

Mount Vernon District **HOT** Topics Summary

Our District office received and responded to hundreds of different concerns, issues and topics in 2020. Brief summaries of key projects, topics and Supervisor Storck's initiatives are described below. You can receive updates on these and other issues through the Supervisor's monthly newsletters and the Mount Vernon District website.

COVID-19 – COVID-19 changed all our lives in 2020 and continues to do so into 2021. The County and TEAM MVD have worked hard to support residents, non-profits and local businesses. We have answered thousands of questions, sent postcards to businesses, provided financial support, testing sites, vaccine clinics, food, housing assistance and utility assistance, and will continue to do so. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/covid19/>

The Arden - Wesley House Corp. is redeveloping an existing property at 2317 Huntington Avenue into 126 affordable and workforce multifamily housing units and Wesley Housing relocating its headquarters here. The project broke ground in July 2020 and construction completion is anticipated in summer 2022. <https://wesleyhousing.org/property/the-arden/>

Economic Development Authority (EDA) Richmond Highway Market Assessment Study - The EDA has completed a study to assist in developing and refining a public and private investment strategy in South County.

Environment/Climate Change/CECAP/JET/CARP - The County continues to be an aggressive leader on mitigating climate change. In 2020, we adopted the Fairfax Green Initiatives #2 and accepted Joint Board/School Board Environmental Taskforce's (JET) report. In 2021, we will consider adoption of the JET goals, complete the Community-wide Energy and Action Plan (CECAP) and kick off the Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Plan (CARP). <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/environment/>

Fairfax Peak - The County is engaged in a formal procurement process to evaluate a public-private partnership proposal submitted by Alpine-X to the county to build a 450,000 square-foot indoor snow sports facility on the closed I-95 Landfill adjacent to Occoquan Regional Park. In 2020, we entered into an interim agreement to allow Alpine-X to conduct additional studies at the site. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/procurement/ppea/fairfaxpeak>

George Washington Parkway Study - The National Park Service (NPS) is conducting a traffic study along the southern portion of the GW Parkway, to include evaluating key intersections. The study has included public engagement, explored automated traffic enforcement and speed reduction measures. The report will be complete in March 2021. <https://www.nps.gov/gwmp/learn/management/south-parkway-safety-study.htm>

Grist Mill Master Plan Revision - The Fairfax County Park Authority will restart the planning process in spring 2021 to help guide the future of this 75-acre park which currently provides playing fields, garden plots, off leash dog area, playground, historic barn, trails and forest. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/grist-mill-park-master-plan-revision>

Liberty - Transformed from the Lorton Reformatory, a property on the National Register of Historic Places, Liberty is a new, urban village in the process of becoming a vibrant hub of community residences, workplaces, shopping and green space. This growing community currently has new homes, apartments and an increasing number of community activities. Phase II construction of the commercial space continues, and leases are being signed. The developer has just announced Lidl will be grocery anchor for Liberty Market. thelibertylife.com or <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/news/2018/phase-2-laurel-hill-adaptive-reuse-project-set-begin>

Lorton Community Center & Library Renovation - The Lorton Community Center will provide a broad array of services, programs and activities for individuals of all ages and abilities throughout our community. It will be a single-story 33,000 sq. ft. building with a gymnasium, and the new home for the Lorton Community Action Center and the Lorton Senior Center. The project broke ground in August 2020 and is anticipated to be completed by summer 2022. Infrastructure construction on the community park has been completed and reopened to the public. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/neighborhood-community-services/lorton-community-center>

Lorton Visioning 2040 – Launched in 2019, Lorton Visioning is a community-driven visioning process to learn what Lorton residents want their community to look like in 2040. The Lorton Visioning Steering Committee meets monthly to plan meetings and prepare information to present to the larger community; if you would like to get more involved, please contact our office. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon/lorton-visioning-2040>

Mount Vernon RECenter – This \$43M voter approved project includes renovation of the existing facilities, including the pool and ice rink, with an addition of 35,000 sq. ft. to include fitness and multi-purpose areas. In 2020 voters approved

\$14 million to add a second ice rink as part of Phase II construction. Construction is anticipated to begin in summer 2021, with completion in 2024. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/planning-development/mount-vernon-recenter>

National Museum of the United States Army – The Army opened its long-awaited new museum on Veteran’s Day 2020, but has again shuttered its doors due to COVID-19. We look forward to the museum reopening and becoming the incredible community asset it will definitely be. <https://www.thenmusa.org/>

North Hill Development - The North Hill property is a 33-acre project on the east side of Richmond Highway near the intersection with Lockheed Boulevard, which has long been planned for use as an affordable housing development and a County park. The Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority has put together a public-private partnership with CHPPENN I, LLC that will transform North Hill by keeping 12 acres of park land while developing a mixed income community with 216 affordable and workforce apartments, 63 affordable units for seniors and 175 market rate townhomes. The project broke ground in July 2020 and is anticipated to be completed in fall 2022.

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/housing/communitydevelopment/north-hill>

Original Mount Vernon High School (OMVHS) - Built in 1939 and a community landmark, we are exploring future uses for the original Mount Vernon High School campus and surrounding property. The master planning process and public engagement began in 2018 and concluded at the end of 2019. The first phase is renovation of the 140,000 sq. ft. historic facility for adaptive reuse as educational, childcare and childhood education programs; art, recreation and life skill training programs; and innovation and business incubation spaces. Our partnership with Northern Virginia Community College (NOVA) and Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) has been established to create community college and workforce development classes on the site. In 2020 a teen center and a senior center were complete for interim uses as planning continues for the first phase. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/topics/original-mount-vernon-high-school>

Penn Daw Fire Station and Supportive Housing - In 2015, Fairfax County voters approved a Public Safety Bond Referendum for the renovation & expansion of five of the county’s fire stations, including the Penn Daw Fire Station. Funding for the Eleanor Kennedy Shelter was also approved in the 2016 Human Services & Community Development Bond Referendum; however, a suitable location has not been identified at the time. I have convened a community advisory committee to work with County staff on evaluating potential programs that could be co-located with the permanent new Penn Daw Fire Station. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/capital-projects/penn-daw-fire-station-and-supportive-housing>

Public Safety – Police Chief Ed Roessler has dedicated his life to protecting our community for over 30 years, as a new hire, patrol officer, interim chief, and eventually chief for the past 8 years. Chief Roessler brought about changes during his tenure such as the body worn camera program, steering suspects with mental health issues toward counseling instead of jail and creating a civilian review board to review police department investigations of allegations of abuse or misconduct. Deputy County Executive and former police chief Dave Rohrer will step in as interim police chief during the search for a full-time replacement.

Richmond Highway Widening • Embark/BRT • Strategic Economic Development Team • Embark Housing Advisory Group • Undergrounding - Following the Embark Richmond Highway Comprehensive Plan Amendment adoption in March 2018, planning for this innovative, multimodal, mixed-use urban community has been underway, including highway widening and Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). To support Embark planning, we brought community leaders together to form two teams - the Strategic Economic Development Team (SEDT) and Embark Housing Advisory Group. In 2019, the Board accepted the Housing Advisory Group report and accepted VDOT’s design plans for the widening, including 2 pedestrian underpasses. The SEDT continues to identify and drive economic development opportunities to the corridor, while supporting business retention. We are still challenged to find a funding source for the undergrounding of utilities, critical to this project. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-zoning/embark-richmond-highway>

River Farm - We were all shocked in September to learn that the American Horticulture Society (AHS) plans to sell our cherished River Farm. I have been holding one-to-one meetings with federal, state, regional and local leaders, as well as the AHS Board about potential options and resources to protect this beautiful property. Learn how you can support and help this effort at: <https://www.saveriverfarm.com/>

South County Police Station and Animal Shelter - In 2019, the County completed design, permitting and zoning on this \$30 million project to co-locate a new police station and animal shelter on the “triangle lot” at the corner of Lorton and Workhouse Roads. Construction will begin March 2021, official groundbreaking summer 2021 and completion 2022.

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/capital-projects/south-county-police-station-and-animal-shelter>

Southeastern Fairfax Development Corp. (SFDC) – The Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation (SFDC) was created as a non-profit 501c3 organization to assist the County and community with the economic revitalization of the Richmond Highway Corridor from Ft. Belvoir to the Capital Beltway. In early 2020 SFDC hired a new Executive Director to bring a different focus to the organization, one that builds upon past efforts, while prioritizing implementation of the recently adopted EMBARK Comprehensive Plan. As a compliment to the EMBARK Plan and the two major transportation projects which will bring over \$1B in new infrastructure to the corridor, SFDC seeks to stimulate the types of development and quality of life enhancements envisioned in these plans and projects. <https://sfdc.org/>

Tourism Task Force – In 2019, we launched the Mount Vernon District Tourism Task Force. Uniting the historic and heritage sites in the District, the Task Force is collaborating on cross marketing and growing visitation to the all sites collectively. A study released in February 2020 provided additional insights to strengthen these partnerships and enhance the tourism economy in the District. A branding effort is underway to create additional synergy and connectivity between our various and varied cultural and heritage locations.

Workhouse Arts Center - The Lucy Burns Museum opened at the Workhouse in January 2020 to tell the story of the prison that opened in 1910 and of the suffragists who were housed there. Fairfax County and the Workhouse Arts Foundation continue to look for innovative ideas to active the historically significant, 50-plus acre campus into a mixed-used arts, recreation and housing campus. Several viable proposals were received through the Request for Expressions of Interest process and we hope to announce new additions to the campus soon.

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicaffairs/innovative-ideas-sought-continue-making-workhouse-arts-center-vibrant-mixed-use-arts-campus>

ZMOD - In 2017, the County launched a major initiative to modernize its Zoning Ordinance that was first established over 40 years ago. Dubbed “zMOD,” the project has been underway for over two and a half years and has had over 80 public meetings. A Consolidated Draft was posted on June 30, 2020, and reflects many changes based on community input. Most recently, a finalized consolidated draft was posted on November 24, 2020, with a public hearing for the proposed adoption of the Zoning Ordinance changes, as articulated in this draft, is scheduled for the Board of Supervisors on March 9, 2021. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-development/zmod>