### June 2020



#### Neighbors,

The pain the past week of seeing individuals (police officers) whose hearts were so vacant of care for another and/or their racism, anger or hatred so large, that they missed the humanness of George Floyd, will remain with me forever. To know that the Minneapolis Police Department trains its officers to utilize risky, even dangerous practices that contributed to Mr. Floyd's murder should remind us further of the importance of quality leadership. We are



fortunate **our police have that leadership** and our officers understand fundamental tenets of our community; **the sanctity of human life**, fairness and opportunity. As our **Police Chief Ed Roessler** wrote last week, "We continue to pray for Mr. Floyd's family as individuals, a Police Department, and as a community who all **collectively value the sanctity of all human life**." Read Chief Roessler's **message about community trust** here.

Of course our **community has problems** with bigotry, racism, xenophobia and equity, ones that **our leadership and I continue to work hard to address**; from implementing **changes in our employment, education, housing and police practices** to our broad County-wide commitment to "**One Fairfax**". We always can and always must do more to **support individuals and communities** to realize their full potential. That starts with a **caring heart and concern for one another**. Each of us can **make that difference every day**.

This summer will be unlike any other we have experienced. Among the many changes, we will not be able to celebrate the opening of the National Museum of the United States Army on June 4 or enjoy the annual presentation by the US Army Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps at the Board of Supervisors meeting in observation of the US Army's birthday on June 14. However, it is important to take a moment to recognize all who serve in our military and their families. It is through their sacrifice that we remain the land of the free, because of the brave. Thank you for your service!

Are your plans being scuttled by COVID-19? This is a great time to **consider local attractions**, whether in-person (with safety precautions) or virtually. As our **many historic**, **cultural and arts sites** in the MVD begin to reopen, you will find they are **taking precautions** to protect both visitors and staff. Visit their websites to learn more. But, the exciting news is that **you don't have to "go" to "visit"**! Our favorite sites have created **virtual experiences to engage their visitors** in new ways. TEAM MVD and Visit Fairfax have put together a **sampling of the various South County Virtual Experiences**, as well as those throughout Fairfax in **Fairfax at Home**. I encourage you to **"visit"**, **enjoy**, **learn** and provide support if you are able! Read the full article...

In closing, I would like to **introduce you** to our newest MVD Team member, **Diego Rodriguez Cabrera our new Latinx Outreach Coordinator**. I have long wanted a team member to do more **outreach to the minority populations** in our District and I am pleased Diego is joining us. He was **raised in Mount Vernon** having gone to Mount Vernon Woods, Walt Whitman Middle School and Mount Vernon High School. He recently returned from the College of William and Mary where he earned his **Bachelors of Sociology with a** 

**concentration in Social Problems, Policy and Justice**. In his spare time, he loves soccer, reading and ultimate frisbee! He is **excited to meet you**, learn more about the your community and **how our office can better serve you**.

I wish you all a safe and happy summer, even if it is different than you ever expected!

Respectfully yours in public service,

Dan Storck

Supervisor, Mount Vernon District Fairfax County Board of Supervisors



Meet Diego Rodriguez Cabrera, TEAM MVD's Latinx Outreach Coordinator!

Visit our Website

### **Community Heroes**

#### **Litter Warriors Clean Up Hunting Creek**

Ben Swanson and Caleb Merendino have been doing clean-ups in Old Town Alexandria and around the GW Parkway for years. Recently they launched Associates for Clean & Clean Waterways with an initial mission to clean up Hunting Creek. Phase I of the clean-up process is complete and resulted in over 110 trash bags, with an anticipation of another 100 in Phase II. The organization's mission is to facilitate a healthy environment and prevent pollution by organizing, inspiring and leading pollution clean-up efforts in local communities, waterways and along our shorelines through direct response and collaboration with local partners. Learn more...



#### The Garage Saves the Day

Some people are using the **garages as headquarters** for community outreach. **Lorton resident, Rebecca Geller**, has transformed hers into a satellite food pantry. Ms. Geller, a lawyer, is a longtime regular volunteer at the **Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC)**, a local food bank in Fairfax County. Her husband, Brad Cheney, and their three children, Sam, Noah and Emily, often join her. Read the full story...



# **Local Students Raise Funds to Feed Those in Need**

When **school abruptly ended in March** due to the Coronavirus pandemic, we didn't know what it would mean for completing the rest of the school year or socializing with our friends. As **seventh-graders at South County Middle School**, we were still just trying to adjust to middle school. When the **Foundation for** 

**Fairfax County Public Schools** (FCPS) requested **donations to assist with providing meals to families**, we knew that this was the cause for us to support.Read Akul Dixit and Riley Williams' full article...

#### **Feeding Those on the Front Lines**

Chef Gail saw an **opportunity to help** in her local community and stepped up. For the last two months, she has been **preparing meals and delivering** them to **feed employees** at the Lorton Inova Healthplex. To date, she has delivered **over 150 meals**! Learn more on Chef Gail's Facebook page...





#### **Neighborhood Health Provide Critical Medical Care**

**Dr. Basim Khan**, MD, MPA, and his **team at Neighborhood Health** provide services to **low-to-moderate income families** in the Richmond Highway Corridor. They recognize that the COVID-19 pandemic **continues to disproportionately affect their patient population**. Testing results are still showing **high rates of infection** with approximately 50% coming back positive. The team's hope is that by **continuing to ramp up testing**, providing support to affected families, and assisting with contact tracing and isolation efforts, they can help **turn the corner for their** 

patients, families and communities. Read more about their efforts...

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

#### **Latest COVID-19 News Links**

More COVID-19 Testing Options Now Available in the Fairfax Health District

Board of Supervisors Committee Meetings Today Address COVID-19

You Can Now Drop Off Donated Face Coverings at County Police Stations

Who to Contact About COVID-19 Issues

COVID-19 Update for Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Personnel

Inside Health Department Contact Investigations (And What You Should Know If You're Contacted)

Audio: County Executive Bryan Hill on Moving into Phase One on "Connect with County Leaders" Podcast

6 Things to Know About Phase One

Board of Supervisors Approves Use of Outdoor Space for Restaurants and Exercise Facilities During Phase One

Health Department Partners with IPHI to Expand Contact Tracing Efforts

Summer Concerts and Independence Day Celebrations Canceled in July

Fairfax County to Enter First Phase of Easing Public Health Restrictions on May 29

Fairfax County Athletic Fields Reopening for Unpermitted Use on Friday, May 29

Face Coverings Now Required Inside Public Places in Virginia

**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.

#### REPORT CONCERNS/VIOLATIONS:

Public Safety Non-emergency Number 703-691-2131, TTY 711



duestions about business guidelines, email <u>incovid@iamaxcounty.gov</u>

#### Phase I: What does it mean?

**Phase I restrictions** can be found above, on the County's reopening webpage, and the Governor's webpage.

 The County's webpage lays out guidelines for businesses, houses of worship and more.

Also, if you are an employee and feel that your working conditions are unsafe:

- Employees or their representatives have the **right to file a complaint** with the Virginia Occupational Safety and Health office requesting an inspection.
- VOSH will withhold, on request, names of employees filing complaints.
- A list of VOSH offices is here or you may file a complaint online with the US Department of Labor.

#### **Masks**

Law enforcement is **not to be involved** for calls related only to someone **not wearing a mask**. Persons are to **report those concerns to the appropriate business or property manager or owner**. For questions and concerns call 1-877-ASK-VDH3.

#### **Outdoor Space for Restaurants and Exercise Facilities**

- Last week, the Board approved an emergency ordinance allowing **restaurants**, **breweries**, **wineries** and **exercise facilities** to **operate outdoors** at 50% of their indoor capacity.
- Phase 1 of the Governor's Plan allows for outside dining, but only for those restaurants with a patio. Today's action will allow these businesses (even those without outside seating) to operate outside in places like parking lots and other spaces.
- The ordinance **took effect immediately** and is valid for no more than 60 days.
- This action was necessary because the County does not typically permit
  restaurants and exercise facilities to operate outside in parking lots without
  express approval. As a result of the Board's action, these businesses will be able to
  do so without the need for any additional County approvals provided that they
  meet the requirements here.
- This action also included a **blanket approval** for individual Virginia ABC license applications.
- Learn more...

#### **Contact Tracing**

Last week, the Heath Department **finalized its contract** with the Institute for Public Health Innovation to **hire and train 400 contact tracers**. While not directly hired by the County, they are **supported by the County**. Contract tracing is **vital to our efforts** to reduce and ultimately eliminate COVID-19. Learn more about available opportunities and how to apply...

Resources for Undocumented Immigrants/Recursos para Inmigrantes

#### **Indocumentados**

- **Start by calling 703-222-0880, TTY 711**, our Coordinated Services Planning (CSP) social work call center. CSP will make all the arrangements to **get you the help you need** through our network of community and County service providers.
- County staff does not ask questions around a person's immigration status, unless you are seeking a type of assistance, such as Medicaid, where there is a legal or regulatory requirement for us to ask about this.
- We keep your information confidential, including any documents you submit to
  us. We do not share this information outside of CSP, unless you have given CSP
  authorization with other Fairfax agencies and not with the state or federal
  government.
- Immigration status excludes some from certain types of federal government assistance designed to address the impacts of COVID-19, such as expanded unemployment benefits and tax benefits. Acknowledging this, Fairfax County and our nonprofit partners are committed to providing basic needs assistance regardless of immigration status.
- Read more...
- Lee mas...

# Happening in the District

# **Construction Contract Awarded for Lorton Community Center and Library**

This contract award will provide for the **full renovation of the library**, with additions, and the **construction of a one-story community center**. The new work will include a **shared lobby entrance** between the library and community center. The project will also **upgrade the existing park**, **walking trails** and other site improvements. The project has a goal of **silver level certification** under the LEEDS v4 Green Building program. This contract has been awarded to **R.J. Crowley**, **Inc. in the amount of \$19,555,000**. Visit the project website...

# **Groundbreaking for Hunting Creek at Fairchild Stream Restoration**

Recently, the County broke ground on this **new stream restoration project**. The plan was developed with **Natural Channel Design (NCD) techniques** to create a stable channel cross section, longitudinal profile and planform geometry for the **severely degraded stream channels**. NCD restores a degraded stream by **mimicking the characteristics of a stable, 'natural' stream**. Through



the use of geomorphic principles, NCD achieves long term stability given current and future flow rates. The Notice To Proceed was issued on **March 2, 2020**. Construction completion is scheduled for **April 13, 2021**. Learn more...

#### **Lower Potomac Ballpark Facility & Outfall Restoration**

Located at the entrance of Lower Potomac ball fields, this project retrofitted the existing stormwater management basin to provide improved water quality benefits. Two forebays were installed to create an extended detention wetland to provide maximum enhanced water quality, and a new concrete riser was added to increase the quality of water discharged from the basin. Approximately 200 linear feet of eroded channel was rehabilitated using natural stream design techniques to improve water quality, provide channel stability and enhance ecological function. Native trees, shrubs, and plants were installed to enhance function of the site and provide habitat for local wildlife. This project will remove approximately 17 lbs. phosphorus, 86 lbs. nitrogen, and 10,546 lbs. of suspended solids annually and helps the County meet regulatory requirements to improve the Chesapeake Bay. Before and after photos below.





# A Message from the West Springfield Police Station

Hello Mount Vernon District. It is amazing the **changes a few months** can have on a country, and Fairfax County. At the West Springfield Station, there have been many changes from **more officers on the street to officers wearing masks** on most of our calls for service. We are adapting to the changing times as best we can, and we are **grateful for the continued support of the community**. Without your support, we would not be as effective as we are. If you have any further questions about our **COVID-19 business practices**, please visit our blog. I would also like to take this time to **introduce myself** as a **new Crime Prevention Officer** at the West Springfield Station. I am also the **Homeless Liaison** for the station. If you have any questions, please **feel free to contact me** at anthony.capizzi@fairfaxcounty.gov, or call the station at 703-644-7377. And always remember, 911 for an emergency or 703-691-2131 for a non-emergency call. **Take care and be safe** during these times. PFC Tony Capizzi

#### **Upcoming In-Person & Virtual Events**

- Farmers Markets Open
- June 3: United Community Food Drive 1 p.m.
- June 3: Fairfax NAACP Justice for Black Lives Car Rally 6:30 p.m.
- June 4: FACS Sustainability Awards Ceremony 12 p.m.
- June 7: Pope-Leighey House 80th Anniversary Virtual Cocktail Party 5 p.m.
- June 11: Local Red Cross Blood Drive 9 a.m.
- June 14: Sustainable Landscaping Solutions for Faith Communities 2 p.m.
- June 24: Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations 7 p.m.
- June 25: Local Red Cross Blood Drive 9 a.m.
- June 30 July 3: FCPS High School Virtual Graduations

### In the News

#### **Lorton Farmers Market Opens**

The Lorton Farmers Market at the Lorton VRE parking lot opened on Sunday, May 31. Openings of the county's 10 producer-only markets have been delayed this year because of the COVID-19 pandemic. To help shoppers keep their visits relatively brief many vendors are offering pre-ordering, with streamlined payment and pickup options. Read more on the Lorton Patch...



Removal of Fort Belvoir's SM-1 Nuclear Reactor to Proceed after Army Finalizes Environmental Assessment



The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) remains **on track to award a contract** for the decommissioning and dismantlement of the **deactivated SM-1 nuclear power plant** at Fort Belvoir by September 2020. Read more on the Fort Hunt Herald...

#### **Inova to Build New Hospital in Springfield**



Inova Health System plans to **expand its services** to the Springfield community on recently acquired property

adjacent to the current Inova Springfield HealthPlex. The expansion results from a current, comprehensive assessment of the communities Inova serves in the eastern region of Northern Virginia. The new facility will complement Inova Mount Vernon. Read more in the Connection...

# **Transportation Updates**

#### **New Richmond Highway Sidewalk Complete**

A new pedestrian walkway from Virginia Lodge to Huntington Avenue is substantially completed. The construction includes a 1,320 L.F. concrete sidewalk and curb ramps, signal modification, extension of an existing box culvert, repair cracks and spalled areas in the existing culvert, guard rails and end treatments installation, and watermain relocation. Learn more and see more photos...





#### Pohick Road and Southrun Road Pedestrian Improvements

A **new sidewalk connection improved pedestrian access** from the existing trail along the northside of Pohick Road, continuing along the eastern side of Southrun Road to the **Newington Forest Community Center**, and ending at the existing sidewalk along southside Rushing Creek Drive. In

addition, a **new sidewalk connection** from the existing bus stop at southside Pohick Road/Southrun Road to the eastside of Southrun Road. Project improvements include curb and gutter, concrete sidewalk, curb-cut ramps, underground storm drainage system, **pedestrian signals**, pavement markings and concrete bus pads.

### **Community Information**



# William K. "Billy" Hilton Named Mount Vernon District 2020 Volunteer Service Award Community Champion

I have known of the **legend of Billy Hilton at the local fire stations**for many years and it is an honor to celebrate his **countless hours of service** to our public safety teams. Billy is always willing to **roll up his sleeves** 

and do any necessary grunt work with a smile. His selfless dedication and devotion to the community make him absolutely deserving of this recognition and he represents the best in volunteerism in all of us. Read more about Billy...

#### **Workhouse Arts Center News**



The Workhouse announces **NEW Drive-In Movies** on Friday and Saturday nights through June, featuring **socially distanced flicks for the whole family**!

In addition, the Art of Movement Program is preparing for a June 16 return to in-

person classes. Careful planning for your safety is underway and many classes will be held outdoors. Learn more...



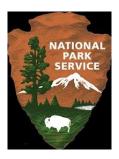
#### **Contest to Thank Waste and Recycling Workers**

The Department of Public Works is encouraging County residents to **show their appreciation for Waste and Recycling Workers** during the National Waste and Recycling Workers

Week starting June 14. Residents can show their appreciation by doing things like placing **thank you signs at the curb** on set day or **doing chalk art** on their driveways. The **most creative idea** may be used to **decorate a trash or recycling container!** Learn more and enter...

# Riverside Elementary School Earns the NWF's Eco-Schools USA Green Flag Award

This is the highest honor given to schools working on environmental stewardship goals by the National Wildlife Federation (NWF). Riverside began its quest in 2016, when the school developed their edible garden, added a composter and formed an Eco-Action Club, which established a cafeteria recycling program. The Virginia garden was added in 2017. In 2018, the school launched audits for Energy and Consumption and Waste. In 2019, the students adjusted the audits for Energy and Consumption and Waste, and they added an audit for Healthy Living. Students in all grades are involved in the care and maintenance of the gardens; preschoolers and kindergartners water the plants, and first graders care for the birdfeeders. Read more and watch the videos...



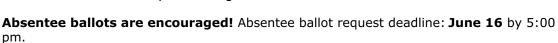
#### **GW Parkway Opens Parking Lots and Restrooms**

George Washington Memorial Parkway will increase recreational access by **reopening parking lots and restrooms** that were closed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The National Park Service (NPS) is working with federal, state, and local public health authorities to closely monitor the COVID-19 pandemic and using a **phased approach to increase access** on a park-by-park basis. **On June 3, several parks in the Mount Vernon District will reopen**. Read more...

# June 23 Democratic and Republican Primary Election Information

#### What is on the Ballot?

- Republican Primary Senate Countywide
- Democratic Primary 11th Congressional District



NOTE: The polling place for the Lorton precinct has been relocated to Lorton Station Elementary School, co-located with the Lorton Station precinct. In an Emergency Relocation due to COVID-19, the Marlan precinct has been relocated from Paul Springs Retirement Community to Hollin Meadows Elementary School, with the

#### **Job Opportunity**

Kirkside precinct.

Read more...

The **Institute for Public Health Innovation**, contracted by the County, is **hiring several positions** to assist with the **COVID-19 contact tracing efforts**. If you or someone you know is interested, consider applying. Learn more...



# **Mount Vernon - Lee Chamber of Commerce 2020 Scholarships Announced**

Nine scholarships were awarded to **local high school students** by Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce to recognize **outstanding achievement** of 2020 graduating seniors planning to continue their study in a business-related field. **Congratulations to all the recipients!** Read more...





ROTARY CLUB OF ALEXANDRIA PRESENTS

#### SPONSOR A FLAG AND PUBLICLY HONOR A HERO

Honor a veteran, first responder, policeman, fireman, EMT, healthcare worker, teacher, family member, friend or other hero (past or present), by sponsoring a flag for \$50.

Over 200 flags will be displayed at Cedar Knoll Restaurant June 27-July 11.

100% of proceeds will support local charities and Rotary's community projects.

For more information...

### **Supporting Our Seniors**

# Spring Hill Community Village Counters Isolation with Opportunities for Connection

Spring Hill Community Village in Lorton, a part of the **County's Neighbor to Neighbor program**, continues to raise the bar on **caring for their village**, especially during these times of social distancing. Village Leader Diane Watson understands the **perils of isolation** and the detriment it has on all people, but **particularly** 



**older adults**. Watson is a member of the **Long-Term Care Coordinating Council (LTCCC)**, the Commission on Aging (COA) and several other community groups. She shares **virtual activities** with her Village. Online yoga. Zoom meetings. All of these activities are the **new way to interact** and reduce isolation. Read more...

# **Saving Our Environment**



#### **Working From Home (Energy) Efficiently**

Working from home has its **pluses and minuses**, some days are better than others. **Higher monthly electricity bills** are an unfortunate consequence of spending more time at home, using lights, hot water, appliances and electronics like computers and monitors. If you are looking for a way to **liven up your teleworking routine** while reducing your monthly

energy bills, the County Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination has **six suggestions for you**. These simple steps will help you keep your **energy use under control**.

#### **Eco-Friendly Activities For Kids**

With Fairfax County Public Schools embracing distance

**learning** and **preschoolers at home** as well, the County Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination offers some **how-to guides for eco-friendly activities** suitable for kids of all ages. From water science, to energy transfer, to the importance of simply recycling, these activities are sure to help **keep your kids engaged and learning**.



Go on an **outdoor scavenger hunt**, learn about pollution and recycling with these eco-activities.

Explore solar power and heat transfer with these energy-related experiments.

Take a deep dive into **water science and conservation** with three easy-to-execute activities.

### **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.

#### May 2020 Activities:

Phone calls: 600Meetings: 215

#### **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.

#### **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 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





