



Mount Vernon Advisor



www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon

June 2016



Dear Friends,

The spring rains are finally leaving us, bringing the light of our long June days. With the beginning of summer days, I have had the pleasure of attending many high school graduations, hiking through our local woods and streams and meeting with many folks on furthering the improvement and development of the Mount Vernon District.

A very important meeting took place on June 14, when the Board of Supervisors and School Board held a joint retreat at our beautiful and historic Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens – the Fred W. Smith National Library for the Study of George Washington. The serene and bucolic setting provided a perfect backdrop for the lively discussion between our boards.

Key topics of discussion: 1) the Board of Supervisors’ Strategic Plan to Facilitate Fairfax County’s Economic Success, 2) Strategic Plan for Fairfax County Public Schools, and 3) Joint Priorities for 2016-2019 Term. Our Boards also briefly discussed a resolution we are calling *One Fairfax* that would serve as a policy guide for building an opportunity community that supports social and racial equity throughout. We will be having many more discussions on these issues as the year progresses.

Unfortunately, later that day, there was a tour bus accident on the GW Parkway that left one person dead and 15 injured. The accident shut down the parkway and the Park Police are asking for any information about the accident. Please call 202-610-7500. The accident also highlights the changing nature of the parkway to that of a major tourism AND commuter byway. I will be working with our federal representatives and the Park Service on ways to improve safety and traffic management on the GW Parkway.

Commuters on the parkway stopped to assist the injured at the accident and helped at the scene until emergency services arrived. I mention this because Fairfax County offers an array of emergency preparedness services and I encourage you to take advantage of the following information and training: [CERT](#), [Emergency Information](#) and [Public Safety](#).

Respectfully yours in public service,

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

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

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Voters to Decide on a Meals Tax for Fairfax County in November

On June 7, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors voted to place a Meals Tax Referendum on the November 8, 2016 general election ballot. Voters will have the opportunity to vote for or against implementing a 4 percent tax on prepared meals in Fairfax County. A meals tax is levied on prepared food and beverages (ready-to-eat) at restaurants, lunchrooms, cafeterias, coffee shops, cafes, taverns, delis, and mobile operations. If the referendum passes, it would take effect in fiscal Year 2018.

I voted to place the meals tax question on the ballot, with my seven other Board colleagues and I stand firm on plans to vote yes for the Meals Tax on the County ballot this Fall.

What You Need to Know

- A meals tax would diversify the county's tax revenue base. A 4 percent tax is equivalent to over 4 cents on the current (FY 2016) real estate tax rate. When the real estate tax is increased, this impacts all property owners, regardless of their ability to pay. If a meals tax is approved by voters, it would apply to tourists, commuters and travelers, as well as residents who choose to dine out. For example, it's estimated that tourists would generate \$22.8 million in one year.
- The Dept. of Management and Budget estimates that \$99 million in revenue would be generated from a 4 percent meals tax in the first year it is implemented. This estimate is based on (calendar year) 2015 taxable sales of food and drinks. Approximately \$3 million of the \$99 million in revenue would go back to restaurants/businesses to offset costs of implementing the meals tax. Therefore, an estimated \$96 million would be allocated based on the provisions of the ballot, which is 70% for Fairfax County Public Schools and 30% for County services, capital improvements and property tax relief.
- Counties in Virginia, including Fairfax, can only establish a meals tax if a referendum is approved by voters ([learn more about the Dillon Rule](#)). Fairfax County has limited authority to diversify its revenue stream; the budget is heavily reliant on real estate and property taxes, which account for almost 80% of the General Fund. Most other revenue streams are capped or require General Assembly action to be adjusted.
- A meals tax currently exists in the towns of Herndon (2.5%) and Vienna (3%), in the cities of Fairfax (4%), Falls Church (4%), and Alexandria (4%), and in Arlington County (4%). The District of Columbia currently has a 10-percent meals tax. As a business owner myself, I remain confident that a meals tax in Fairfax County should not adversely affect our businesses' competitiveness with peers in these neighbor jurisdictions.



To learn more, visit the **Meals Tax web page**: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mealstax.

Great NOVA Parks Trail Fest

On June 4, fellow hikers and nature lovers alike joined together to celebrate National Trails Day at Occoquan Regional Park, located at 9751 Ox Road, in Lorton, VA.

Trail Fest is a cooperative effort between NOVA Parks, LL Bean, Mid-Atlantic Off-Road Enthusiasts, Sierra Club PRO, and the Potomac Heritage Trail Association. There were many hiking, biking and kayaking events, including many for beginners and families with children.

Planned activities included:

- Bike Tours
- Mountain bike skills training
- A distance hike
- Short hike options
- Kayak Tours
- 5k Run/Walk Event



Greg Wilson, William Niedringhaus and Supervisor Dan Storck

Chairman Sharon Bulova received the Trail Champion Award at the event. Supervisor Storck particularly enjoyed a scenic 10-mile hike with members from the Potomac Heritage Trail Association. Greg Wilson, author and member of the Potomac Heritage Trail Association provided history details along the 10-mile hike. Wilson wrote the first biography of his ancestor, Jonathan Roberts, the Civil War's Quaker Scout and Sheriff. The 600-page biography depicts the story of Wilson's great-great-grandfather, who lived where Belvoir is now and spied for the Union Army – as well as paints a larger picture of life in the Quaker community of Virginia during the Civil War. For more information, visit <http://www.civilwarquakerscout.com>.

Occoquan has hiking trails throughout the park that wind through forested areas and offer scenic vistas of the Occoquan River. Some trails are paved, but all are appropriate for bicycles and walkers/runners.

Park Authority Trails Information: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/trails/>

Volunteers Complete CERT Training Program

On May 26, 25 student volunteers and 25 actor-victims participated in the Fairfax County Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) program at Fort Belvoir. Volunteers rushed to the aid of the victims after a simulated tornado struck Fort Belvoir's Outdoor Recreation area. The scenario was part of an exercise, a culmination of eight weeks of volunteer training for the CERT.

The (CERT) program prepares regular citizens to safely help themselves, their families, and their communities during major emergencies where first responders are delayed. Training involves prevention – including electrical, fire, and hazardous materials safety – as well as disaster preparedness and management.

The origins of CERT are in the 1985 Mexico City Earthquake that resulted in 10,000 deaths. Regular citizens tried to help rescue 800 people, and 100 of the untrained rescuers died. Afterwards, the program started in the Los Angeles Fire Department and expanded into CERT. It is now overseen by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and Fairfax County began teaching CERT locally in January 2003.

CERT volunteers are often the first eyes and ears on scene to provide valuable information to the command center, or the county, for the area – which are essential to determine necessary resources. CERT is made up of a diverse group of people, who strive to “do the most good for the most number of people.”

Mount Vernon residents are encouraged to get involved in the local CERT program. We can all play a part in disaster preparedness, community support and foster safe and caring communities!

Here’s How You Can Become a CERT Volunteer

CERT classes are free and open to anyone 16 or older (there is no upper age limit), including those with disabilities. Classes are regularly taught at the Fairfax Fire and Rescue Academy, as well as on Fort Belvoir and, if there is sufficient interest, at local venues (fires stations; community centers; houses of worship, etc.) throughout the County. New classes are added throughout the year. Additionally, the Fairfax County CERT program offers CERT graduates dozens of free specialized emergency preparedness and response classes. You can find more information on the CERT webpage at www.fairfaxcountycert.org. Being prepared helps you, your family and your community.

Two new CERT classes have been scheduled in the Eastern portion of Fairfax County. One on Fort Belvoir and a second in the Mount Vernon/Alexandria area. The next Course on Fort Belvoir is CERT 116 and will be offered on Thursday evenings (6– 9 pm) at the Outdoor Recreation Center (Bldg. 778), 10155 Johnston Road beginning on August 11, 2016.

A Course will also be presented on Monday evenings (7-10 pm) at St. Louis Catholic School, 2901 Popkins Lane, Alexandria, VA beginning on September 26, 2016. To sign up for classes, go to www.fairfaxcountycert.org and follow the prompts (to register for a class, you will need to create an account in the Fairfax County Volunteer Management System). For additional information, contact Jonathan Kiell, CERT appointee for the Mount Vernon District (TEAMS@fairfaxcountycert.org).

Lord and Lady Fairfax 2016 Honored



Lord Larry Clark and Lady Marcia Hanson

Each year, twenty members of the Fairfax County community—a man and a woman from each magisterial district—are named “Lords” or “Ladies” Fairfax in honor of their volunteer service and leadership.

This year’s Mount Vernon District honorees are Lord Larry Clark and Lady Marcia Hanson. A celebratory dinner was held in their honor on Tuesday, June 7 at the Fairfax County Government Center.

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 like Fireworks and Brewfest, the Workhouse has exactly what you need to fuel your creativity and imagination.

"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

SUMMER CAMP - Starts June 20

The Workhouse offers eight weeks of camps beginning on June 20 for ages 3 through 17. 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 and space is filling up fast!

FIREWORKS - July 2

<http://www.workhousearts.org/event/fireworks-at-the-workhouse/>



Celebrate Independence Day with your family at the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton, VA. Enjoy art exhibits, food trucks, local craft beer and wine, live music, and a spectacular fireworks show! Live music begins at 7pm and fireworks start at dusk, typically 9pm. Admission is free and you're welcome to bring blankets and lawn chairs; parking is \$10. Shuttle service will be provided from the Vulcan Materials lot courtesy of International Limo.

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.

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

Board Appointee Spotlight: Earl Flanagan

In the name of public service, Earl Flanagan has spent the last decade casting a critical eye on Fairfax County. Mr. Flanagan was appointed to serve on the county's Planning Commission in 2006, charged with advising the Board of Supervisors "on all matters related to the orderly growth and development of Fairfax County."



Flanagan, an architect by trade, was principal of his own firm in Illinois for ten years, specializing in the design of city, park, school, municipal, church, apartment, and residential projects. Flanagan moved from the local level to the national and then international in the mid-70s, when he accepted the position as Principal Architect and Advisor on Building Codes and Codes Administration at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)—a career move that brought him from the Midwest to Northern Virginia. He served as HUD advisor to the governments of China, Japan, Lebanon, Mexico; National Conference of States, National Association of Counties, National Institute of Architects, American National Standards Institute, National Science Foundation and National Institute of Building Sciences. A long-time advocate for affordable housing, Mr. Flanagan earned HUD's highest award, the Certificate of Merit, for service as staff and co-author of the Secretary's Task Force Report on Housing Costs.

Locally, Commissioner Flanagan has provided architectural designs for the Mount Vernon High School Little Theater, Mount Vernon Presbyterian Fellowship Hall, George Washington Park Pool, Richmond Highway revitalization, and Woodrow Wilson Bridge projects.

An artillery Non-Commissioned Officer with Patton's 3rd Army in Europe during World War II, Flanagan was awarded the Army Commendation Medal for an advance landing of the 71st Division at LeHarve, France. After combat he served in the Military Government of Germany, attended the Nuremberg War Crimes Trials and toured Europe as a member of the SHAEF GI Symphony. Commissioned an Air Force Officer during the Korean War, he served as a psychological warfare officer and airbase Commandant. He is currently serving as the President of the 71st Infantry Division Association.

Flanagan earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Architectural Engineering from the University of Illinois. He attended Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and earned a Graduate Diploma in Social Psychology and Political Science.

A 38-year resident of Fairfax County, Flanagan currently resides in Riverside Estates. He is the proud father of three grown children, two of which live in the area. His daughter is an Urban Forester for Prince William County and his younger son works for Beals Bank in Tysons. Flanagan's eldest son is the owner of the Roseland Icebox Company in the Town of Narrows, VA.

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
- Community Action Advisory Board
- 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.

Boards, Authorities and Commissions (BAC) Roundtable

Supervisor Storck, and his staff met with BAC members on Thursday, May 26 and Thursday, June 2. These designated BAC forums spearheaded an open dialogue between members of the Mount Vernon District Team, whose goal is to provide outstanding advocacy and constituent service for our 120,000 residents.

The agenda included a light meal, followed by welcome and introduction of members, and an overview from Supervisor Storck, Presentation & Review of the Mount Vernon BAC Guidelines & Expectations, and a Q & A session.



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.

July 2, 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

Register online:

www.votevirginia.gov

Email: voting@fairfaxcounty.gov

Phone: 703-222-0776; TTY: 711

The BAC forums are in line with Supervisor Storck's goals and his pledge to increase government transparency and citizen engagement. The BAC forums are one of the new Communication avenues implemented by Supervisor Storck, along with extended office hours and options for in-person meetings with constituents.

Enjoy Summer Concerts & Farmers Markets this Summer

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.

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.



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!
