



Mount Vernon Advisor



www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon

Feb 2016

Dear Friends,

Dear Community Members,

It has been a pleasure serving you in my first almost two months as your Mount Vernon District Supervisor. I have been holding meetings and office time every day as I work to learn more about the needs and opportunities within Mount Vernon and the resources available to meet them. I have met with over three dozen groups, numerous county staff and more than 200 of you in those efforts. Additionally, the Board of Supervisors has been very busy these past six weeks holding County Lines of Business briefings to dig deeper into county operations to find ways to do more with less. As always, this work is in addition to our many committee and Board of Supervisor meetings.

Last Tuesday, the County Executive presented his Advertised Fiscal Year 2017 Budget. The County Executive, Ed Long, recommended increases in funding to address our declining numbers of police, teachers and other services staff to our increasing population. I share that concern and commitment for Mount Vernon, as well as our over reliance on real estate taxes, and will be urging the Board to better diversify our revenue. The Board of Supervisors will hold three days of public hearings on the budget on April 5-7 and I welcome your attendance. The Board, after Budget Markup, will adopt a budget on April 26th. The budget is a reflection on our community's values and becomes the work program for Fairfax County staff over the next fiscal year, which runs from July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2017. I look forward to receiving your comments and ideas.

I will also continue Mount Vernon's 28 year tradition of holding a Town Meeting. Chairman Bulova, County Executive Long, Fort Belvoir Commander COL Mitchell and School Board Member Karen Corbett Sanders among others will attend and be presenting. As always, we will have more than 50 community and county organizations providing information tables on all that they do. I hope to see you there as well!

Respectfully yours in public service,

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

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SAVE THE DATE

Mount Vernon's 29th Annual Town Meeting

Saturday, February 27, 2016

7:45 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Walt Whitman Middle School, Entrance 8

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. – Noon
MV Dist. Office: 12:30 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Walk-ins and by appointment

Fiscal Year 2017 Advertised Budget

On Tuesday, February 16, 2016, County Executive Ed Long released his Advertised FY 2017 Budget to the Board of Supervisors.

- The Budget recommends that the Board of Supervisors advertise a \$0.04 increase in the real estate tax rate to provide flexibility to fund priorities identified during budget testimony, however, a \$0.03 increase in the real estate tax rate would fund the Board's previously identified budget priorities
- An increase in the Stormwater District Tax from \$0.02 cents to \$0.025 cents per \$100 of assessed value
- Recommends additional funding to staff the new Lorton Police Station that will commence construction in 2018; provide a market rate adjustment of 1.33% for county employees; add \$7.5 million in funding to support the Ad Hoc Police Commission's recommendations, the first in a multi-year investment; and funds the repair and maintenance of some county roads and trails
- Provides undesignated revenue which could be used for additional funding for schools, although still substantially less than the School Board's request

For more information on the FY 2017 Advertised Budget, visit

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dmb/fy2017/advertised/fy2017-advertised-budget.htm>

EMBARK Richmond Highway

Embarc Richmond Highway is an initiative focused on creating a multimodal future for the Richmond Highway Corridor. This effort responds to recommendations from the [Route 1 Multimodal Alternatives Analysis](#), conducted by the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation. Embarc Richmond Highway intends to assess and refine the recommendations from the study by locating stations and recommending density increases within a half mile of those stations. There will be a public meeting scheduled for this spring.

For more information, please visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/embarckrichmondhwy/>. A PDF flyer about EMBARK is included with this issue of the *Mount Vernon Advisor*.

Update on General Assembly Activities

Virginia is a [Dillon Rule](#) State. As such, Fairfax County only has those powers specifically conferred, necessary or fairly implied derived by the General Assembly. It is important that the General Assembly enact Fairfax County's [legislative agenda](#) so that we may recoup our fair share of resources to support education, transportation, public safety, health and human services and many other issues. The Board of Supervisors receives frequent updates while our State representatives are in session. One bill, which weakens our ability to negotiate proffers has already passed the House and Senate. Proffers are essential to reduce the cost of new development on taxpayers by having the development pay for its impacts on school enrollments, traffic congestion, parks and other public infrastructure. Please contact the Governor and urge him to oppose [the legislation](#).

Here are additional updates on General Assembly activities:

- February 16 was "crossover" at the General Assembly (GA), which was the deadline for bills to pass their originating chambers and "cross over" to the opposite chamber. Crossover is traditionally viewed as "halftime" in the session.

- The County has two legislative initiatives this year, and both have passed the House and are headed to the Senate. One clarifies that juvenile law enforcement records can be released to facilitate participation in diversion programs, and the other provides that the \$250 penalty for a vehicle that is not properly registered and does not display Virginia plates may be charged annually to improve compliance (currently this is a one-time penalty).
- As a result of an agreement on the I-66 inside the Beltway project, announced by Governor McAuliffe last week, numerous bills aimed at blocking that project are no longer under consideration by the GA.
- On Sunday, February 21, the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees will report their respective budgets. After the full House and Senate adopt their budget proposals, each chamber will appoint a conference committee to resolve the differences. These negotiations will be where most of the major remaining unresolved statewide issues will be worked out, including funding for key County priorities like K-12 education, public safety and human services.

Second Saturdays Office Hours

On the second Saturday of each month except when the Board of Supervisors is in recess (August), I hold open office hours at the Lorton Library (9 to 11:30 a.m.) and at my Mount Vernon Governmental Center office (12:30 to 3 p.m.). If you would like to meet with me, I encourage you to contact my office manager, Donna Slaymaker, at 703-780-7518. I plan on these being brief, 15 – 20 minute conversations which could result in a longer subsequent meeting during the work week, if needed. I am happy to meet with walk-ins as time permits between appointments.

Quander Road Outfall Restoration Beginning in Spring

Fairfax County and I are committed to stabilizing and repairing an outfall channel near Quander Road and Dartmouth Drive to protect surface waters, private property and county infrastructure, restore native vegetation and stop substantial sediment loss that is threatening Dyke Marsh. The restoration has already been staked out, funded, and is awaiting contract award. For more information, visit http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/stormwater/projects/quander_road.htm.

Land Use Update

One of the major responsibilities of the Board of Supervisors is to make decisions on land use applications in Fairfax County. This list is not comprehensive, given the sheer number of them, but highlights upcoming decisions and applications of interest. Please contact my office for more information or a comprehensive list of applications.

- On February 16, the Board of Supervisors approved a request in the Winstead Manor community to permit more children in a home daycare, with a maximum number of nine children, based on concerns expressed by the homeowner's association.
- On February 17, a public hearing for SEA 97-V-061 will be coming before the Planning Commission. The Gunston Shell Station on Richmond Highway in Lorton is requesting to permit a service bay constructed on site to remain; to replace two underground fuel storage tanks, two fuel pumps, and one fuel canopy. <http://ldsnet.fairfaxcounty.gov/ldsnet/ZAPSMMain.aspx?cde=SEA&seq=4201470>
- On February 25, a public hearing for SE 2015-MV-019 will be going before the Planning Commission. Charles County Sand and Gravel Company, Inc is seeking to permit a heavy industrial use (concrete

batching plant) and an accessory maintenance/office building on Gunston Cove Road in Lorton.

<http://ldsnet.fairfaxcounty.gov/ldsnet/ldsdfw/4511846.PDF>

- Novus Property Holdings has filed a rezoning application to convert the free standing retail buildings south of Walmart to Fairview Drive into a planned residential mixed use, multifamily with 340 housing units. Public hearings for this application have not yet been scheduled.
<http://ldsnet.fairfaxcounty.gov/ldsnet/ZAPSMain.aspx?cde=RZ&seq=4211822>
- ExteNet Systems, Inc. has filed a 2232 application to install 24 distributed antenna system nodes in the Fort Hunt area in order to improve cellular phone and data connections. The antennas would be attached to the top of existing utility poles. This application is currently scheduled to go before the Planning Commission on March, 28, 2016. <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/2232/staffreports/>

Diversion First Program

Diversion First is a collaborative effort to reduce the number of people with mental illness in the county jail by diverting low risk offenders experiencing a mental health crisis to treatment rather than bringing them to jail. A basic jail diversion program has been developed with the following initial components in place, to be expanded and further developed over the next 3 to 5 years:

- **[Merrifield Crisis Response Center \(MCRC\)](#)**: This center operates as an assessment site where police are able to transfer custody of nonviolent offenders who may need mental health services to a CIT-trained officer or deputy assigned there, instead of taking them to jail. In less than a year, Fairfax County went from having a limited diversion process to launching the MCRC, mostly by leveraging existing resources.
- **[Crisis Intervention Team \(CIT\) Training](#)**: CIT training is ongoing for local law enforcement personnel. Fairfax County police officers and deputy sheriffs are receiving training to learn about the challenges of living with a mental illness and how to de-escalate crisis situations, both in the community and in the jail. CIT training is also aimed at changing the way law enforcement and the judicial system interact with people who have intellectual or developmental disabilities. CIT officers and deputies are trained to identify individuals who are experiencing an episode related to mental illness or disability. They can make an informed decision to take persons to the MCRC for assessment rather than arresting them and bringing them to the Adult Detention Center. Or they may be able to de-escalate the crisis and resolve the situation on the spot.
- **[Mobile Crisis Unit](#)**: The Diversion First initiative will add a second unit to increase the county's capacity to provide emergency mental health personnel in the field.
- **[Mental Health Docket](#)**: The Diversion First initiative aims to establish a Mental Health Docket in the Fairfax County Court system.

For more information about the Diversion First Program, visit

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/diversionfirst/diversion-first-references.htm>.

Snowzilla Summit

Board of Supervisors Chairman, Sharon Bulova and I have asked county staff to invite officials from the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) to meet with county staff and members of the BOS on March 1st to discuss Snowzilla 2016. Chairman Bulova and I praised VDOT and its contractors, as well as county staff responsible for snow removal, and believe everyone did a very good job both preparing for and performing

snow removal actions. However, as with all major events, we acknowledged that there were things that could have been done better, and a meeting with all the major players would give everyone an opportunity to address concerns, and to brainstorm solutions for Mount Vernon District. I introduced [two board matters](#). The first, seeks out innovative ways to clear sidewalks and bus stops. The second explores ways that developments on bond can have their streets cleared more quickly.

I hope you will let me know if you have an issue you feel should be addressed. I will collect input from the Mount Vernon District for inclusion at the Snowzilla Summit discussions.

McNaughton Park

Groundbreaking ceremonies were held on January 30th, for the Fairfax County Park Authority's major renovation of the baseball fields at McNaughton Park (5320 Pole Road). The public was invited to these brief ceremonies featuring local officials, members of the Park Authority Board and the athletic community.

This Fairfax County park has been home to the Woodlawn Little League (WLL) since the 1960s, and the baseball complex is in need of major upgrades in order to meet current athletic field standards. Work will include the demolition of the four existing fields and facilities, site re-grading and construction of four new lighted and irrigated diamond fields – a 90-foot diamond, one 60/70-foot diamond with a grass infield, one 60/70 diamond with a skinned infield and one 60-foot diamond with a skinned infield. Amenities will include covered dugouts, bullpens, batting cages, bleachers and fencing. A 173-space parking lot will also be added. This will be a state-of-the-art facility that meets the needs of young athletes for years to come.



Supervisor Storck addressing the crowd at the Groundbreaking Ceremony at McNaughton Park, January 30th
© Fairfax County Park Authority



© Fairfax County Park Authority

Utility connections will also be provided for future restrooms and a concession stand. This will allow for a Park Authority partnership with WLL for construction of these additional facilities when funding becomes available. Work is expected to be completed by December 2016 with the fields reopening for play in April 2017.

Urban Forest Management in Fairfax County

Fairfax County strives to enhance the quality of life in our community by ensuring the vitality of the urban forest and preserving the natural environment. As part of this, the Board of Supervisors has authorized a pest management program. The current year program will come to the BOS for approval on March 1st. Many environmentalist have expressed concerned about the efficacy of this program, and whether the BOS should continue aerial spraying of *Bacillus thuringiensis* (*Bt*) to kill leaf-eating insects, or focus instead on invasive species removal.

For more information about forest insect pests, contact the Forest Pest Branch at **703-324-5304**, **TTY 711** or by [e-mail](#).

Boards, Authorities and Commissions

The Board of Supervisors has several board, authority, commission or committees (BAC) that provide an excellent opportunity for civic education and engagement. Each Board member has a representative on the committees and the list below are currently vacant for the Mount Vernon District:

- Airport Advisory Committee
- Fairfax Area Disability Services Board
- Oversight Committee on Drinking and Driving

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.

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!
