



Mount Vernon Advisor
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon
August 2017



Sign up for the Mount Vernon Advisor



Dear Neighbors,
It's been a hot and humid month, as Virginia summers are known for, but I hope you've taken advantage of the many great activities in the Mount Vernon District to keep cool. Maybe you took a trip to the swimming pool, or grabbed a cold drink at the second annual Workhouse Brewfest, which was another great success for the county and district. Perhaps you embraced the heat and biked, hiked or relaxed instead. Regrettably or happily for many of us, we are now feverishly preparing our children for their August 28th back to school start.

Community involvement and activism have always defined our District's strength. My staff and I witnessed this firsthand with the great turnouts for National Night Out (NNO) at over twenty events around the district. NNO is such a great opportunity to keep the bonds between our communities and local police connected and strong, and this year was no exception. Our communities came together to show their vigilance in keeping their neighborhoods safe - and enjoyed ice cream, moon bounces and pizza as well!

I am also delighted to announce the completion of the Richmond Highway widening project through Fort Belvoir, which was celebrated earlier this month at a ribbon-cutting ceremony. This project improved approximately 3.6 miles of road between Jeff Todd Way and Telegraph Road, and will improve the quality of life of all those who traverse it. Widening Richmond Highway and better connecting our communities generally are intensely collaborative processes. This project required \$150 million of federal funding, VDOT planning, oversight and contracting and FCDOT planning and support.

Located on this newly widened Richmond Highway section, is the recently completed Belvoir Square apartments. I had the pleasure of attending the grand opening of this five story, 282 unit building. The development includes numerous amenities and leasing has gone very well. On the Lee District side of our shared portion of North Kings Highway, we are fortunate enough to welcome the fourth Bob & Edith's Diner in the Huntington Station shopping center. I greatly enjoyed the food at its grand opening and hope many of you will find time to enjoy as well. Local businesses are an integral, vibrant part of our community, and I am very pleased with the improvements and successes that our newest members are having.

But perhaps the most heartwarming occurrence of all this past month was our community meeting

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a couple of weeks ago regarding the drug-related double homicide off of Pohick Road. It was a reminder of just how connected, caring and driven the residents of Mount Vernon District truly are, especially when faced with troubling matters. The community meeting was a great success, with an astonishing 100+ residents in attendance at Pohick Church, who graciously hosted it. Detectives and police officers showed empathy and openness to the community's concerns, making very clear the strong bond we share with our local police force.

Communication is the key for all of us in making a difference and stopping crime. We need you to call the police non-emergency line (703.691.2131) when something seems odd, organize or support a watch group in your neighborhood, ask for increased police patrols when there is on-going suspicious activity and, most importantly, reach out and connect with your neighbors. While Fairfax County continues to have the lowest crime rate for a jurisdiction of its size, crime still occurs, sadly enough. It is the strength, heart and activism of this district we live in that can make a resounding difference in reducing it.

Respectfully yours in public service,



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

August 2017 Activities:

- Phone calls: 974
- Meetings: 24
- Hosted meetings: 21



Mount Vernon District Staff
Donna Slaymaker, Allison Miessler,
Christine Morin, Betsy Slaymaker, Tae Choi

Welcome back to our summer intern, VCU student Betsy Slaymaker.

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

Office Hours

Monday - Wednesday, Friday:
8:30 am - 5 pm
Thursday: 8:30 am - 7:30 pm

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



Independent Police Auditor and Civilian Review
Panel Fully Operational



[County Civilian Review Panel](#) (CRP) are now fully operational and ready to receive feedback from members of the public. The Civilian Review Panel's Bylaws may be viewed [here](#). While the Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD) is highly trained and exceptionally professional, incidents can occur that cause a strain between the police department and the residents they so admirably serve and protect. With the establishment of the IPA and CRP, we hope that our residents will use these tools as necessary, in order to voice any complaints they may have with local law enforcement through an outside agency, and with the intention of enhancing trust, accountability and transparency in the community.

Through these new groups residents can file a complaint or request a review of an already completed FCPD investigation of alleged police misconduct. The IPA handles reviews of officer-involved shootings, use of force, deaths while in custody, along with providing reports and making public recommendation concerning polices, training, and practices. The CRP handles reviews of misconduct by an officer and alleged abuses of authority. Examples of complaints and cases the Civilian Review Panel may review are:

- Use of abusive, racial, sexual or ethnic language by an officer
- Discrimination or harassment based on a person's race, color, religion, sex, nationality, marital status, familial status, age or disability
- Reckless endangerment of a detainee or person in custody

You may request a review or file a complaint [here](#). Your review or complaint will then be directed to the appropriate office. The Office of the Independent Police Auditor also provides administrative support for the Civilian Review Panel. They can be reached at (703) 324-3459, and are located at 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 233A, Fairfax, VA 22035.

Backpack Donation Drive & Gum Springs Back to School Event



Just in time for the school year, our backpack donation drive, co-hosted with the Fairfax County Fire Department, was a great success! The education and support of all our students is important and starting off the school year with the tools they need is critical. We would like to give a sincere thank you to everyone who participated in the drive and donated school bags. The donated bags will find their way to Mount Vernon schools and students.

Our neighbors, at the Islamic Circle of North America, donated 200 backpacks to the drive! Thank you for their tremendous support.

The annual Gum Springs Back to School event, co-hosted with the Fairfax County Police Department, Sheriff's Office, Fire & Rescue Department, Gum Springs Community Center and many other agencies and vendors was a huge success!

Approximately 115 children got free haircuts, around 300 backpacks from the backpack donation drive were distributed, and close to 200 people participated in the event.

Thank you to all of the agencies, organizations, and businesses who made this event possible.



Short Term Rental Survey

Fairfax County is working to create proposed zoning rules for what are called short-term rentals. These are homes, condos and apartments rented out for less than 30 days on websites like Airbnb, Homeaway, VRBO, FlipKey, or Roomarama.

We would like your feedback to help us develop our proposal. Please take this short, 12-question [survey](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/short-term-rentals) by August 31, 2017:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/short-term-rentals>

The regulations may address:

- Where these rentals would be allowed in the county
- How often they could be rented out
- What types of properties could be rented out
- How many people would be allowed to stay in a property at any one time

Please attend our community meetings, where staff will present updated survey results and take any questions and comments. **The meeting in red is located in our district.**

- **September 5, 2017 7:00pm** - Hunter Mill District Community Room, 1801 Cameron Glen Drive, Reston, VA
- **September 13, 2017 7:00pm** - South County Government Center, 8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, VA
- **September 25, 2017 7:00pm** - Dranesville District Community Room, 1437 Balls Hill Road, McLean, VA

For more information, including future public meeting dates, visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/short-term-rentals.htm>, or call the Zoning Administration Division at 703-324- 1314, TTY 711.

Displaying House and Business Numbers

While it may seem like an insignificant issue, displaying your address numbers is an important topic. This month, make sure your address numbers are in the front of your property and clearly visible from the street. It's important for a number of reasons:

- In an emergency, someone might need to find a house or building immediately
- It's convenient for all of us when looking for a residence or business during daily life
- It's the law! The Virginia Maintenance Code requires that 'all buildings have approved address numbers placed in a position to be plainly legible and visible from the street or road fronting the property.'

Be sure that your address numbers are also a minimum of four inches tall and in a contrasting color from their background.



Displaying House Numbers

Do you know about Fairfax County's rules for displaying addresses?

- ◆ The Virginia Maintenance Code regulates the display of addresses
- ◆ The address numbers must be clearly visible from the street, in front of a property
- ◆ The address may contain numbers or alphabetic letters
- ◆ The address must be a minimum of four inches tall
- ◆ To make sure the address is visible, it must be in a contrasting color from its background.



To report a possible violation OR for more information contact:



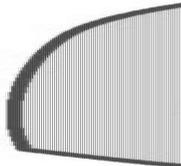
Fairfax County Department of Code Compliance
12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035
Phone: 703-324-1300, TTY 711
Web: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/code



To request this information in an alternate format, call the Department of Code Compliance.

This Fairfax County, VA Publication (published September 2014) summarizes a few regulations. See relevant codes for specific requirements.

GrandInvolve Seeks Volunteers



The school year is just around the corner and GrandInvolve is seeking older adults to serve as mentors, reading helpers, math helpers and classroom assistants for children in need. The volunteer program has brought older members of the community into the classrooms of Fairfax County's Title I elementary schools, creating meaningful and lasting contact between people of different generations and cultures. It's a rewarding experience that greatly benefits young students, families and the community, and there is no experience necessary - just a desire to make a difference.

GrandInvolve, a volunteer program that has received the Governor's Community Volunteer Award, had over 100 volunteers at 6 different schools in 2016-17, and contributed thousands of hours of service in the classroom. The GrandInvolve Action Team of Mount Vernon plans to expand to cover all Title 1 Elementary schools in our district this school year.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact info@grandinvolve.org. More information is available on their website located [here](#).

Huntington Levee Update



On August 16th I put on my vest and hardhat (safety first!) and paid a visit to the site of the Huntington Levee Project, where I talked with staff members and evaluated the progress made so far. I checked out the ground level, where concrete is currently being poured. The levee and pumping station are critical for protecting homes and property from flooding in the Huntington neighborhood. The good news is the project remains on schedule and on budget for a spring 2019 completion.

Richmond Highway Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



I was honored to attend the Richmond Highway Widening dedication ceremony on August 2nd.

Affordable Housing Survey



Having an affordable place to live is an important part of life for everyone in this district, whether they're individuals or families. It's a big issue in Fairfax County, considering we're one of the most expensive areas in the nation when it comes to housing. The county will also need many more affordable housing options in the coming years in order to sustain job growth. For these reasons we value your opinion and want your voice to be heard.

Please share your thoughts, ideas and concerns with us by taking this survey [here](#) so that we can better understand housing needs in the district. You can find out more about the survey [here](#), and become familiar with our community-wide housing strategic plan [here](#).

The Online Survey deadline is currently extended to August 31st.

Fairfax County Executive Hiring Survey

Fairfax County will be searching for its new county executive after September 15th, when current County Executive Ed Long retires. Please



[take this brief survey](#) and share your thoughts. What should the county look for in its next executive? What should be prioritized? We look forward to hearing your opinions and concerns.

The survey closes on Wednesday, August 30th.

Multiple Dwelling Unit Compliance

Multiple Dwellings

Section 2-501 of the Zoning Ordinance limits the number of dwelling units allowed on a residential lot to one (1). If you notice any activity in your neighborhood related to multiple occupancy, too many people, an excessive number of vehicles, separate entrances on a house, or more than one kitchen at a home on a residential property, you may contact the Department of Code Compliance (DCC) to file a complaint. For more information, please visit the DCC website by clicking [here](#).



Multiple Occupancy

Do you know about Fairfax County's zoning rules related to limitations on the occupancy of a dwelling unit?

- Sect. 2-502 of the Fairfax County Zoning Ordinance establishes that a dwelling unit may be occupied by not more than one (1) of the following:
 - ♦ One family, which may consist of one (1) person OR two (2) or more persons related by blood or marriage with any number of natural children, foster children, step children or adopted children, plus no more than two (2) roomers or boarders unrelated to the family.
 - ♦ Two (2) single parents with not more than a total of six (6) of their dependent children.
 - ♦ Up to four (4) persons not related by blood or marriage.
 - ♦ A group residential facility.
 - ♦ A group housekeeping unit, which may consist of not more than ten (10) persons, which requires approval of a special permit by the Board of Zoning Appeals.
 - ♦ A bed and breakfast, which requires approval of a special exception by the Board of Supervisors.
- A Home Occupation Permit is required when rooms are rented by boarders in a home. To apply for that permit, please contact the Zoning Permit Review Branch: 703-222-1082.

To report a possible violation:

Fairfax County Department of Code Compliance
12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035
Phone: 703-324-1300, TTY 711
Web: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/code



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Farmers Markets Now Open



2017 Fairfax County Farmers Markets

Wednesday

McCutcheon/MV



8:00 am – noon May 3 – Dec 13
Sherwood Library, 2501 Sherwood Hall Lane

Oak Marr

8:00 am – noon May 3 – Nov 15
Oak Marr Rec Center, 3200 Jermantowne Road

Wakefield

2:00 pm – 6:00 pm May 3 – Oct 25
Wakefield Park, 8100 Braddock Road

Thursday

Annandale

8:00 am – noon May 4 – Nov 16
Mason District Park, 6621 Columbia Pike

Herndon



8:00 am – 12:30pm April 20 – Nov 9
Old Town Herndon, 700 Block of Lynn St.,
By the Red Caboose

Government Center

3:00 – 7:00 pm May 4 – Oct 26
*CLOSED for Celebrate Fairfax set up June
Fairfax County Government Center,
12000 Government Center Pkwy

Friday

McLean

8:00 am – noon May 5 – Nov 17
*CLOSED for McLean day set up May 20
Lewinsville Park, 1659 Chain Bridge Road

Kingstowne

4:00 – 7:00 pm May 5 – Oct 27
In the Giant parking lot, 5870 Kingstowne Towne Center

Saturday

Burke *New Extended Season!

8:00 am – noon April 29 – Dec 16
VRE parking Lot, 5671 Roberts Parkway

Reston



*New Extended Season!

8:00 am – noon April 29 – Dec 9
*CLOSED for Multicultural festival September 23
Lake Anne Village Center, 11401 North Shore Drive

Sunday

Lorton



9:00 am – 1pm May 7 – Nov 12
VRE parking lot, 8990 Lorton Station Blvd.



Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) EBT cards can now be used at select Fairfax County Farmers Markets!

We will match up to \$20 per market visit for FREE fruits and veggies!

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/farmersmarkets | 703-642-0128



If accommodations or alternative formats are needed, please call 703-324-8563 at least 10 working days before an event. TTY 703-803-3354

Mount Vernon Nights Summer Concerts



This is the last weekend to take part in the Mount Vernon Nights Summer Entertainment Series! Thank you to our Board appointees who volunteered to emcee and introduce the bands. The concerts provide an opportunity to enjoy free, public concerts featuring 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 6:00 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, click [here](#)

You can catch [other concerts](#) hosted at several Fairfax County parks this summer!

Office Building Repurposing Community Meeting

Community Meeting for Office Building Repurposing Comprehensive Plan Amendment
Monday, September 25, 2017 from 7-9 p.m.
Bailey's Upper Elementary School - 6245 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church

Come to the community meeting on September 25 and learn about the proposed comprehensive plan amendment that will facilitate the repurposing of vacant office buildings in mixed-use activity centers and industrial areas.

What is office building repurposing?

- Repurposing means a change in use such as a conversion from office to residential, live/work, institutional, public facilities, or light industrial uses.

What will the plan amendment do?

- Facilitate the timely repurposing of vacant structures into occupied uses
- Achieve a more efficient review process while ensuring community involvement
- Add to the economic success of Fairfax County

For more information, please contact Sophia Fisher, project manager, at 703-324-1349 or sophia.fisher@fairfaxcounty.gov or visit the project website: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/fairfaxforward/pa/officebuildingrepurposing/>

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:

- **Health Care Advisory Board**

To be responsible for a periodic review of a comprehensive health plan for the County; to initiate an on-going health care information process in coordination with local, regional, State and Federal agencies.

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](#).