy and our schools. We also had a national and local reckoning on racial equity and police reform – and the urgent need to move forward on these issues.

My promise of transparency and engagement remains the guidepost of my approach to local government. The purpose of this newsletter is to provide highlights of work underway and how you can be a part in making Fairfax County an even better place to live, work, and play. I hope you will take a few minutes to review this information. If you have any questions, I encourage you to email or call my office using the contact information provided.

Lastly, I strongly encourage you to sign up for my weekly digital newsletter. This is the best way for you to keep up on news and information affecting our community and the county. To subscribe, send an email to [HunterMill@Fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:HunterMill@Fairfaxcounty.gov) or use the QR Code below.

**Respectfully,**  
**Walter Alcorn**  
**Hunter Mill District Supervisor**



## LOCAL ACTION ITEMS 2020/2021 AND BEYOND

Below are several high-priority Fairfax County and Hunter Mill District initiatives and activities for this year and beyond. For more details visit our Hunter Mill District webpage at [fairfaxcounty.gov/huntermill](http://fairfaxcounty.gov/huntermill) or the county's website at [fairfaxcounty.gov](http://fairfaxcounty.gov). You can also contact my office directly; contact information is provided below and on the back page of this newsletter.

### Town of Vienna

Although the Town of Vienna has its own mayor and town council, it also falls within the Hunter Mill District and its residents pay county property taxes. Through our partnership, we fund projects and infrastructure that benefit Vienna residents and the surrounding communities. I recently requested and received approval from the Board of Supervisors for a waiver of all county building and inspection fees applicable to the Vienna Police Facility Construction Project, saving the town more than \$400,000. Other examples include:

- Patrick Henry Library: The Board of Supervisors authorized a Design & Construction Agreement with the Town of Vienna to support redevelopment of the existing Patrick Henry Library with a new library and jointly funded public parking structure.
- Funding for infrastructure projects: Current projects include Northside Park Piney Branch Stream Restoration, Tapawingo/Kingsley Urban Bioretention Project, and Hunters Branch Phase II Stream Restoration.

In addition, there are many Vienna residents on our county Boards, Authorities, and Commissions, providing critical input on county decisions that impact their town.

➔ To learn more, go online to [viennava.gov](http://viennava.gov)



A highlight this year was visiting the Vienna Volunteer Fire Station and learning more about how they serve the community.

### Hunter Mill District Staff: What We Do

#### Amanda Lowe

Office Manager  
Supervisor's Scheduler  
Community Room Scheduler  
Environmental Issues

#### Lisa Connors

Communications  
Social Media  
Media and Press Relations  
Community Engagement

#### Shyamali Hauth

Multimodal Transportation  
Public Safety  
Arts  
Trails, Sidewalks  
Town of Vienna

#### Jose Delcid

Land Use, Zoning  
Code Compliance  
Parks, Athletic Fields, Trees  
Stormwater, Recycling, and Solid Waste

#### Gwenn Minton

Health and Human Services  
Library  
Nonprofit Organizations  
Community-Senior-Teen Centers  
County Boards, Authorities and Commissions

#### Paul Davis

Budget and Finance  
Consumer Affairs  
Economic Development  
Elections  
Schools  
Legislation  
Taxes  
Utilities

#### Contact Us:

Call: 703-478-0283

Email: [HunterMill@Fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:HunterMill@Fairfaxcounty.gov)

Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The impact of COVID-19 on our community has been devastating, especially for small businesses and many of our most vulnerable residents. As your supervisor, I have strongly advocated for:

- Ensuring that the Health Department provides adequate testing for COVID-19.
- Supporting our housing and homeless programs to provide safe shelter when it is not otherwise available.
- Acknowledging and responding to the pandemic's spread through our minority populations (especially our Latinx community and all vulnerable communities).
- Approving budget resolutions that prioritize ending the pandemic, which is the key to economic recovery.
- Improving the call wait times for the county's Health and Human Services Department Coordinated Services Planning phone number (703-222-0880), which provides the public with a single point of access for referral for many critical services. Additional funding was approved in the FY 2020 Carryover Budget and although wait times have since declined, this remains an area of concern.

Specific measures that the Board of Supervisors has taken during the pandemic:

- Provided the Health Department with increased funding needed to monitor, test, and mitigate the spread of the disease and to provide timely advice and communications to county residents.
- Helped our small businesses by creating the Fairfax RISE COVID-19 Small Business and Nonprofit Relief Grant Fund, which is providing \$58 million in financial assistance to small businesses and nonprofits adversely affected by the pandemic.
- Dedicated \$25 million of federal CARES Act funds to support our most vulnerable communities and provide rental assistance, as well as assistance with other basic necessities.
- Worked closely with our state representatives and Governor Northam on efforts to put a moratorium on evictions and push back deadlines for tax payments.

I also want to add how grateful I am for the overwhelming community support to help our neighbors in need. Our How to Help Your Neighbors in Hunter Mill District webpage and other requests for much needed donations and volunteer support have been very successful. (The How to Help page can be found at [fairfaxcounty.gov/huntermill](https://fairfaxcounty.gov/huntermill).)

➔ **To learn more, go to [fairfaxcounty.gov/covid19](https://fairfaxcounty.gov/covid19)**



Health Department officials brief the Board of Supervisors meeting in early March, before COVID-19 precautions were put in place.



## Police Reform and Racial Equity

The need for police reform and racial equity became a top priority nationally and locally after the killing of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and many others. Their deaths sparked numerous peaceful protests and rallies for justice.

Real reform starts with understanding the root causes. To better understand the underlying issues, the Board's first steps included virtual meetings and town halls with community leaders, organizations, residents – and with rank and file police officers. For example, more than 50 people virtually attended my July 1 town hall with Fairfax County Police Chief Edwin Roessler. In June Chairman Jeff McKay formed the Chairman's Task Force on Equity and Opportunity and is working on recommendations for changes necessary for creating

a Fairfax County that works for everyone. I am also working closely with my colleague Lee District Supervisor Rodney Lusk, chairman of the Public Safety Committee, who is on point with the community and the Police Department to develop police reform measures for Board consideration. Many of these reforms focus on improved transparency.

One of our reform initiatives will soon move into the pilot phase. In July, Supervisor Lusk and I sponsored a joint Board Matter calling for a new type of first responder – trained and unarmed medical, human services, and mental health professionals to respond to instances where mental and behavioral health is the reason for a 9-1-1 call and not criminal behavior. County staff is putting together plans to pilot this approach.

It should be noted that many of the police reform measures recently enacted by the Virginia General Assembly and under discussion nationally have already been put in place in our county following the 2015 report by the Fairfax County Police Reform, Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission. One such reform that has been underway is the full implementation of body worn cameras.

On the topic of racial equity, the Board approved my joint Board Matter to authorize the Fairfax County History Commission to prepare a report listing a full inventory of Confederate street names, monuments, and public places in Fairfax County and on Fairfax County-owned property. We will then look at the viability and costs of renaming/replacing these symbols and during these discussions enjoy the benefits of a more robust appreciation of our local history. These are just a few steps in a long journey to racial equity in our community, but it is in the right direction.

➔ **To learn more, go online to [fairfaxcounty.gov/topics/police-updates](https://fairfaxcounty.gov/topics/police-updates)**



I had the opportunity to ride on a Saturday evening patrol with the Police Department's Bike Unit this fall and learn more about how they patrol our neighborhoods



The Reston Police District Station was one of the first police stations to implement body worn cameras in the county. The full implementation of body worn cameras countywide is a high priority for the Board of Supervisors.

## Managing Growth

As our part of Fairfax County continues to grow and develop, our residents have made it clear that they want and expect new growth to be managed to minimize negative impacts on existing communities. The Reston Comprehensive Plan Study Task Force (see below) is just one of the ways we are engaging residents in county land use decisions. As the chair of the Community Council of Land Use Engagement three years ago, I oversaw a collaboration of ideas from residents across the county on how to better engage our residents in land use decisions – many of their recommendations are in practice today countywide and here in Hunter Mill District. Other examples of community engagement taking place in our district include:

- Meetings and a town hall on the Zoning Ordinance Modernization Project (zMOD).
- The ongoing Wiehle Pedestrian Crossing Study Group.
- Continued work of the Hunter Mill Land Use Committee and the Reston Planning and Zoning (P&Z) Committee.
- Our district representatives on Boards, Authorities and Commissions ensure that residents have a seat at the table for countywide discussions.

Finally, I recently made a statement on a request to consider a change to the comprehensive plan for the Hidden Creek golf course property. Based on feedback my office received from the community, I do not support changing the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan's current designation of this property as a golf course and consider the matter closed.

➔ **To learn more, go online to [fairfaxcounty.gov/huntermill/land-use-and-zoning](https://fairfaxcounty.gov/huntermill/land-use-and-zoning)**

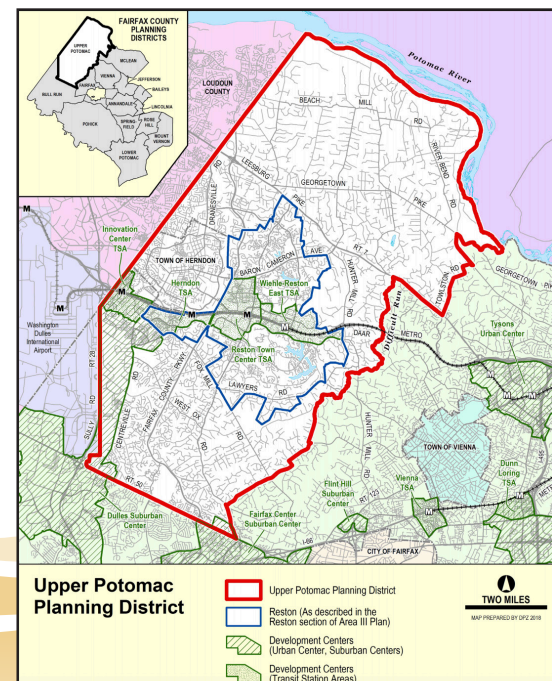


On Valentine's Day 2020 (and before the pandemic) I hosted a thank you reception for the Hunter Mill District representatives on the county's Boards, Authorities and Commissions.

## Reston Comprehensive Plan Study Task Force

It has been five years since the Board of Supervisors adopted the current Comprehensive Plan for Reston and the time is right to review key elements of that plan, including the balance of existing and planned development, infrastructure, and the environment across all of Reston. In January, the Board approved my motion to authorize a plan amendment for Reston and I created a task force of 32 members representing residents, developers, and community organizations, which began meeting in the spring. The task force continues its work to review a number of areas of the study plan, including population thresholds, environmental impacts, transportation challenges, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, land use in the Village Centers, and increasing affordable housing. In approximately one year, the task force will report on its recommendations to the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors.

➔ **To learn more, go online to [fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-development/plan-amendments/reston-area-study](https://fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-development/plan-amendments/reston-area-study)**



The area under task force study is indicated in red.



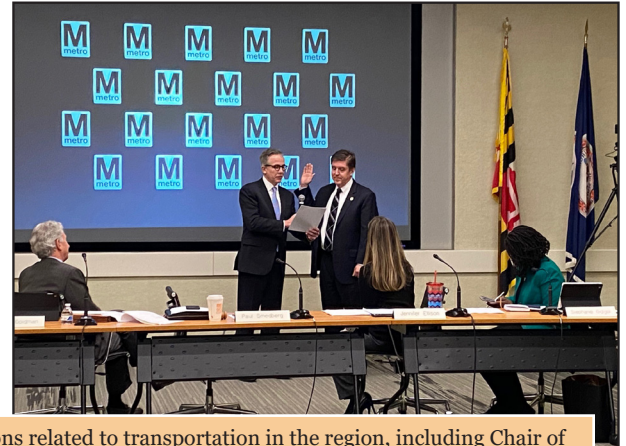
## Transportation

Transportation in our community and throughout the county is one of the most important topics to our residents. Whether you drive, ride rail/buses, walk, or bicycle, long-range planning for a viable transportation infrastructure is critical to our quality of life. Community input is essential including public hearings, surveys, and task force/groups. Two large projects that are moving forward are the Route 7 widening and the Wiehle and W&OD pedestrian/bike overpass. A critical project that is close to completion is Phase II of the Silver Line, which is the rail line extension from the Wiehle-Reston East Station through Dulles Airport to Ashburn in eastern Loudoun County.

I am also taking a closer look at making our streets safer for pedestrians and bicyclists. Earlier this year, the Board approved my joint Board Matter to have the Comprehensive Plan Guidance on Active Transportation and Trails, called Active Fairfax, to include enhanced safety measures and increased safety communications.

In addition to my role as your supervisor, I hold several positions related to transportation in the region, including Chair of the Board of Supervisors Transportation Committee, alternate member of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) Board, member of the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission and the Virginia Rail Express (VRE) Board.

➔ To learn more, go online to [fairfaxcounty.gov/huntermill/transportation](https://fairfaxcounty.gov/huntermill/transportation)



I hold several positions related to transportation in the region, including Chair of the Board of Supervisors Transportation Committee and alternate member of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) Board – this photo is from my swearing in at the beginning of 2020.

## Affordable Housing

During the summer, the Board supported a proposed modification of the county's workforce housing policy that recognizes the need to produce affordable housing at income levels of 80% of area median income or lower as part of new market rate residential developments. In addition, to maintain and improve the existing stock of market rate affordable housing, the Board created an Affordable Housing Preservation Task Force. The recommendations of this task force will help to preserve housing that serves those with income levels of up to 60% of the area median income.

I look forward to the use of innovative approaches to producing affordable housing, including new policies for property owners looking to convert old commercial buildings, and use of publicly owned properties for mixed-income communities with a large affordable housing component.

➔ To learn more, go online to [fairfaxcountgov/housing/affordable-housing](https://fairfaxcountgov/housing/affordable-housing)



In October, I was among county officials and partners who participated in a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Lake Anne House, which will provide 240 upgraded affordable housing units and amenities for older adults when completed in 2022.

## Education

Fairfax County has a separate School Board, which oversees our public school system. At left is your Hunter Mill District School Board member Melanie Meren and her contact information.

More than 50 percent of Fairfax County's General Budget goes to support Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS). For the current FY 2021 that amount is \$2.3 Billion. However, like schools across the U.S., FCPS is facing unprecedented challenges related to the pandemic. Some of the costs of virtual learning can be measured in terms of laptops and access to WiFi for students in all communities. But we know there will be additional costs, including impacts on mental health, social distancing when in-person learning returns, support of our teachers and ensuring that students with disabilities and from vulnerable communities are not left behind. One important step was the creation of the Support Return to Schools (SRS) program, which provides full-day on-site programming for children in kindergarten through sixth grade. SRS reflects Fairfax County's and FCPS's joint commitment to One Fairfax, and to ensuring that all families have equitable access to the services they need to support children's virtual learning. I remain committed to providing the School Board with the support it needs to find equitable solutions for all students in our communities.

➔ To learn more, go online to [fairfaxcounty.gov/budget](https://fairfaxcounty.gov/budget) and [fcps.edu](https://fcps.edu)



**Melanie Meren**

Fairfax County Public Schools  
School Board Member for Hunter Mill District  
Call: 571-423-1082  
Email: [Melanie.Meren@fcps.edu](mailto:Melanie.Meren@fcps.edu)

## Climate Change/Environmental Initiatives

The growing threat of climate change and its impact on our public health and economy is a long-term challenge that the Board of Supervisors has been addressing for several years. We took a major step forward in 2020 with public input on the development of the Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP). This innovative program will include a greenhouse gas inventory and targets for greenhouse gas reduction, as well as strategies and action for climate change. Another county initiative that I strongly support is the transition of the county's fleet from diesel to electric vehicles as they are replaced. In addition, I am committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by accelerating work on bike and pedestrian safety and accessibility projects around transit stations. There is a lot of work to be done on environmental initiatives, but it is imperative that we all take even small steps now to save our environment for future generations.

➔ To learn more, go online to [fairfaxcounty.gov/environment-energy-coordination/climate-planning-action](https://fairfaxcounty.gov/environment-energy-coordination/climate-planning-action)



It looks strange now to see people crowded together in a room, but last winter there was a great turnout for my first town hall, which was held at Reston Community Center, Lake Anne.

## Supervisor Walter Alcorn

Hunter Mill District  
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors  
1801 Cameron Glen Drive  
Reston, VA 20190

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