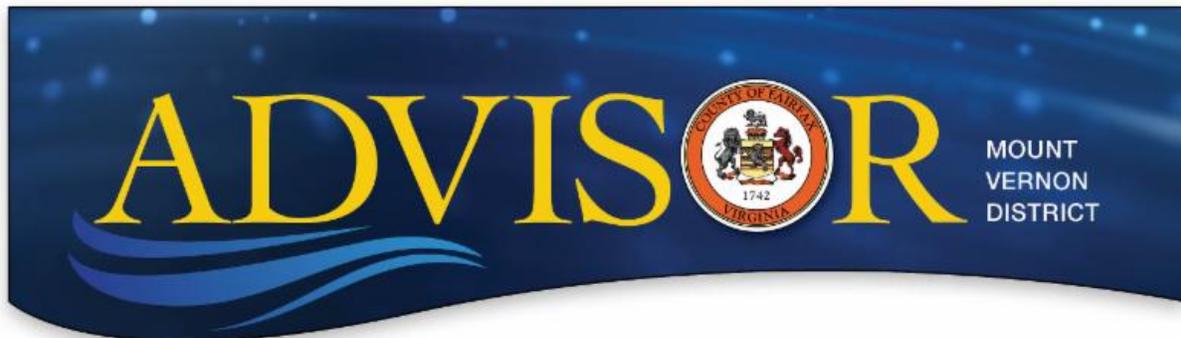


July 2020



Neighbors,

It's finally starting to feel like **summer IS here!** And, seniors have **finally graduated virtually** from their respective schools. **A big shout out to all the 2020 grads!** You made it, even with **all the challenges** thrown at you this year! You not only missed out on your spring semester, senior skip day, the **comradery that goes along with graduating**, commencement activities, graduation parties and beach week, but now you're **looking for employment** at the most unstable time in your lives. **YIKES!!** You are **clearly strong, resilient** and have learned to persevere. The strength that you have shown will **help us all successfully pivot** to the future!



While it is a relief to see **COVID-19 cases decreasing** in Northern Virginia, even as we **increase testing**, we must all still **remain vigilant**. It is due to our individual attention to precautions - **face masks and social distancing** - that we are **flattening the curve** and we must keep it that way to **prevent a second wave**. Our move into **Phase 3** will provide **economic relief to many**, as non-essential businesses open and **permitted capacity increases at restaurants and fitness centers**, to name a few. I know I will enjoy the **opportunity to get out** more, but please remember **our fate is in our own hands!**

We have all been **rising to new challenges** during the COVID-19 pandemic. And, Look Out! We have **another crisis gaining on us – climate change!** – requiring even greater urgency! While the pandemic has had **many terrible effects** on our communities world-wide, the **climate change crisis** we are facing **will be far worse**. Catastrophic, some would say. Existential, others would say. Many of us stood at this same **environmental change juncture** ten years ago, recognizing that urgent action was needed and **prepared to make real change**. Then, the **great recession hit**, and these **efforts widely slowed**, even in Fairfax. **Enter COVID-19**, bringing pain, loss and **great financial uncertainty**, impacting our efforts again. However, COVID-19 has also shown us that our governments can **pivot quickly when necessary** and it is **critical we do so now**.

COVID-19 has also taught us to **listen to the scientists**. While it is likely to take a **year or more to mitigate** the COVID-19 dangers, **climate change will take decades ... and we are already behind the curve**. The projections for illness and death are **far greater for climate related events** than COVID-19. We know that **acting sooner** would have **significantly reduced** the COVID-19 death toll. A **May 2020 study** by Columbia University epidemiologists estimated that **if extreme social distancing measures** had been implemented **just seven days earlier**, the United States could have **prevented 36,000 deaths** through early May, or about **40% of the death toll** at that time. If we had **listened to the scientists 10 years ago**, the climate changes we are experiencing would be **less and mitigation easier**.

Here in Fairfax, we are **accelerating our initiatives**, including: Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Planning (CECAP), an updated Sustainability Development Policy with a **NET Zero carbon emissions building energy target** by 2031, a Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Plan, purchasing more **electric and hybrid vehicles**, conducting energy efficiency upgrades in lower-income homes, **Solarize Fairfax** and County-wide solar installations. Approach **reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions with the same**

urgency we now do COVID-19 can **truly flatten this curve**, too!

We also know that, just like COVID-19, **environmental stressors disproportionately impact** our most vulnerable populations. **Environmental justice** is critical to the health of our residents and communities. **Now is not the time to retreat** from the great strides we have begun making. We **cannot afford to lose another year** in our fight against climate change, **let alone another ten**.

Respectfully yours in public service,



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



You never know who will stop by to visit the MVD Government Center. Today's visit by this healthy female turkey was a fun surprise!

[Visit our Website](#)

March for Justice



Thank you to everyone who joined us for the **Beyond the Walls March for Justice** on June 9, organized by **Pastor Brian Brown** and his youth church. It was a powerful demonstration of **strength and solidarity** that our community came together with one voice to **embrace justice and equality** for all! I am heartened by so many coming together **peacefully to promote change** and understanding. We are standing on the **edge of history** and with a multitude of peaceful demonstrations here and around the world. I am particularly **inspired by the many high school students** organizing rallies in their neighborhoods. It is often our young people who **spark the most change** and these young leaders are embracing it and charging forward. **They will lead us on!**

A **special thank you to Pastor Brown** and his **Beyond the Walls Youth Church**, and to **Neal Kramer** for allowing marchers to congregate on his property on Richmond Highway!
[Read my full message to the community...](#)

South County Site Specific Plan Amendment Process Restarts Virtually

Screening Phase Begins for 8 Land Use Proposals in Mount Vernon District

As part of the South County Site-Specific Plan Amendment (SSPA) process, **eight land use proposals (nominations)** to amend the Comprehensive Plan for sites in the Mount Vernon District will be screened by the **Mount Vernon SSPA Task Force**. SSPA is the **process that allows anyone to propose changes** to the Comprehensive Plan, which guides **land use and development decisions** in the County. **The public is invited to attend all Task Force Meetings**, where nominations will be discussed individually. The first virtual Task Force Meeting is **Tuesday, July 28 at 6:00 p.m.** Additional meeting information, including **virtual meeting details** will be posted to the [SSPA webpage](#).

To submit a public comment, please email MtVernon@FairfaxCounty.gov by **Monday, September 14**, so it can be included for distribution at the **final Task Force meeting on Tuesday, September 15**.

District Groundbreakings



I am thrilled to announce that we have **two very exciting groundbreakings** this month! Both represent **significant County investments in affordable housing** on the Richmond Highway Corridor. Later this month, we will break ground on **The Arden by Wesley Housing**. This new multifamily property will feature **126 units of affordable housing** one block from the Huntington Metro. Visit the [project webpage](#) for **more information on the project**.

Then on **July 31 at 11 a.m.**, I invite you to join me for the **North Hill Groundbreaking**. Thirty years in the making, the North Hill development will convert **33 unimproved acres to 216 affordable multifamily apartments, 63 affordable senior independent living apartments, 175 market rate townhomes and a 12-acre public park**. To read more about this exciting project, get **updates on the groundbreaking plans** and watch the post-event video, visit the [project's webpage](#).



Summer Opportunities for Kids

Camp Fairfax

Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS) will be providing an **abbreviated summer program** for **rising first- through sixth-grade** children of working families from **Monday, July 13 through Friday, August 7**. The program, Camp Fairfax, will be at **18 locations** across the county, including 7 NCS Community Centers and 11 Fairfax County Public Schools. This **full-day program** will run from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. each day, featuring **exciting opportunities** in outdoor adventures, performing arts, sports & recreation, visual arts, science exploration and creative writing. **Current CDC health and safety guidelines will be implemented**. Registration begins **Monday, July 6**; space is limited. Learn more...



NCS Connects Summer: A Virtual Journey!

NCS is offering its first virtual summer program for youth and teens: **NCS Connects Summer: A Virtual Journey!** This new



four-week Virtual Summer Camp will be offered via [our website](#), each weekday from **July 6 to July 31**. For **grades 1 to 6**, camp will run from **9 a.m. to noon**; for **grades 7 to 12**, it will run from **1 to 4 p.m.** During camp, participants will develop **valuable life skills** and make **positive social connections** through a combination of live, pre-recorded, and self-guided activities across five categories, including arts and crafts, STEAM and more. **Register today** by contacting your **local Teen or Community Center**. Alternatively, you may [download the registration packet](#) and drop off at your local center or email to Maria.Franco-Nativi@fairfaxcounty.gov. For more information, [read the parent welcome letter](#).

NOTE: **Community Centers** will **only be open** for the modified youth program, **Camp Fairfax**. There will be **no weekend hours** during this four-week program. **Huntington and Pinn**, as well **all community sites**, will remain **closed due to limited ability** to provide appropriate social distancing.

Upcoming In-Person & Virtual Events

- [Farmers Markets Open](#)
- July 14: [South County Federation](#) - 7 p.m.
- July 21: [What To Do If Stopped By Police: What Should Be the Attitude of the Police](#) police-citizen interactive event - 5 p.m.
- July 22: [Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations](#) - 7 p.m.
- July 28: [SSPA Meeting #1](#) - 6 p.m.
- July 31: [North Hill Groundbreaking](#) - 11 a.m.

In the News



Plans for Original Mount Vernon High School

Renovating and reusing the existing structure that once was the **Mount Vernon High School** moved closer to Phase I recently when Supervisor Dan Storck organized a **virtual meeting with the community** and designers to discuss the plan and **listen to ideas**.

"This is a **historically iconic building** that we have on the *Richmond Highway corridor*," Storck said. "It is an exciting **part of the redevelopment of the highway**." [Read more in the Mount Vernon Gazette...](#) Visit the [project webpage](#) for the **meeting presentation** and a **recording of the meeting**.

Local Parks Lure Vacation Campers

Saturday, June 20, marked the **official start of summer** and traditionally, with the end school, the **start of vacation season** for many area residents. Though making **safe vacation choices** during the Covid-19 pandemic is challenging, **area parks are ready** to welcome vacationers with **fresh air and de-stressing camping** opportunities.

Three parks in the regional park authority system, Algonkian in Sterling/Potomac Falls, Bull Run in western Fairfax County, and **Pohick Bay on the Mason Neck peninsula**, have **multiple levels** of camping experiences available. [Read more in the Connection...](#)



'This is What America is All About': Church Food Truck & Veterans Feed Thousands in Need

For the past month, I've done a **series of stories along Richmond Highway** in Alexandria. This corridor has been among the **hardest hit by the pandemic**. While driving along Route 1, a **long line of customers** waiting at a **small food truck** in an otherwise empty church parking lot caught my eye. The **folks waiting for their meals** told me the cook's specialty, catfish, is the **best they've**

ever tasted. So, I chatted with the cook: Deacon James Myers. What he told me inspired this story. [Read more on WJLA...](#)

Huntley Meadows Visitors Urged To Be Respectful Of Wildlife

Visitors are reminded to **follow rules** about the **boardwalk, bicycles and more** at the wildlife-rich park. The Fairfax County Park Authority is asking visitors to be **mindful of wildlife and other people** at Huntley Meadows Park. The **park is open**, but the visitor center and restrooms are closed. [Read more on the Patch...](#)



Transportation Updates



VRE Takes Additional Steps to Protect Passenger Health and Safety

The Virginia Railway Express' (VRE) implements a **new overnight cleaning regimen** and [webpage detailing train utilization rates](#) will better **protect the health and safety** of passengers. These steps complement other measures – such as decals on railcar seats and **platforms that indicate proper social distancing** – undertaken by VRE in recent weeks.

VDOT and DRPT Seek Commuter Input through Statewide Survey



The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), in partnership with the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT), has launched the **Virginia Commuter Survey**, a statewide effort to **gauge COVID-19 impacts** to commuting around the Commonwealth. Anyone that **works or lives in Virginia** is invited to participate.

This is the first in a **series of surveys** planned over the next several months. The data will be collected and analyzed by state agencies to **assess and determine modifications to transit needs and infrastructure**.

The survey will be available for **at least two weeks**. [Take the survey...](#)

Survey results will help the state better understand **how commuting practices have changed** and support ways to **identify short- and long-term opportunities** and improvements during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.



FCDOT Requests Feedback on Proposed Update to Title VI Policies

Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) invites you to **provide feedback** on the [proposed update of its Title VI program](#). Title VI policies **ensure equitable distribution of transit service** changes and as part of the update process the **public is encouraged to give input** on:

- **Proposed Major Service Changes** – Service changes that are significant enough to require special analysis that ensure the proposed changes will not have discriminatory effects on minority or low-income areas
- **Disparate Impacts** – Service changes that have discriminatory effects on minority areas
- **Disproportionate Burdens** – Service changes that have discriminatory effects on low income areas.

Disparate Impacts and Disproportionate Burdens are determined by **comparing minority and low-income percentages** of the population with non-minority and non-low-income percentages of the **population affected by the proposed changes** in the County.

[View the video presentation](#) of the proposed changes...

Community Information



Apply for the Cooling Assistance Program

Are you in need of a **little help to keep cool this summer**? Apply for the Cooling Assistance Program for **low income households**. To be eligible, **at least one household member must be**: 60 or older, 5 or younger, or disabled according to Social Security, Medicaid or 100% Veteran's Administration

Cooling assistance can help with:

- Payment of **electric bills** to operate cooling equipment
- Payment of **security deposits** for electricity to operate cooling equipment, only for accounts in danger of being disconnected
- **Repair of a central air conditioning** system, heat pump, ceiling fan, attic fan or whole house fan
- **Purchase of a whole-house fan**, including ceiling or attic fans when there is no other working cooling equipment in the home
- Purchase and installation of **one window unit air conditioner** for households when there is no other working cooling equipment in the home.

[Learn more...](#)

TEAM MVD is in the House!

While our offices **remain open to assist you**, during COVID-19 we suggest that you **call our office in advance** of coming to visit. This way we can **ensure we have** what you are looking for, are able to **provide the service you need** or **schedule an appointment** with the Supervisor or a staff member. Often, **we can save you a trip!** You can contact us at mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-780-7518.

Free Digital Resources for Understanding and Dismantling Racial Injustice Now

Demand — and therefore wait time — for **materials on race and racism** have increased significantly in recent weeks as **readers seek out books** to help them **understand racial injustice** and learn what they can do to **dismantle it**. This article **highlights resources you can access right now** and share with others. [Read more...](#)



Información sobre cambios en las políticas policiales con comunidades inmigrantes
Fuente de información: El Departamento de Policía de Condado de Fairfax, Virginia

ANÁLISIS DE RIESGO
Algunos individuos no pueden participar en el proceso de identificación de la ciudadanía de los Estados Unidos. El personal de la policía de Condado de Fairfax puede determinar si un individuo es elegible para la ciudadanía de los Estados Unidos. Si no es elegible, se le puede solicitar que presente un documento de identificación aceptable.

CAMBIO DE DOCUMENTACIÓN ACEPTABLE
El personal de la policía de Condado de Fairfax puede aceptar ciertos documentos de identificación de otros países que se aceptaban anteriormente. El personal de la policía de Condado de Fairfax puede aceptar ciertos documentos de identificación de otros países que se aceptaban anteriormente.

NO PRESENTE NO CLIENTE NO ACTIVO
El personal de la policía de Condado de Fairfax puede determinar si un individuo es elegible para la ciudadanía de los Estados Unidos. Si no es elegible, se le puede solicitar que presente un documento de identificación aceptable.

ESTATUS MIGRATORIO NO ES CONSIDERADO
El personal de la policía de Condado de Fairfax puede aceptar ciertos documentos de identificación de otros países que se aceptaban anteriormente. El personal de la policía de Condado de Fairfax puede aceptar ciertos documentos de identificación de otros países que se aceptaban anteriormente.

Para más información, por favor contacte al personal de la policía de Condado de Fairfax al número (703) 780-7518.

Publicado: 23 de junio del 2020 por la Oficina de Asesoría de Prensa del Supervisor del Condado.

General Order 602: Police & Immigration Status Policy Changes

The **Fairfax County Police Department** recently codified their **practices regarding detention of immigrants** based on citizenship status. The new General Order also provides for **acceptance of additional forms of identification**. For anyone questioned by a Fairfax County Police officer, if you have an **questions or lack of understanding** regarding the encounter, you can **immediately ask the officer to summon the Supervisor on Duty** and that officer will come to assist. To learn more and **share this information**, click on the flyer to the left (in **English and Español**).

The Virginia Ready Initiative (VA Ready)

VA Ready launched a program to **provide stipends** for **unemployed Virginians to attend community college** programs in an effort to **find new jobs** and overcome **coronavirus-related economic hardships**. VA Ready and its 20 Virginia business partners will **provide \$1,000 incentives** for motivated, out-of-work Virginians to **re-skill for high-demand jobs** by attending short-term community college programs. Participants would also be **offered the opportunity to interview** with participating Virginia companies. [Learn more...](#)

At-Home Version of Popular Stream Critter Cube Lab Now Available



Want to **explore a local stream** from the **comfort of your own home**? Well, now you can! With school-aged children out of the classroom, **County ecologists** within the **Watershed Education and Outreach (WEO)** section of the Stormwater Planning Division have **had to get creative**. In an effort to continue to **inspire students to become environmental stewards** and connect them to their local watershed, ecologists have converted their **award-winning Stream Critter Cub Lab** into a free program that can be done anywhere—**no classroom or stream required!** [Learn more...](#)

Public Libraries to Begin Phased Reopening

The **Fairfax County Public Library** is gearing up for a **limited service reopening** of library branches. Beginning **Monday, July 13**, all library branches will be available for **"express" services**. Library patrons will be able to once again **use their local branches**, but with some modifications in place, including:

- Express services are focused on **grab-and-go style activities**, so daily visits are **limited to 30 minutes**.
- Each branch will have a **capacity limit** to support social distancing.
- Library users may **browse the shelves, use a computer, and pick up holds**.
- The library will continue to offer **virtual programs**, with only **limited in-person programs** provided.
- Social distancing features will include **plexiglas shields at customer service desks**, social distancing **floor stickers**, every other public PC disabled, and **some furniture removed** from the public floor or moved to support six feet of distance between users.
- **Returned library materials** will continue to be **quarantined for 72 hours**.
- **Meeting rooms will continue to be unavailable** as the spaces are housing furniture removed from the public floor as well as quarantined library materials.



RECenters Begin Phased Reopening

The **Fairfax County Park Authority's (FCPA)** **nine RECenters will reopen** to the public over the next several weeks, with the first three opening Monday, July 13. In our District, the **George Washington and Mount Vernon RECenters will open on Monday, July 27**. Please keep in mind that membership gives you **access to the entire RECenter system**; if your RECenter isn't one of the first opened, you can **visit one that has opened**. [Read about new safety precautions](#) and [what will be open and not open...](#)

Important Safety Information

Destructive Tree Pest Kills Trees

The **Asian longhorned beetle (ALB)** is an **invasive, exotic insect** that most likely arrived in the United States on packing material from Asia. It is one of the **most destructive insects** known to exist in several areas of the country but **not in Fairfax County yet**. [Learn more...](#)



[Fairfax Water's 2020 Annual Water Quality Report is Available...](#)

[Office of Emergency Management's July Newsletter...](#)

Saving Our Environment

2020 Solarize Fairfax is Back!

It's **Solarize season** in Fairfax County! Get a **free assessment** to



see if solar is right for your **home or business** and then take advantage of **discounts on your solar purchase**. You can also receive a **full home energy assessment**, completely FREE. Interested in **electric vehicle charging**? You can bundle some chargers with your solar purchase for **additional savings**. Let this be your summer of solar! [Join a virtual information session](#) and [visit the website](#) (includes an informative video)!

Nominations Open for Friends of Trees Awards

Individuals or organizations may be nominated for various **tree related projects or programs**. The individuals or organizations must have **demonstrated outstanding conservation-based actions** in preserving, protecting or planting trees. The following types of projects or programs **may be nominated**:

- Preservation
- Education
- Planting
- Maintenance



Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Latest COVID-19 News Links

- [Staying Connected to Your Kids Throughout the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- [Fairfax County Entered Phase Three on July 1](#)

NOTE: Only those topics that are **new since my last newsletter** are updated below. For **information sent in previous emails** [visit our website](#). If you know someone who would like to **sign up for my newsletter**, they can do so [here](#).

Phase 3

The County has entered Phase 3 - guidelines in [English](#), in [Spanish](#) and the [County's overview](#).

Key changes:

- **Non-essential businesses**, restaurants, and beverage services **may fully reopen**. **Congregating in bars is now prohibited**.
- **Entertainment venues** may open at 50% capacity.
- Gatherings of **up to 250 people** will be allowed.
- **Childcare facilities** may open.
- All open facilities must continue to maintain **physical distancing practices** and **enhanced cleaning** and disinfection practices.
- Teleworking is still **strongly encouraged**.
- **Face masks are still required**.

Park Authority

The Park Authority has launched a **series of group outdoor fitness classes** seven days a week.

- **Choose from workouts** such as Boot Camp, Aerobics, Cycle Spin, Zumba, Tai Chi, PiYo, Yoga, Pilates, H.I.I.T., BODYCOMBAT and Fitness for Seniors.
- These are not free drop in classes. You **must register in advance**.
- [Learn more...](#)

The Park Authority is offering **virtual summer camps**. Registration is now open. **To register**, search for category of activity: "camps" in [Parktakes online](#).

RECenters will begin a **phased reopening in July**. I will share more details when they become available. Check the operating status of all [Park Authority facilities...](#)

Inova Update

As the number of **COVID-19 positive hospital inpatients continues to decline** and Northern Virginia begins "Phase Three" this week, Inova will enter our **first phase of less restrictive visitation** guidance. This **visitor guidance is available** on our [visitation webpage](#). More information regarding our efforts to **keep patients safe** during this period can be found at our [Safe@Inova page](#). All [Inova COVID-19 related resources...](#)

Inova continues to **screen all visitors** for symptoms of COVID-19 and **requires universal masking** while inside an Inova facility.

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.

June 2020 Activities:

- Phone calls: 723
- Meetings: 232

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.

Young Adults Council

The Young Adults Council serves advise the County Government by **contributing young adults' experiences**, knowledge and solutions to **County issues**. I will consider issues

including but not limited to **affordable housing, cost of living**, young adult talent retention and attraction, **civic engagement**, County reputation and brand, and other matters as they pertain to young adults living and working in the County. Two (2) year term.

Citizen Corps Council

The Citizen Corps Council meets the fourth Thursday of every odd month. The council serves to **coordinate preparedness initiatives** across the county through internal and external volunteer programs such as, **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)**, Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS), **Neighborhood Watch**, and Fire Corps. Two (2) year term.

There are **several At-Large positions** available as of February 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 - Landlord Member & 2 Tenant Members)

[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

