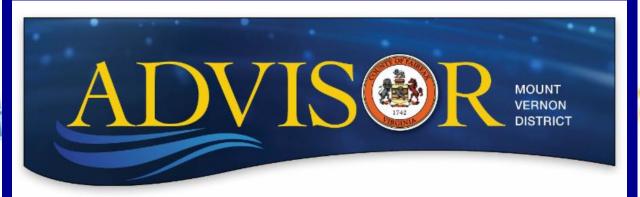
January 2021



Neighbors,

Happy New Year! I am energized and optimistic as we welcome 2021 and a COVID-19 vaccine! We have many new opportunities, projects and events planned this year. You will soon be receiving my annual Advisor mailer with more details and a summary of our 2020 key accomplishments and 2021 focuses.



2021 will be the Year of the Vaccine, Economic Recovery and Climate Action!

Virginia and Fairfax both have a **vaccine plan in place** to get immunizations out as quickly as possible, as well as **websites dedicated to information and education** about the vaccines. **When it is your turn**, I truly hope that, like me, you will **get the vaccine** so that we can all return to a **more normal life and social interactions**. Read below for the latest information.

We know many in our community are **experiencing financial hardships**. The County has **pumped millions of dollars into the local economy** and will continue to do all we can to support our **residents**, **non-profits and businesses**. This will help keep residents fed, in their homes, students learning, businesses open and **jobs increasing as we recover**.

Needed climate action will happen on many fronts, and I am excited about proposed federal leadership! President-elect Joe Biden has announced a strong environmental leadership team and is laying out an aggressive plan, including pledging to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 and eliminate fossil fuel emissions from the power sector by 2035. Here in Fairfax, I am leading the adoption of the Joint Environmental Task Force (JET) goals that include carbon neutrality by 2040, the Community Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP) development and initiated the Adaptation and Resiliency Plan.

It is important to take a moment to recognize my longtime friend, Mount Vernon resident and activist, Mattie Palmore, who was awarded the much-deserved 2020 Gerry Hyland Humanitarian Award for her decades of service to the County, Richmond Highway corridor and Gum Springs residents and community, as well as her activism for domestic violence victims. Read more about Mattie and the award below.

As always, **TEAM MVD and I are committed** to working with you to **address your individual concerns**, deliver a better **quality of life** and ensure every Mount Vernon neighbor, community and business has the opportunity to **reach their full potential**.

Respectfully yours in public service,

Clen Month

Dan StorckSupervisor, Mount Vernon District
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors







First Hike 2021!

Visit our Website

Quick Links

About Supervisor Storck District Staff District Accomplishments District Representatives Boards, Authorities and Commissions Mount Vernon Advisor Archives Emergency Management Preparedness District Videos

Para **subscribirse para nuestro boletín en español** o si conoce a alguien quien quiera subscribirse, o **para hablar con un hispanohablante**, comuníquese con **Diego Rodríguez Cabrera** a su preferencia, por teléfono al (703) 619-4339 o por correo electrónico: diego.rodriguezcabrera@fairfaxcounty.gov.

34th Annual Town Meeting



Are you passionate about your family, home or community? If so, join us for the 34th Mount Vernon Town Meeting to listen to and question your local leaders!

When: Saturday, February 6, 2021

Where: Live Virtually on Channel 16, the County's Livestream and Facebook

Time: 9 a.m. - noon



ar!

Program: Speakers, Audience Q&A's and Virtual Tour

Meet your **Supervisor and County, state and federal leaders**. Have your **questions answered**, learn about **issues important to you** and connect with County agencies and community service providers. The **highlight of the morning** will be taking a "**virtual flying tour**" of all that is happening in the District with your "pilot" Supervisor Storck.

Engage in Our Community in 2021!

Watch live on Facebook and Channel 16. There will also be a live, interactive video link coming soon! You can even ask questions during the Q & A sessions by emailing us at mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov, commenting on Facebook or Tweeting us @DanStorck. Use #MVTM2021! Have plans for Saturday and want to watch it later? The video will remain on Facebook for viewing at your convenience and replay on Channel 16.

***To request reasonable ADA accommodations or language translation services, call the Mount Vernon District Office, 703-780-7518 or TTY 711 on or before 1/28/21.

Upcoming In-Person & Virtual Events

- Jan 7: Dementia Friend Presentation 4 p.m.
- Jan 12: South County Federation Meeting 7 p.m.
- Jan 17: Green Spring Lecture Series 1:30 p.m.
- Jan 27: Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations Meeting 7 p.m.
- Feb 6: 34th Annual Town Meeting 9 a.m.

Community Outreach

Driver Privilege Cards Coming to Virginia

Beginning January 1, the DMV will begin implementing their Driver Privilege Card program. What is a Driver Privilege card? According to the DMV "a driver privilege card is a driving credential for individuals who are non-US citizens and cannot meet Virginia's legal presence requirements, making them ineligible to receive a standard or REAL ID-compliant driver's license in Virginia." It is important to note that a privilege card does not provide legal status and cannot be used as such. This is a great opportunity for residents of the Commonwealth that have been prohibited from driving in the past. For more information visit the DMV Driver Privilege Card webpage or contact our office.

Transportation



How to Report those Pesky Potholes

Potholes. They are a way of life on the roads, **especially as temperatures fluctuate** this time of year. Please **report potholes** you encounter! **Your car will thank you**. While the Virginia Department of Transportation **(VDOT) maintains most primary and secondary roads** in the County, you can look up who maintains every road.

VDOT's online reporting tool makes it easier to **pinpoint exactly where** you see a pothole. You can also report potholes **directly from your mobile device** and include images (**but NOT while driving!).

You can also **call VDOT at 1-800-FOR-ROAD** (1-800-367-7623) to report potholes or to ask who maintains a road.





If **snow flakes are in the forecast**, visit the County's **comprehensive Guide to Snow webpage**. This page also links to **VDOT resources**, including the VDOT Plow Tracker!

Parks & Environment

North Hill Park Public Meeting

The Fairfax County Park Authority will hold a virtual public meeting on January 6 at 7 p.m. to discuss development plans for North Hill Park, located near the intersection of Richmond Highway and Dart Drive.

At the meeting, the agency will **present its development concept** for the park and **seek public feedback** on the plan and **potential park facilities**. The presentation will be **offered**

in English and Spanish and will be followed by a question and comment session. Read more and access the virtual meeting...



Pickleball Fans Input Needed!

The Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) is **seeking input** on how to provide for the **emerging sport of pickleball.** The **public survey** will be open through **January 24**.

The County has received **numerous requests** to provide **additional pickleball facilities** within its parks, RECenters and community centers. In response to these requests and

the **growing interest in this sport**, the FCPA has initiated a pickleball feasibility study. The study will determine **how to equitably address** the desire for pickleball, **identify sites** for potential improvements to existing courts or new facilities, and develop **siting criteria and design guidance** to be considered when **selecting and constructing pickleball amenities**. Learn more, find existing sites and additional ways to provide public comment...

What Holiday Gifts are Welcome in Parks?

If this holiday season brought you a new puppy, an **e-bike for personal transportation** or other new toys, we hope you bring them out and **safely enjoy the amenities** in Fairfax



In the News

Mattie Palmore Wins 2020 Gerry Hyland Humanitarian Award

Join me in congratulating Mattie Palmore for her lifelong service and dedication to the Mount Vernon and Gum Springs communities! An advocate for domestic violence victims and active community member, Mattie was honored by United Community with the 2020 Gerry Hyland Humanitarian Award. The Honorable Gerry Hyland recently presented her with



the award on a Zoom call with remarks from Chairman Jeff McKay and others. Read more in the Patch...



Holiday Diaper Drive- A Cause We Can All Get Behind!

Area families **struggling to afford the basics**, such as food and **keeping kids in diapers**, are making tough choices that are only becoming more difficult with pandemic-related stresses. This year **TEAM MVD** is collecting diapers for those in our community (download the flyer...). **Drop off donations** at our office **through**

January 5! Learn more about the need on WTOP...

Laurel Hill Park Volunteers Honored by Virginia House of Delegates

The Laurel Hill Park Volunteer Team (PVT) has been honored by the Virginia House of Delegates for its **service work** on behalf of parks. **Delegate Kathy Tran** proposed a resolution to **honor the group** for receiving the Park Authority's Elly Doyle Service Award in 2019, and she presented it to the Laurel Hill PVT in a **ceremony at the park on December 12, 2020**. Read more on Newswire...



Community Information

Search Underway for Next Fairfax County Police Chief

The County is conducting a **nationwide search** for the next chief of police. The County has engaged a search firm to assist with the search, including **community outreach efforts** to help identify **key**



characteristics, skills, traits and issues to consider. In addition to the survey, the County will host focus groups with key community organizations as part of the search process.

All residents and business owners are encouraged to take the survey, which will be open through **Friday**, **Jan. 8**. Learn more and take the survey...

Head Start and Early Head Start Openings in Our Area

Head Start is a **national child development program** that serves families with children from **birth to age five**, and expectant parents. The program is designed to **prepare children for success** in school by enhancing their intellectual, social, emotional, and physical development. This service is provided at **no cost to eligible families**. Learn more...







View openings...



Save River Farm

This beloved community gathering space that encompasses 27 acres of open space, gardens and historic home along the Potomac River need our help! The American Horticultural Society has listed it for sale on the open market.

Join us today by **visiting Save River Farm** to learn more, sign the petition, **make a donation** and more!

Get Gardening Tips All Winter with Green Spring Lecture Series

Green Spring Gardens' popular Winter Lecture Series returns in January in a virtual format, so even more people can benefit from this expert advice on everything from Moon Gates to environmentally friendly gardening. Sign up for one or all four of the lectures to be ready when your green thumb starts to twitch in the spring. Historian Debbie Waugh starts things off on Sunday, January 17, with "Moon Gates-The Power of Circles." Learn more...





Residents Encouraged to Access New Suicide Prevention Website

The American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) reports that suicide is the **tenth leading cause of death** in the U.S., with an average of 132 deaths by suicides each day. **During the COVID-19**

pandemic, it is especially important to be aware of ways to safeguard mental health. The Suicide Prevention Alliance of Northern Virginia (SPAN) encourages residents to educate themselves and others on ways to prevent suicide and strengthen mental health. SPAN's newly redesigned, mobile-friendly website has information and resources. Read more...

Looking for a Summer Job?

The Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) will host a **Virtual Summer Job Fair** to start the hiring process for its **Rec-PAC summer camp program** and the **Water Mine Family Swimmin' Hole** at Lake Fairfax Park. This interactive information session for **job seekers** will take place on **Thursday, January 21**, from 2 - 3:30 p.m. Learn what it's like to be a **Rec-PAC leader or supervisor**. Get details on working at the Water Mine as a **lifeguard, cashier, maintenance or leadership team member**. Learn more...



New Facebook Live Series - Community Talks During The Pandemic by Facebook LIVE-En Español

The County has launched a series of Facebook Live sessions on the County Spanish Facebook page. The series will go live every Friday from 12:30 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. Every week, Grelia Steele, Language and Communications Strategy Manager, will feature a new guest to discuss issues affecting the Latinx community.





Become a Dementia Friend

Dementia Friends gives people an understanding of dementia and the small things you can do that make a difference in your community! Please join us for an hour presentation on Zoom to Become a Dementia Friend!

Dementia Friendly Fairfax is inviting <u>all ages of Mount Vernon District</u>

<u>Community to join us free on Zoom, January 7th, 2021, 4-5:15pm EST to Become a Dementia Friend!</u>



Dementia Friendly Fairfax (DFF) is an initiative to bring awareness of and support for those who are living with dementia and their caregivers in Fairfax County. DFF started in July 2019 through a partnership with Goodwin House, Insight Memory Care Center and Fairfax County. Thank you, Fairfax County Area Agency on Aging for Zoom Hosting!

To access the Zoom please click on the link or call in on the telephone! Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:

CLICK ON THE LINK BELOW OR CALL IN

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84988825950

Password: ABC123456!

Telephone: Dial: USA 602 333 0032 USA 8882709936 (US Toll Free) Conference code: 231525



Questions Contact-703-828-4997 E-mail MillennialAmbassadors@gmail.com

COVID-19

Overview

- Our case data remains high. We need everyone to stay vigilant -wear a mask, wash your hands and social distance.
- There are concerns over a new strain of COVID-19 in the United Kingdom and now in Colorado, however, new strains are expected. Public health officials are studying the new variant to learn more about how it spreads.
- There is **no indication** at this moment that this new strain is **less susceptible to** the vaccine.
- A new strain **doesn't change the therapeutics of COVID-19** because treatment of the virus involves **treating the symptoms** and the way it manifests in the human body.
- More information can be found on the CDC website and in this New York Times O+A.
- Latest case data for the Fairfax Health District...

Vaccine





- The **Fairfax County Health Department** has received shipments of the vaccine and has **begun distribution to health care workers** not affiliated with hospitals. Read more here. Above, **Chairman McKay's video** on why he plans to get the vaccine.
- Listen to County Executive Bryan Hill discuss COVID-19 and the vaccine here.
- VDH will continue to follow CDC prioritization guidelines and the County will follow the guidelines of VDH and the CDC.
- The CDC's advisory group recommended the **next phase** of vaccine distribution go to people over **75 and frontline essential workers**.
- These are still quite large groups and VDH will have to **divide these groups into subgroups**. This guidance will come in the next few weeks.
- Currently, we are still in the first phase of distribution for health care workers and long-term care facilities.
- It should take three to four weeks to distribute the first doses.
- For the **latest on the vaccine**, information can be found on the websites of the Center for Disease Control, the Virginia Department of Health, and the Fairfax County Health Department.

What to Expect When You Are Vaccinated

According to the CDC, the vaccine can cause side effects that will last for a few days. After you get the vaccine in your upper arm muscle, you may experience:

- Pain and swelling at the injection site (this is most common).
- Fever or chills.
- Muscle aches.
- Tiredness.
- Headache.

This vaccine **requires two doses**. Even if you have side effects, **you should receive the second dose** unless a vaccination provider or your doctor tells you not to get a second shot. Read more...

How Will You Know When To Get Vaccinated

- VDH will be launching a **massive communications campaign** to make sure residents know **when it is their turn** to get the vaccine.
- After receiving the first dose, you will receive an information card to remind you when you need to take the second dose. You must receive the same vaccine for both doses.

Vaccine Safety

- Information about vaccine reactions and side effects is collected in all the studies and carefully analyzed before a vaccine is approved.
- The COVID-19 vaccines have **some side effects** (see above) that are **normal reactions** that go along with your body responding to the vaccine.
- To identify any rare side effects that may occur, scientists will be collecting and analyzing information from people who are vaccinated, called "safety surveillance", just as they do for any other new vaccine.
- While we are always learning more, based on everything we know now, the benefits of the vaccine in protecting people against COVID-19 are far greater than the risks.
- Read more...

Where to Get Vaccinated

- The general public will be able to get the vaccine wherever you normally receive your flu vaccine. (If you still need a flu shot, be sure to get one).
- Vaccines will be available at hospitals, public health facilities, private practices, pharmacies, urgent care centers and safety net providers.

Cost

• The vaccine will be free to the public.

Latest COVID-19 News Updates

Fairfax County Health Department Receives First Shipment of COVID-19 Vaccine

Cloth Face Mask Donations Exceed 2020 Goal Thanks to the Community

What You Need to Know About the Pfizer and Moderna Vaccines

County Executive Discusses COVID-19 Vaccine During Latest Podcast

How COVID-19 Vaccines are Developed to be Safe and Effective





What to Expect When It's Your Turn to Get Vaccinated

Need Help Paying Your Fairfax Water Bill? Apply for Assistance By Dec. 30

Help FCPS Bring Students Back by Working as a Classroom Monitor

Virginia Department of Health to Host COVID-19 Vaccine Town Hall Dec. 16 - Recorded

\$52.5 Million Awarded in Fairfax RISE Grants to Small Businesses and Nonprofits

Social Isolation, Technology and Wellness Identified as Key Issues Facing Older Adults During COVID-19

Know the Benefits of Getting a COVID-19 Vaccine

VDH to Host COVID-19 Vaccine Community Conversations

6 Ways to Manage Mental Health During COVID-19

Countywide Grocery Shopping and Pharmacy Pick-up Service for Older Adults

A Closer Look at How COVID-19 mRNA Vaccines Work

How to Keep COVID-19 Outside Your Home

Important Safety Information

Hands free, Virginia!

Beginning January 1, 2021, it is against the law to hold a phone or mobile device while driving. Here are some alternative options should you need to make a call:

- Use a **Bluetooth ear piece** for hands free talking
- If you choose to use headphones, please keep in mind Virginia law states you may only have one ear bud in while driving
- If equipped, connect your phone to your vehicle through Bluetooth
- Consider having a passenger answer your calls via speakerphone so you can talk hands free
- Use a **cell phone mount** in your car to hold your phone

The law provides **some exemptions**, which include:

- · Reporting an emergency
- If you are legally parked or stopped
- Anyone operating an emergency vehicle while in the performance of their official duties
- The use of an amateur or citizens band radio
- The operator of any Department of Transportation vehicle during the performance of **traffic incident management services**

As a reminder, if convicted, you will be **fined \$125** for the first offense. If you are caught again or seen on the phone in a construction zone, the fine is \$250.

Help keep our roads safe and put your phone down!





Phones down, Virginia!

January 1, 2021



Get rid of your Christmas tree after Christmas or when it is dry.

A dry tree is dangerous. It can catch on fire easily.



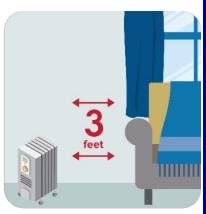




Electric Heater Safety







January OEM Newsletter

Team MVD







Mount Vernon District Staff (clockwise): Donna Slaymaker, Nick Rinehart, Christine Morin, Sally Kidalov, Supervisor Dan Storck, Camela Speer, Volunteer Shirley Short, Abdul Shaban, Diego Rodriguez Cabrera.

December 2020 Activities:

Phone calls: 721Meetings: 222

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

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)

MV District Office: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Walk-ins and by appointment

Boards, Authorities and Commissions

Help **serve your community** by serving on a Fairfax County Board, Authority or Commission (BAC). Please ask your friends, neighbors and community members if they are willing to help serve Fairfax County.

A. Heath Onthank Award Selection Committee

The Committee serves to grant recognition for accomplishment of outstanding worth in advancing and improving public service in County by merit system employees. One year term with generally one meeting each spring.

There are **several At-Large positions** available as of December 2020 on County BACs.

- Affordable Dwelling Unit Advisory Board (Engineer/Architect Rep)
- Affordable Dwelling Unit Advisory Board (Lending Institution Rep)
- Alcohol Safety Action Program Local Policy Board (ASAP)
- Athletic Council (Women's Sports Alternate Rep)
- Board of Building and Fire Prevention Code Appeals (Design Professional)
- Civil Service Commission
- Engineering Standard Review Committee
- History Commission (Historian)
- Human Rights Commission
- Road Viewer Board
- Tenant Landlord Commission (3 openings Citizen Member, Condo Owner, Landlord Member & Tenant Member)

Learn more about these BACs...

Volunteering on these committees **increases citizen participation in our District**. If you are interested in serving on a county board, authority, commission, or committee (BAC),



please provide a current résumé to Donna. Slaymaker@fairfaxcounty.gov. For more information, please download the brochure for a brief guide to BACs, or learn more on the County website. You can also check out the County's Volunteer Management System for information on these and other volunteer opportunities near you.

Visit our website

Mount Vernon District Office | 703-780-7518 MTVernon@fairfaxcounty.gov | FairfaxCounty.gov/MountVernon

STAY CONNECTED







