



Sign up for the Mount Vernon Advisor



Dear Neighbors,

December has arrived, and with it the start of the winter solstice on December 21, marking the shortest day and longest night of the year. The winter season also means brisk temperatures and holiday cheer. As we celebrate this holiday season, I hope that you will also embrace the diversity in our Mount Vernon District. Paz, alegría y amor a todos; Hòa bình, niềm vui và tình yêu cho tất cả - Peace, joy and love to all!

On Saturday, December 31 at 9:30 am join us for the last ride of the old year as we hold our inaugural **Tour de Mount Vernon** bike ride! This informal bike ride is open to all who want to join us and begins at Belle Haven Park on the George Washington Parkway (GWP). The 25 mile one-way or 50 mile round-trip ride follows the GWP trail to Mount Vernon Estate and continues on ultimately ending at the Workhouse Arts Center. [Click here](#) for more details and to sign-up. We look forward to seeing you on December 31st for our inaugural ride through the historic Mount Vernon district.

There is no place like home for the Mount Vernon community. More than 47,600 households and a population of nearly 130,000 are connected with access to top-notch schools and libraries, safe neighborhoods, award-winning hospitals, scenic parks, a variety of entertainment options and more! Most of all, we are fortunate to live in an environment that supports and values a diverse culture.

We are creating a collage to showcase Team Spirit throughout the Mount Vernon community. Please capture your team spirit in the community and send us your photos by email to mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov. We look forward to using them in future newsletters and presentations.

Respectfully yours in public service,

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 - Vacancies on Boards, Authorities and Commissions
 - Holiday Giving
 - Workhouse Arts Center

Save The Date:
Tour de Mount Vernon

<p>November Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Phone calls: more than 1200• Meetings: attended more than 60• Hosted meetings: nearly 45  <p>Mount Vernon District Staff</p>	<p>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</p> <p>Office Hours Monday - Wednesday, Friday: 8:30 am - 5 pm Thursday: 8:30 am - 7:30 pm</p> <p>Second Saturday Each Month. Lorton Library: 9 am - 11:30 am MV District Office: 12:30 p.m. - 3 p.m. Walk-ins and by appointment</p>

Board Establishes Police Civilian Review Panel



On December 6, the Board of Supervisors established a Police Civilian Review Panel (CRP) in Fairfax County. Previously, Supervisor Storck had met with many community members, police leaders and officers, and held a community meeting, along with Chief of Police, Ed Roessler, to discuss this and the many other recommendations of the Ad Hoc Police Commission.

Supervisor Storck strongly believes this CRP recommendation of the Commission, which included police representatives, is a historic step toward increasing transparency and trust. The panel will provide another avenue for residents to address concerns and enhance community confidence in the police by ensuring that policies and actions are reviewable by the Independent Police Auditor and the Civilian Review Panel.

The panel will have many responsibilities and roles. Click [here](#) for three ways the panel will work to enhance trust between our community and police.

Who Will Serve on the Panel

The Civilian Review Panel will consist of nine members appointed by the Board of Supervisors. Panel members will serve three-year terms with a two-term limit. All panel members will be Fairfax County residents and will have some expertise and experience relevant to the panel's responsibilities. Supervisor Storck will reach out to businesses, nonprofit groups and other local organizations to nominate potential candidates to serve on the panel.

The Civilian Review Panel was one key recommendation of the [Ad Hoc Police Commission](#), which delivered 202 recommendations in November 2015. In just over a year, 178 of 202 recommendations have been approved. In addition to establishing the Civilian Review Panel and Office of Police Auditor, many other recommendations from the Ad Hoc Police Commission have been implemented by FCPD and the Board of Supervisors so far, including:

- Establishing [Diversion First](#), which has resulted in over 300 diversions from potential criminal arrest to treatment since January 1, 2016.
- Re-engineering how our police are trained with a focus on de-escalation and the sanctity of life.
- Reorganizing the public affairs team and hiring a full-time civilian director.
- Establishing a policy to release the names of officers involved in critical incidents within 10 days and providing updates on these incidents at least every 30 days.
- Collecting and publishing key data on police interactions including uses of force and officer-involved shootings.

To track the progress of each recommendation, residents can view an interactive [Progress Report](#) online that lists the details and implementation statuses of all 202 recommendations made by the Ad Hoc Commission in their October 2015 [Final Report](#).

Embark Richmond Highway



Thanks to everyone that joined Supervisor Storck on November 29 for the Embark Richmond Highway meeting at Whitman Middle School. Fairfax County presented existing transportation conditions and land use plans as the county works to bring bus rapid transit to the Richmond Highway corridor, along with more sidewalks, trails and bike lanes.

The community meeting was also an opportunity for residents to provide input on the proposed land use alternatives for the corridor as part of the overall project named Embark Richmond Highway. To learn more:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/embarkrichmondhwy/>

This was the third Embark community meeting; if you were unable to attend, watch the video presentation on You Tube:



2016 Mary Thonen Highway Beautification Awards and TownePlace Suites Grand Opening



Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck and Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay

with the top three receiving trophies. Thank you to all the businesses, large and small, for their investment in Richmond Highway.

On December 1, Supervisor Storck joined Lee Supervisor Jeff McKay and the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation (SFDC) for the 2016 Mary Thonen Richmond Highway Beautification Awards held in conjunction with the **GRAND OPENING** of the TownePlace Suites in Woodlawn. Baywood Hotels, the owners, opened its fourth hotel on Richmond Highway.

The Mary Thonen Awards are presented to local businesses that demonstrate an effort to improve the appearance of their properties. Ten businesses along the Richmond Highway Corridor, from the Beltway to Fort Belvoir, were recognized,

The Mary Thonen Awards event is one of the premier events along Richmond Highway, [click here to learn more about the awards.](#)

Watch the You Tube video:



Hotel owners and staff

Sign Removal Program on Roads

Fairfax County Illegal Sign Removal Program

The county removes signs that are illegally put on or along selected roads. This includes political campaign signs, advertising signs and more.

75,000
Approximate # of signs
collected from roads
since the program started in 2013

Signs collected
on about
99
major roads.



Signs will be regularly picked up every week between Tuesday and Thursday by the [Sheriff's Community Labor Force](#). Signs will not be cleaned up based on public complaints. The county is removing signs to assist the Virginia Department of Transportation-but VDOT is still responsible for maintaining the roads.

Takeaways

- Signs **will not be removed from neighborhood streets**-only selected major roads across the county. **Create or join a [VDOT Adopt-a-Highway group](#) to remove signs from neighborhood streets** and other roads.
- The clean-up program **does not address signs on private property**. For complaints about signs on private property only, use this [online form](#). Learn more about the rules for [signs on private property and other locations](#).
- **Only signs will be removed from roads-not trash or litter.**
- **Contact VDOT about signs that cause a safety hazard on the roads** at 1-800-FOR-ROAD, TTY 711, or use [VDOT's online form](#).

After the county removes a sign, it will be stored for five calendar days at the [I-66 Transfer Station](#) where it may be reclaimed. Signs will be destroyed after five days. However, **VDOT's Adopt-a-Highway groups may collect signs at any time on their designated roads, and they may destroy these signs immediately.**

To date, illegal sign offenders have been charged over \$53,000 and the County has collected more than \$21,000 in fines for the illegally placed signs. For more information about the county's sign removal program, call 703-324-SIGN (7446), TTY 711. For a list of roads included in the County's sign removal program, visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/signs/signremovalprogram.htm>.

Lorton VRE Station Park-and-Ride Expansion Project



Fairfax County elected officials and staff from FCDOT, DPWES, VRE and SFCC cut the ribbon to celebrate the **completion of the VRE Station Park-and-Ride facility expansion.**

(Photo credit: Fairfax County Department of Transportation)

On December 1, Fairfax County elected officials along with staff from [Fairfax County Department of Transportation](#) (FCDOT), [Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services](#) (DPWES), [Virginia Railway Express](#) (VRE), and [South Fairfax Chamber of Commerce](#) (SFCC) celebrated the completion of the **[Lorton VRE Station Park-and-Ride](#)** expansion project.

The Key features of the project include:

- 150 additional parking spaces bringing the total number of spaces to 717;
- New pedestrian connections to the existing park and ride lot; and
- Lighting improvements.

Connect with Fairfax County Transportation!

- Sign-up for alerts at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts
- Follow us on [Twitter](#) & [Facebook](#)
- Visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fcdot/news
- Call 703-877-5600, TTY 711

Winter Preparedness Tips

Warning Signs of Hypothermia



Confusion



Shivering



Difficulty
Speaking



Sleepiness



Stiff
Muscles

weather.gov/cold



Hypothermia and Frostbite

According to the National Weather Service, frostbite is damage to body tissue caused by extreme cold. A wind chill of minus 20 degrees Fahrenheit will cause frostbite in just 30 minutes. Frostbite causes **a loss of feeling and a white or pale appearance in extremities**, such as fingers, toes, earlobes or the tip of the nose. If symptoms are detected, **get medical help immediately**. If you must wait for help, slowly rewarm affected areas. However, if the person is also showing signs of hypothermia, warm the body core before the extremities.

Hypothermia is a condition brought on when the body temperature drops below 95 degrees Fahrenheit. Warning signs include uncontrollable shivering, memory loss, disorientation, incoherence, slurred speech, drowsiness and apparent exhaustion. Take your temperature and if it is below 95 degrees, seek medical attention immediately.

Fairfax County's [emergency homeless shelters](#) have additional capacity during winter months to take in people overnight who are at risk of hypothermia. If you see an unsheltered person at night who may be at risk of hypothermia, call our non-emergency phone line at 703-691-2131; emergency personnel will determine which shelter option is best in the situation.

For **Your Complete Guide to Winter Weather in Fairfax County**, [click here](#).



A Walk on the Wild Side of Mount Vernon



FIELD TRIP: A Walk on the Wild Side of the Mount Vernon District

Join us as we visit and observe wildlife (birds) in some lesser known park areas of the Mount Vernon District.

January 2, 2017 - Hidden Neighborhood Gems

Jackson Abbott Wildlife Refuge, Pole Road Park, Muddy Hole Farm Park, Mt. Vernon Woods Park, Woodlawn Park

7:00 am to 4 pm (stay as little/long as you like)

Meet at the Roy Rogers Restaurant between 7 and 7:15am, 8806 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA 22309; lunch break at Roy Rogers Corner of Richmond Highway and Jeff Todd Way 12-1pm.

Group size: 10-12 people so please send in an RSVP

Contact: Cathy Ledec at ledecinvirginia@yahoo.com for details

These events are rain or shine. Be sure to check the weather forecast and dress appropriately. Good shoes are a must since some areas are muddy. Bring snacks and water with you.

Christmas at Mount Vernon!



The holidays are full of delight at George Washington's Mount Vernon. During the day, tour the Mansion and watch historic chocolate-making demonstrations. Kids activities include holiday teddy bear teas, make your own wooden ornaments, and meet Aladdin the Camel. There's

Snow Day Camps



The Fairfax County Park Authority has launched its first Snow Day Camp program to run from November 1 until March 31. There are four RECenter locations in the County (Lee District, Audrey Moore, Oak Marr, and Spring Hill). Kids ages 6-10 can enjoy sports, arts and crafts and swimming from 9a.m. to 5 p.m. Snow Day Camp is \$65 a day per child. Now it's easier for parents to not miss work and still get quality care for their kids. For more details, to include how to sign-up for email notifications for Snow Day Camp registration alerts, visit fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/snowdaycamp.htm

Help Make Sure No Pet Goes Hungry this Holiday Season

The Human Society of Fairfax has a Pet Pantry to temporarily assist needy families in the area who have fallen on hard times. Often, the families only need pet food to sustain their beloved companions until they are able to get back on their feet. Through the generosity of animal advocates in the community, we can ensure that no pet goes hungry during this holiday season and year-round. If you



wish to make a donation. Please email Gina Lynch at outreach@hsfc.org or drop-off at the Humane Society Office, 4057 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax, VA 22030. Thank you for your care and support - your generosity is greatly appreciated during this season of giving.

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:

- Advisory Social Services Board
Monitor the formulation and implementation of social welfare programs
- Athletic Council
Advise the Board on allocation, use, management and future planning of County athletic resources
- Barbara Varon Volunteer Award Selection Committee
Reviews nominee applications and selects the recipient of the Award
- Oversight Committee on Drinking and Driving
To inform the Board appropriately about drinking and driving related conditions which impact public safety and mobility

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 [here](#).

Holiday Giving



Save the Date: 8th Annual Give Together, January 16, 2017

Families with school-age children are invited to give together on *Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. National Day of Service*, on Monday, January 16. Give Together is a family volunteer event with service projects specially designed for young people and little hands. All activities will directly benefit local nonprofits and will take place indoors at the Jewish Community Center of Fairfax. This special event is free and open to the public. It is the perfect opportunity to teach children the value of giving back while enjoying quality family time. Please register to reserve your space. Registration opens December 7 at www.volunteerfairfax.org.

Nominations Open January 2 for the 25th Annual Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards

Volunteer Fairfax, Chairman Sharon Bulova and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors proudly present the 2017 Fairfax County Volunteer Service Awards on Friday, April 21. The community is invited to submit nominations for the outstanding volunteer(s) in your organization, club, school, library or neighborhood! Information is available at www.volunteerfairfax.org. The awards breakfast will take place at the Waterford in Springfield from 8-10 am. Tickets will be available in March.

Volunteer Fairfax, your regional volunteer center, seeks individuals, families, youth and corporate groups for service opportunities at a variety of nonprofit agencies. One-time special events or ongoing activities are available. Together we build a better community through service.

Click www.volunteerfairfax.org or call 703-246-3460.

Workhouse Arts Center

Free Art of Movement Holiday Classes. From December 26th through December 31st, try your hand at exciting, challenging classes like mat pilates, Yogalates, Body Blade, row fit, and more! Information on all upcoming events:

http://www.workhousearts.org/fullcalendar/list/?tribe_paged=1&tribe_event_display=list



New Year's Eve Party on December 31st! To keep up with everything happening at the Workhouse, follow them on [Facebook](#) or visit their website at www.workhousearts.org.