



Mount Vernon Advisor



www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon

July 2016



Dear Friends,

Summertime is upon us! It's time to get outdoors and enjoy the vast array of cultural and recreational activities that the Mount Vernon District has to offer. I enjoy biking, hiking, and running many of the trails in the Mount Vernon District. The joy is being outside and connecting with nature. On my journeys, I see many of our residents walking their dogs, biking with their kids, and taking advantage of our unique heritage – Mount Vernon, Gunston Hall, Woodlawn Plantation, Workhouse Arts Center, Potomac Occoquan Rivers and Bays that are unique to Fairfax County.

There are great opportunities here in Mount Vernon. I encourage you to explore the [Mount Vernon Estate](#) and Gardens with over a dozen original structures, Tour Historic Gristmill or Woodlawn and Frank Lloyd Wright's Pope-Leighey House. There is something for everyone! Ripe fruits at the Farmers' Markets, Summer Concerts, walk or cycle through our community trails. This summer, enjoy some of the hidden gems here in your own backyard. After all, July is [National Parks and Recreation Month](#).

I'm in the process of putting together a Mount Vernon District Task Force to increase the amount of trails and tourism opportunities and further tourism, which is one of the key drivers of our local economy and major resources. This will be accomplished in an effort to further develop Mount Vernon as a cultural corridor, and position our community as a top tourism destination. I sincerely appreciate all the volunteers and organizations that help to maintain and improve our bike/hiking trails. Coming soon, you'll hear more about a Tour de Mount Vernon!

Respectfully yours in public service,

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

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Stay Connected

Mount Vernon Governmental Center
2511 Parkers Lane
Mount Vernon, VA 22306-3273

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)
Lorton Library: 9 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
MV Dist. Office: 12:30 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Walk-ins and by appointment



2016 Developments and Accomplishments

It has been a pleasure serving you in my first almost seven months as your Mount Vernon District Supervisor. My staff and I continue to work tirelessly to make Mount Vernon an even better place to live. My priorities for this first year are on target to better fund and support our schools, quicken the pace of Richmond Highway's revitalization, increase jobs and economic opportunities, improve our roads and provide more transit options, ensure our public safety, expand and update our parks and improve our environment and so much more.

More importantly, I have extended office hours to include the second Saturday of each month (except August) at the Lorton Library and the Mount Vernon District Office. As always, I welcome your concerns and compliments. Walk-ins and appointments accepted.

My team and I have collaborated to develop standards to be the most responsive, transparent and informative office we can be. These include responding to your communications within two business days, advising you of the person working to address your issue or concern and resolving it as soon as possible. My office is always available as your first phone call to access county services or to answer your questions about local government. Recent hires include a new Community Development and Land Use Aide, a Summer Intern, and a Communications Director to help me engage you and be more responsive.

A snapshot of year-to-date accomplishments include the following:

- Passed Budget and fully funded Mount Vernon Schools
- McNaughton Park Groundbreaking
- Annual Town Hall Meeting
- Meals Tax to diversify revenue placed on November ballot for voters
- Board, Authorities, and Commissions (BAC) Roundtable with current appointees
- Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for Gum Springs New Outdoor Fitness Facility
- Passed New police transparency and use of force policies
- Increased community Communications and Outreach (e.g., Monthly Newsletter, Facebook, articles)
- Increased office hours, resident meetings and community engagement

Further strides include the Board of Supervisors and School Board joint retreat held last month at Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens – the Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington. The group discussed goals and priorities and reviewed past and present areas of collaboration. A host of topics came up in conversation such as fiscal priorities, land use, shared facilities, equity, families, public safety and workforce development as they relate to students in FCPS. You can read more from the meeting [here](#).



In various yet progressive stages of development are the [Original Mount Vernon High School \(OMVHS\) Reuse Project](#), [Embark Richmond Highway](#), the [North Hill Rezoning Plan](#), and the [MWAA Airport Noise Working Group](#). I will continue to keep the community informed and engaged as these projects develop.

New Outdoor Fitness Gym Opens at Gum Springs Community Center

On June 18, members of the community joined Park Authority representatives, project team members, as well as officials at a ribbon cutting for the new Outdoor Fitness Gym at Gum Springs Community Center.

The County reports that outdoor fitness gyms provide high-quality exercise equipment similar to what is found in an indoor fitness center, but the equipment is located outdoors and is free for the public to use during daylight hours. Equipment is grouped together and designed to make exercise fun and social to encourage users to work out longer and more often to improve their fitness and health.



This new fitness gym in Gum Springs was built by the Fairfax County Park Authority in partnership with the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services. Partial funding was provided by a grant submitted by the Fairfax County Park Foundation from Greenfields Outdoor Fitness.

Read more about outdoor fitness gyms [here](#).

FCPA Wins National Stewardship Award

The Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) has been named the winner of the National Recreation and Park Association's (NRPA) 2016 Barb King Environmental Stewardship Award, which recognizes a parks and recreation agency that has achieved excellence in environmental stewardship. This national recognition pays tribute to the Park Authority's growing commitment to protection of natural resources in Fairfax County.

Fairfax County Park Authority Information:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/>

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/trails/>



OMVHS Kickoff Meeting

An original Mount Vernon High School (OMVHS) kickoff meeting was held at the Government Center on July 14th. Numerous Fairfax County departments and teams will be participating in the total redevelopment of the 10.6 acre property, along with 30 acres of athletic fields. I will form a Steering Committee to advise and spearhead this effort. More information is forthcoming!

This project supports Fairfax County's Strategic Economic Success Plan. To view Fairfax County's Strategic Economic Success Plan, go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/success/>

To learn more about the OMVHS Reuse Project, visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/original-mount-vernon-hs/>

Metrorail SafeTrack

The Metrorail SafeTrack effort is underway and is impacting our area. As a result of the SafeTrack maintenance effort, the Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) is taking steps to help mitigate the reduced level of service provided by Metrorail while critical maintenance is completed during its year-long [SafeTrack plan](#).

For most safety surges, Fairfax Connector will provide supplemental express service on existing routes or on rush-hour shuttles. To check out all of your commuting options during SafeTrack, click [here](#).

Ad Hoc Police Commission Update

At the Board of Supervisors Meeting on June 21, we approved two Action Items related to the Use of Force and Communications recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Police Practices Review Commission. Chief of Police Ed Roessler has already implemented many of these recommendations, including the adoption of a predisposition to disclose rather than withhold information, a central tenet of the Communications recommendations, as well as putting the sanctity of life at the center of its training, a key part of the Use of Force recommendations.

To see the full progress report, click [here](#).

Hollin Meadows Kindergarten Class Project – “We the Kids”



Special thanks to the Kindergarten students at Hollin Meadows Elementary School for crafting this gigantic flag in honor of Independence Day! This is the third year that Kelly Starinchak has done this project with her class and every year, she's so proud of how much they take away from the activity. "One of the standards kindergarten students learn is the symbols of America. I wanted them to learn more about what the colors and symbols actually represent," explains Kelly. "I also I also wanted to instill gratitude for a country where every child can get a free education to become anything they desire." The flag on display at the Mount Vernon Governmental Center.

"Our giant flag was made using the students' white hand prints on red bulletin board paper. They learned to draw stars by beginning with a dot-to-dot then ventured on to drawing freehand. After reciting the pledge since September, they finally got to understand the meanings behind the words and a few kindergarten volunteers wrote the words for our display. We made fireworks with glue and glitter in honor of Independence Day and finally, after several lessons on drawing self-portraits, the students drew themselves to add to the flag, taking care to duplicate their hair style, clothing, and skin as close as possible. The resulting flag entitled 'We the Kids,' took a lot of effort on their part, but they loved doing it and continued making mini-flags on their own!

Kelly Starinchak
Hollin Meadows ES Kindergarten Teacher

Election Officer Recognition Ceremony



Election Officers: Photo courtesy of Fairfax Co. Government

On July 12, 2016, the Board of Supervisors recognized Fairfax County election officers who have served 20 or more elections. Among the list of this year's 40+ honorees, 5 election officers received recognition for their service in the Mount Vernon District. They include the following: Patricia Takken, Jacquelyn Fallin, Amanda Downing, Kathleen J. Cassidy, and Deidre A. Barrett.

Our sincere appreciation is extended to these dedicated election officers. Others in the Mount Vernon District community are encouraged to serve in this important capacity. For more about working the polls in Fairfax County, visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections/working.htm>.

On May 24, Governor McAuliffe visited the Fairfax County Government Center to sign [Virginia House Bills 1223 and 1030](#) which permit voters to give their full name and current address orally or in writing to the officer of election when offering to vote and requires each officer of election to undergo training before the first election in which they will be serving.

Remind your friends, family and co-workers to [register to vote or update their voter registration information](#) no later than 22 days before Election Day (November 8, 2016) which is October 19, 2016.

Register online: www.votevirginia.gov



VOTER REGISTRATION

- ❖ Voter Registration & Update
- ❖ Absentee Ballot Applications
- ❖ Voter Photo ID processing

First Saturday of the month through
September 2016

10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

August 6 and September 3

Sherwood Hall Regional Library

2501 Sherwood Hall Lane,
Alexandria

Staff from the Fairfax County Office of Elections will be available for assistance.

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections

Board Appointee Spotlight: Peter Christensen

An advocate of public service, Peter Christensen has spent the last decade serving on the [Fairfax County Trails and Sidewalks Committee](#). Appointed by the Board of Supervisors in 2006, he was elected Chair of the Committee in 2012. The Trails and Sidewalks Committee is charged with evaluating existing facilities for trails, sidewalks and bicycle routes and assists the county in producing maps of these facilities, and plans new facilities. Additionally, Committee members also evaluate subdivision plans and site plans for trail facilities.



“As Chair, I provide a locus for the Committee to develop its agenda, organize meetings, and to assure issues I think are important are adequately considered,” said Christensen. **“We have the responsibility to advise the Board of Supervisors on issues related to trails and sidewalks.”** In practice the Committee has:

- Advocated for the recognition of the increased use and benefit of bicycles as a mode of transportation.
- Sought to make alternatives to motorized transportation safer (completing missing links in trails and improving maintenance, supporting the Safe Routes to Schools program) and attractive (bicycle parking at transportation hubs and workplaces).
- The magisterial representatives also provide recommendations to request for waivers of trail requirement in County building and zoning codes.

The Trails and Sidewalks Committee is composed of a representative of each magisterial district and representatives of groups that have an interest in trails and sidewalks (e.g., Washington Area Bicyclists Association, Clifton Horse Society, Northern Virginia Builder’s Industry Association, Fairfax Area Disability Services Board, and the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority).

“The Committee has provided me a vehicle to develop an expertise in aspects of transportation issues which I find fascinating and complex,” said Christensen. “I also enjoy traveling to explore the natural and cultural wonders of our world. I’ve also gotten into teaching about the still very exciting architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright as seen at Pope-Leighey House here in the Mount Vernon District.”

What Mr. Christensen likes most about his work on the Committee is the opportunity to add some balance to a bureaucratic process. “This adds an escape value to a formal system that can be unreasonably rigid,” explains Christensen. **“Our historical knowledge can put context to current issues and help steer ideas to workable solutions.”**

A 23-year employee of the Department of Veterans Affairs (1973-1996), Mr. Christensen also served as a Staff Sergeant, Intelligence Specialist in the United States Air Force. Other experience includes Retired Federal Civil Service (1996 – present) and Tour Guide/In-depth Tour Coordinator for the Woodlawn Pope-Leighey House in Mount Vernon, VA.

After he retired from Federal service, Mr. Christensen decided to serve as a volunteer to the County. He views his volunteerism as a way to participate in the community in which he lives. Grateful for a comfortable and

successful life, Peter graciously offers his time, talents and treasures to the Trails and Sidewalks Committee. His wife, Michele Aubry also serves the County as the archeologist on the Architectural Review Board.

Christensen earned with honors a Bachelor of Science Degree in Political Science from Kent State University. Most recently, he attended Northern Community College specializing in Accounting.

A resident of the Mount Vernon district since 2001, Peter currently resides in the Oxford subdivision (Mount Vernon Union Farm). He and his wife enjoy cooking, fine wine and travel. Other areas of special interest include architecture, history, gardening, carpentry, kayaking, and bicycling.

Embark Richmond Highway

Over 160 constituents attended the July 25 [Embark Richmond Highway](#) meeting. County staff was available to present ideas, get feedback from the community, and address concerns.

Supervisor Storck and Supervisor McKay were present to meet with constituents. The next community meeting is slated for Fall 2016.

[Video Presentation: Embark Richmond Highway Community Meeting](#)

For more information, see the Embark fact sheet [here](#).

View the lead story on the front page of the July 27, 2016 issue of the [Mount Vernon Voice](#).



Embark Community Meeting, West Potomac High School

Serve Your Community! Vacancies on Boards, Authorities and Commissions

The Board of Supervisors has several boards, authorities, commissions, and committees that provide an excellent opportunity for civic education and engagement. Each Board member has a representative on the committees. Current vacancies for the Mount Vernon District are:

- Affordable Dwelling Unit Advisory Board
- Airports Advisory Committee
- Barbara Varon Volunteer Award Selection Committee
- Child Care Advisory Council
- History Commission
- Oversight Committee on Drinking and Driving
- Police Officers Retirement System Board of Trustees

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. Please note that certain members of BACs must file [financial disclosure statements](#) upon appointment, and annually thereafter.

Staff Spotlight – Theodore “Tae” Choi

We are thrilled to announce that **Theodore “Tae” Choi** joined our team on July 18th to head the community development and land use issues here in the Mount Vernon District.

Prior to joining our team, Tae served as an intern for Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services Director’s Office. He was also an Account Executive for Policy Impact Communications, a public relations and government affairs firm, located in Washington, DC. A highly creative social media guru, Tae has helped businesses and non-profit organizations develop and implement social media strategies that have been highly effective in influencing public opinion and increasing brand recognition. Tae has valuable experience on Capitol Hill, leading efforts to protect small businesses, rallying support for client needs, and briefing U.S. Representatives and U.S. Senators on pressing matters that are affecting their constituents and the nation as a whole.

He earned a bachelor’s degree in political science, with a concentration in legal studies, from Virginia Tech. Tae currently resides in Lorton, Virginia with his Fiancée, and they recently welcomed their first baby boy together.



Tae Choi



Betsy Slaymaker

Betsy Slaymaker joins the Mount Vernon District as this summer's intern. She started her internship on June 21st and attended the Board of Supervisors meeting that day. She attends college at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), majoring in Communication Arts, with a minor in Mass Communications.

"I really enjoy working with people and the community, as the Mount Vernon district is very diverse," says Betsy. "I hope to work with people more when I complete my education. I have interest in working in advertising, as it connects viewers to a specific concept or idea."

Workhouse Arts Center: A Celebration of Arts and Culture

There's always something exciting happening at the Workhouse Arts Center. Whether you're in the mood for art classes and exhibits, exciting comedy or musical performances, or even special events, the Workhouse has exactly what you need to fuel your creativity and imagination.



On July 2, Supervisor Storck had the opportunity to Celebrate Independence Day at the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton, VA. Visitors enjoyed art exhibits, food trucks, local craft beer and wine, live music, and a spectacular fireworks show! Live music began at 7pm and fireworks started at dusk.

Everyone is encouraged to come out next year for this fantastic annual event! Admission is free and you're welcome to bring blankets and lawn chairs.

"We've planned a wonderful summer of events, exhibits, performances, and classes at the Workhouse, and we're thrilled to welcome residents of the Mount Vernon District to our campus to share in the fun."

-Ava Spece, President & CEO
Workhouse Arts Center

WORKHOUSE YOUTH FINE ART CAMPS – Next session starts July 25

The Workhouse offers two week sessions, meeting Monday – Friday. Upcoming sessions are July 25 – August 5 and August 8 – August 19. Camps vary by medium and age group. Classes and Workshops that meet once a week for teens and young ones are also available. These include Studio Fundamentals, Teen Drawing, Teen Painting, and more. All camps and classes are available online or over the phone for registration (703-584-2900).

BREWFEST - August 13

<http://workhousebrewfest.org>

The Workhouse presents its inaugural Brewfest, featuring nearly 100 craft beers created by 30 of the region's most innovative breweries. This exciting event includes a dozen bands performing throughout the day, lawn games, and Workhouse artists creating art in their studios and galleries. End the day with a fantastic (and free!) Mount Vernon Nights concert at 7p.m.

FINE ARTS FESTIVAL - September 10-11

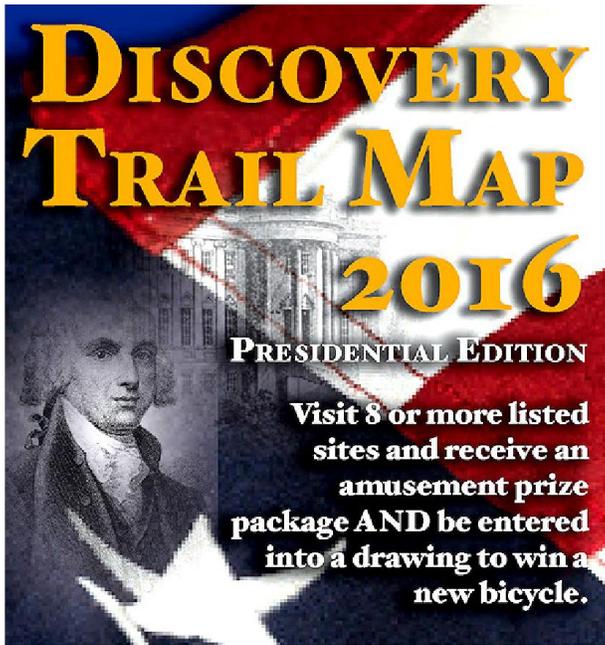
<http://www.workhousearts.org/fine-arts-festival-2016/>

The Workhouse Arts Center is thrilled to welcome more than 120 artists to its Lorton, VA campus for the 2nd Annual Fine Arts Festival. Meet some of the region's most exciting artists and browse and buy fine art paintings, ceramics, photography, sculpture, and so much more.

For more information about upcoming events at the Workhouse Arts Center, visit <http://www.workhousearts.org> or call the reservationist at 703-584-2900.

Park Authority's Discovery Trail Map

You'll always find something fun to do in Fairfax County parks, and the **Park Authority's Discovery Trial Map** is your guide! The journey features 12 distinctive sites that give students age 17 and younger the chance to discover each site's unique features. Visit eight or more sites and get a prize package to more summer fun and get entered in a drawing for one of three bicycles! The prize package valued at \$93 includes 1 free admission



for: mini-golf, carousel, train, tour boat, pedal boat, camping, wagon ride, RECenters and boat rental. For more information, visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/discovery-trail-map/>

About the Discovery Trail Map

Since this is an election year, the 2016 Discovery Trail Map map connect former U.S. Presidents or some aspect of their administration to each of the featured sites.

Winners will be announced via an FCPA news release in September and in the winter issue of *Parktakes* magazine, which is published in November.

Discover Arcadia at Woodlawn!



Here are few upcoming opportunities to explore Woodlawn.

- **On July 31** – Celebrate National Coloring Book Day. Bring your own crayons and pick-up a Pope-Leighey coloring book on-site. Pack your yoga mat and enjoy a relaxing, twilight yoga on the lawn of Frank Lloyd Wright’s masterpiece!
- **August 6** – Open Saturday Volunteer Day for the Great Garlic Harvest of 2016! The perfect way to experience the farm for the first time is through a harvest.

Learn more about upcoming events, as well as Arcadia Mobile Markets, Arcadia Farm Camps and Food Hubs at <http://arcadiafood.org/>. Volunteer Opportunities [here](#).



Enjoy Free Summer Concerts & Farmers' Markets

The Mount Vernon Nights Summer Entertainment Series is underway! This series of free, public concerts features a variety of musical performances reflecting Fairfax County's diversity, culture, and community spirit. Concerts are Friday nights at 7:30 at Grist Mill Park, 4710 Mount Vernon Memorial Highway, and Saturday nights at 7:00 p.m. at the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton. Come early to the Workhouse Arts Center to explore its vibrant arts scene. [Download the brochure!](#)

For more information, visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/performances/mount-vernon-nights.htm>

Two Mount Vernon-area farmers' markets opened the first week in May, giving residents access to fresh, locally grown food. The Lorton Farmers' Market is located at the Lorton VRE parking lot, 8990 Lorton Station Blvd., Sundays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The McCutcheon/Mount Vernon Farmers' Market is open Wednesdays from 8:00 a.m. to noon at the Sherwood Regional Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane. Both markets accept SNAP benefits.

Practice heat safety wherever you go this summer. [Learn more about extreme heat](#) and how to stay safe, as well as precautions to take for the vulnerable and pets. Find more heat safety related tips at www.weather.gov/heat.



Lorton Farmers Market



McCutcheon/Mount Vernon Farmers Market

For more information and directions, go to www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets or contact Green Spring Gardens at 703-642-0128.

To subscribe or to change your subscription, send us an email at mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov

Please share this *Mount Vernon Advisor* with your friends and neighbors!
