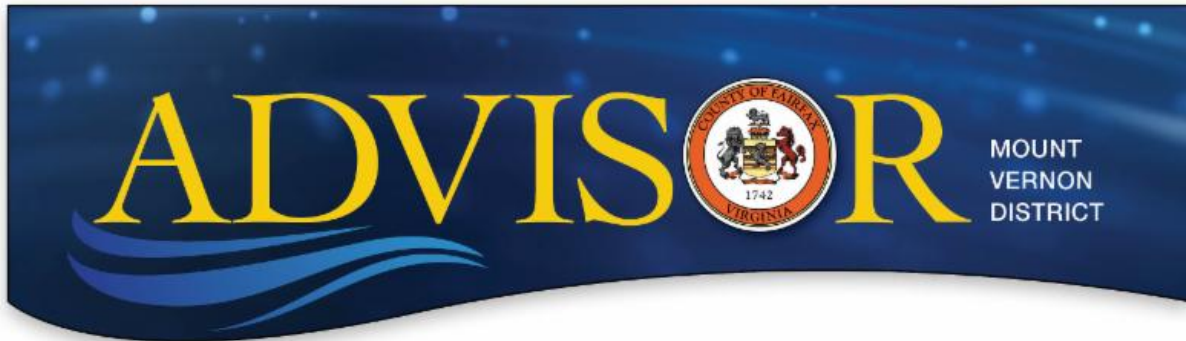


December 2020



Neighbors,

Just like every year, COVID-19 or not, the **season of thanksgiving is followed by the season of giving**. While there will be an even greater tendency to **order holiday gifts on-line**, it is especially important this year that we **support our local and small businesses!**

Harder hit than most may be the **businesses located at the Belle View Shopping Center**. Truly **small, local owned businesses**, these owners survived rebuilding from the **2019 fire** and continue to persevere through **decreased foot**



*2019 photo, so Nick and Diego are missing, but you can see their shining faces in the team photo below!
(photo taken pre-COVID-19)*

traffic due to the pandemic. Whether you are up for a **stroll through the shops** or **ordering a gift card** from one of the restaurants, this holiday your purchases will truly **help our neighborhood businesses** to keep the **heart of our community beating**.

Of course, there are also **many other local and small businesses** struggling in our community, from the **Workhouse Arts Center** and **Gunston Hall**, to the **Shoppes at Lorton Valley, Saratoga Plaza, Sacramento, Woodlawn and Hollin Hall Shopping Centers**, to name a few. I hope you will use your holiday purchases to **assist our neighbors and buy more locally!**

There are several organizations in our neighborhoods looking for **contributions to help those in need**. Here at the **Mount Vernon Police Station and Fire Station** (as well as all other stations) **new, unwrapped toys, books and games** are being collected for the **Santa Ride (until 9 a.m. December 7)** and **Toys for Tots (until December 13)**, respectively. Community organizations such as **United Communities** and the **Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC)** are collecting for a variety of needs for their clients.

Looking for a special and unique gift this holiday? Consider making a **donation to Save River Farm!** Regular donations to the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust (NVCT) River Farm Fund are **fully tax-deductible. 80% of the funds will go to land acquisition**, 10% for advocacy related to River Farm, and 10% for administration of the campaign.

However you choose to give, **I wish you a bright, peaceful and merry holiday season!**

On another note, **TEAM MVD and I are sorry to announce** we are **unable to host our annual Holiday Open House**, but get ready for our **34th Annual Mount Vernon Town Meeting** to be held **virtually on Saturday, February 6, 2021!**

Respectfully yours in public service,

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



Sorry we had to cancel this year. See you all
at our 2021 Holiday Open House!
(photo taken pre-COVID-29)

Visit our Website

Quick Links

[About Supervisor Storck](#)
[District Staff](#)
[District Accomplishments](#)
[District Representatives](#)

[Boards, Authorities and Commissions](#)
[Mount Vernon Advisor Archives](#)
[Emergency Management Preparedness](#)
[District Videos](#)

Para **subscribirse para nuestro boletín en español** o si conoce a alguien quien quiera subscribirse, o **para hablar con un hispanohablante**, comuníquese con **Diego Rodríguez Cabrera** a su preferencia, por teléfono al (703) 619-4339 o por correo electrónico: diego.rodriguezcabrera@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Save River Farm

The **Save River Farm Campaign** has taken off and is gaining momentum. Not only have **Governor Ralph Northam and Chairman Jeff McKay** joined our efforts to **Save River Farm**, but the **Attorneys General of both DC and Virginia are investigating** the American Horticultural Society (AHS) and the sale.



The **Governor's strong letter of support** requests that the American Horticultural Society (AHS) Board **preserve River Farm for public use**, or **sell it to a public entity** for a **fair and reasonable price**. He also stated that the property should **not be sold to the highest bidder for residential housing**.

The **Attorneys General** are investigating the **tax credits taken** by the non-profit with regard to the legality of the charitable organization **selling the property for a profit** and the **intent of the gift from Enid A. Haupt** with her request that **River Farm remain open to the public**. [Read the Virginia Attorney General letter...](#)

I continue to meet regularly with the AHS Board to keep an open dialogue for opportunities for a partnership. **Join our the cause today** and help [Save River Farm!](#)

Upcoming In-Person & Virtual Events

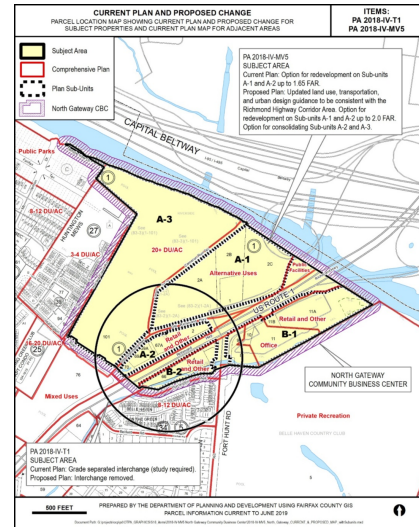
- [Farmers Markets Open](#)
- Dec 5: [Secure Shred Event](#) - 7 a.m.
- Dec 6: [SwanFall at Mason Neck State Park](#) - 2 p.m.
- Dec 8: [South County Federation Meeting](#) - 7 p.m.

- Dec 8: [BRT Virtual Year-End Update \(English\)](#) - 7 p.m.
- Dec 9: [BRT Virtual Year-End Update \(Spanish\)](#) - 7 p.m.
- Dec 16: [FCPD Mount Vernon Police District Virtual Town Hall Meeting](#) - 5 p.m.
- Dec 16: [Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations Meeting](#) - 7 p.m.
- Dec 18: [BRT Station Design Survey Closes](#)
- Dec 24 & 25: County Government Offices Close at Noon on Dec 24
- Jan 1: County Government Offices Closed

Land Use

North Gateway

On December 1, the **Board of Supervisors (BOS)** approved **Plan Amendment #2018-IV-MV5** for the **North Gateway Commercial Business Center (CBC)**, and the corresponding Plan Amendment 2018-IV-T1. These plan amendments are the culmination of a **truly community-driven process** that began back in 2009 when the **Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Association (MVCCA)**, representing the greater Mount Vernon community, **spearheaded changing the Comp Plan language to eliminate the proposed 495 "clover leaf interchange."** They have **continued to push over the years** and I am pleased to have brought this **long-time, strongly advocated community objective** to fruition. Thank you to the **MVCCA, Katherine Ward, Jon Kandel, the Montebello community and so many others** for their advocacy on the HATS Interchange study and the North Gateway amendment. Special thanks also needs to go to **former planning commissioner Earl Flanagan**.



The plan amendments involve **proposed changes to the land use and transportation recommendations** for Sub-units A-1 and A-2, and potential **options for parcel consolidation** with Sub-unit A-3 of the North Gateway CBC, **urban design and area-wide recommendations** for the entire CBC, and proposed **removal of a planned grade-separated interchange** located at the intersection of **Huntington Avenue and Richmond Highway**.

zMOD

Also on December 1, the BOS authorized advertisement of **public hearing for new and modernized ZO (zMOD)**. The **Planning Commission public hearing** will be held on **January 28, 2021, at 7:30 p.m.**, and the **BOS public hearing** will be held on **March 9, 2021, at 4:00 p.m.**

The **newly revised consolidated draft** for the **Zoning Ordinance Modernization project** can be [found here...](#)

zMOD Consolidated Draft Project Update Video - [English](#) | [En Español](#)

Site Specific Plan Amendments (SSPA)

Planning Commission Public hearings for the **South County SSPA Nominations** were held on **November 18 and 19**. During their markup session on **December 2**, the **Commission made their final recommendations** on which SSPA nominations to **add to the 2021 Comprehensive Plan Amendment Work Program**.

Of the **Mount Vernon SSPA Nominations**, **four of the six nominations** were recommended, based on **County staff and the Mount Vernon SSPA Task Force recommendations**:

- **WMATA Huntington Metro** (PC19-MV-005)
- **Mount Vernon Hwy** (PC19-MV-003)
- **2550 Huntington Ave/"The Parker"** (PC19-MV-011)
- **2806 Popkins Lane** (PC19-MV-009)

One Mount Vernon Nomination was **NOT recommended** to be adopted to the Work Program: **10208 Old Colchester Road** (PC19-MV-006).

Finally, the **Planning Commission voted 9-1 in favor of deferring the decision** for the **Engleside Trailer Park/Ray's Mobile Home Colony (PC19-MV-002)** to **December 9**. I wish to **extend my appreciation to Commissioners Walter Clarke & Tim Sargeant**, as well as the other Planning Commissioners, for having a **spirited and civil debate** around **very real and pressing issues** that face our County on **affordable housing and preserving the livelihoods** of the residents of this manufactured home community. It is important that we **leave no one behind** as we redevelop the Richmond Highway corridor, and there are **no easy answers** on how to best approach that. I am committed to **working with my fellow Board colleagues** and with the **affected communities** on resolving these issues going forward.

Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation (SFDC)

As you may know, **SFDC hired a new Executive Director, Evan Kaufman**, at the beginning of 2020 to bring a **new focus to the organization**, one that **prioritizes implementation of the recently adopted EMBARK Comprehensive Plan**. SFDC will employ a **Four-Point Approach Model** to focus on **stimulating economic development and quality of life enhancements** in all future projects along the Richmond Highway corridor. The four areas of focus include **economic development, placemaking and promotions, design and partnerships**.

The organization has identified **Economic Development & Placemaking** as the Primary Areas of Focus in this four point approach. SFDC will **selectively target "high impact" sites for redevelopment** by partnering with property owners and developers to **offer pre-development services**, in collaboration with County planning staff, the EDA, the **Mount Vernon & Lee District Supervisors**, and others. In addition, SFDC plans to partner with the County, private businesses, and others to **re-purpose and re-imagine the use of certain spaces**, in a broader effort to bring more **vibrancy and sense of place** to the corridor, with the hopes of **further re-imagining our future "Main Street."** [Learn more...](#)

Transportation

We Want Your Input on the Richmond Highway BRT!

Next Meetings December 8 & 9

Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) will host two **virtual community meetings on Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2020, at 7 p.m. (English)** and **Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2020, at 7 p.m. (Español)** to provide a **year-end update on land development and transportation activities** along the Richmond Highway corridor. [More information and to register...](#)

Mount Vernon Community Meetings December 14 & 19

I will be hosting **two more community meetings on BRT station design** and a **community conversation on the BRT project**. These meetings will be held virtually on **Monday, December 14 at 6:30 p.m. and Saturday, December 19 at 10:00 a.m.** in both **English and Spanish**.

[Project information...](#)

[Meeting information and registration coming soon...](#)

BRT Station Design Survey - Provide your feedback through December 18!

We encourage you to **review the two station design concepts** and **take a survey to tell us what you think!** At the link above, you can walk through the draft concepts and view slides from the virtual meetings on November 4 and 5.

The Weather Outside if Frightful...Well, It May be Soon!

Snow removal on streets and sidewalks in the County varies on where you live. To **help residents navigate** who plows their roads, when they need to shovel sidewalks and even the **latest snow forecast**, the County has a **comprehensive Guide to Snow webpage**. This page also links to **VDOT resources**, including the VDOT Plow Tracker!



Environment

Food Waste Composting Program

Want to **cut down on your solid waste**, but not ready to start your own backyard composting? **You can now drop off food waste** for composting at the [I-95 Landfill Complex](#).

How the program works:

- Set up a **plastic container with a lid** in the kitchen.
- Place **all food scraps** into the container.
- **When the container is full**, or when convenient, **take the container to the I-95 Landfill Complex**, 9850 Furnace Road, Lorton, in the recycling area. There is **no cost and you do not have to wait in line**, if you are only dropping off recyclable items.

If its food, it can be composted!

- Fruit and vegetables
- Nuts and shells
- Bread, rice, pasta
- Animal proteins, bones, eggshells
- Cheese and dairy products
- Coffee grounds, filters, tea, tea bags
- **Soiled paper food service items or those labelled compostable**

Also for reference: [Compost Right Fact Sheet](#)

For **more information** call I-95 at 703-690-1703 or email Recycling@FairfaxCounty.gov. **Learn more about licensed companies** that will collect your food waste.



Plastic-Free Shipping with Amazon

Amazon introduced **Frustration-Free Packaging** in 2008, an innovation **designed to reduce waste** and improve customer experience with easy-to-open, **100% recyclable packaging**. Since then the program has grown to include a wide range of **initiatives designed to optimize packaging** used in fulfillment centers and by working with manufacturers worldwide to help **develop sustainable packaging for online fulfillment**. [Learn more...](#)

In the News

North Gateway Area of Richmond Highway Moves One Step Closer to Transformation

When you cross I-495 from Alexandria into Fairfax County on Route 1 or take the I-495 offramp going south, you are **greeted by an eclectic mix** of car dealerships, abandoned buildings, old motels and high rise apartments or offices. It's not exactly an **ideal place to ride your bike or walk your dog**. [Read more in Alexandria Living Magazine...](#)

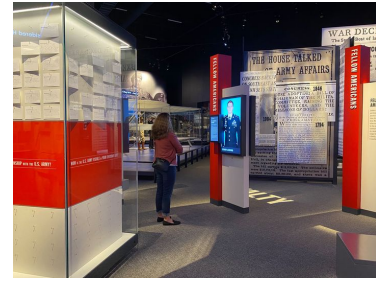


Police & Fire Tribute Honors Emergency Responders

Twenty outstanding police officers and first responders from Fairfax County and Fort Belvoir were recognized at the **13th annual Police & Firefighters Tribute** hosted by **Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce** and presented by Inova Mount

Army Museum Opens at Fort Belvoir

The **rain and clouds on Veteran's Day**, and the overcast of the pandemic, provided a solemn backdrop for the **opening of the National Museum of the United States Army** in Fort Belvoir. This museum is the **first to tell the entire history** of the nation's oldest military service, immersing visitors in the story of the U.S. Army through **galleries, moving exhibits, a multisensory 300-degree theater, rooftop garden, and hundreds of historic treasures** rarely or never-before-seen by the public eye. [Read more in the Mount Vernon Gazette...](#)



An NFL first: Meet the Virginia Woman and Football Coach Who Made History this Weekend

Mount Vernon high school graduate Callie Brownson made history on Sunday, becoming the **first woman to serve as a position coach in a regular-season NFL game**. Brownson is one of a **handful of female coaches** currently working in the NFL. Her normal duties **stretch across Cleveland's entire coaching staff**. [See more on WJLA...](#)

Community Information

Help Wanted: Fairfax Health District Hiring Weekend Contact Interviewers

The Fairfax Health District is **expanding its pool of contact tracing staff** and is actively **seeking weekend contact interviewers**. As COVID-19 cases increase in the Fairfax Health District, the **additional staff will be needed** in the efforts to effectively slow the spread of illness and **ensure the health and safety** of our community. [Learn more...](#)



Food for Fines

Help your neighbors and reduce your County Library fines by up to \$15 this December. **Donations of nonperishable food items** can be made at all currently-operating branches except Access Services. Each food item donated will **reduce library fines by \$1, up to a maximum of \$15** per account. Donations will be **accepted Dec. 1-31**. [Learn more...](#)

Learn Art at the Library: Origami with Amy How-To Video

The **Fairfax County Library team** has produced a **series of how-to-videos**, including origami, cooking, mask making and book discussions. [Learn more...](#)

Be Among the First to Join a New Explorers Program at Burke Lake

Don't miss the chance for your child to **join the Park Authority's newest nature club**. Join "**Junior Lakeside Explorers**" at Burke Lake Park. This new nature club is designed for children **age 5 to 7**. Kids will learn about the **wildlife that call the region's lakefront parks home**, and the nature topics will be geared to **meet some homeschool science requirements**. Topics will vary. [Learn more...](#)





Fairfax County is home to an **incredible and diverse group of artisan makers** – so much so that the Made in Fairfax initiative was born. The Made in Fairfax network aims to be a **one-stop-shop for maker businesses** and those who want to support them. The **new directory features** dozens of artisans who create a variety of products in the county like **custom furniture, baked goods, jewelry, and more.**

This holiday season (or any time of year, really!) **take "shop local" to new heights** by directly supporting the makers of these **gift-worthy products** – created right here in Fairfax County. Learn more...

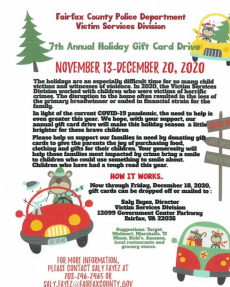
Help Students in Need in the Mount Vernon Area

The pandemic has **reduced many of the traditional ways** to help students at a time when **those in need are increasing** and resources to help are fewer. **Many students struggle to make ends meet**, challenges that have only increased during this pandemic and **worsened as winter approaches.** Social workers with the **Fairfax School's Homeless Liaison Office** created an **Amazon Wish List for basic needs.** From the warmth and comfort of your home, you can **help students in need** and have your **gifts delivered directly** (select delivery to "Bryant High School's Gift Registry Address").

In addition, in lieu of the **TEAM MVD annual food drive**, it has been brought to our attention that many are in **need of diapers of all sizes** for babies and young children in our area. **Please help us help them** by dropping off diapers at **our office between now and January 5!** Any and all sizes welcome.

Victim Services 7th Annual Holiday Gift Card Drive

As the holidays approach, it's important to **stop and reflect** on the **joy and blessings** in our lives while also being aware that there are **children in need.** In light of the current pandemic, the **need to help is even greater.** This year, as in years past, Victim Service Division worked cases involving **child victims and witnesses of domestic and sexual violence.** Many of these children will **not to get to celebrate holidays** this year due to the **financial burden** that comes with being a **victim of crime.** In the true spirit of the season, we ask you to please **join us in brightening the holidays** for our courageous children by participating in this drive. [Learn more...](#)



Child and Adult Masks Still Needed!

Our wonderful community has already **donated over 20,000 masks** to help keep people safe during the pandemic. The health department is still **seeking child and adult sized mask donations.** If interested in making a mask donation, contact Tejas Patel at 703-246-3553 or tpatel@volunteerfairfax.org. [More information...](#)



State Budget Includes Funding for Two More Staff at the Park

Thanks to the **Friends of Mason Neck State Park, local residents and elected officials,** Governor Northam has signed a Virginia state budget that includes **funding for two additional staff positions** at the park. The funding will enable the park to **alleviate longstanding problems**

caused by the **inability to hire sufficient staff.** [Read more...](#)

Important Safety Information

Shredding Event

Saturday, December 5, 7 a.m. – 11 a.m.
Gerry Highland Government Center
8350 Richmond Highway



The County Solid Waste Management Program will be hosting a **secure document shredding event on Saturday, December 5 from 7 a.m. – 11 a.m.** at the Gerry Highland Government Center. **Masks are required and social distancing measures will be in place for the safety of residents and event staff.**

The event is for Fairfax County residents only. Shredding events **start promptly at 7 a.m. and conclude at 11 a.m. Only cars in line by 11 a.m. will be served.** [Learn more...](#)

FCPD Virtual Town Hall Meeting

The **Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD)** is hosting **virtual town hall meetings** to debut their **new interactive GIS-based data dashboard** – a tool designed from community input and rooted in the principles of **transparency, fairness and impartial policing**. Key data points include arrests, citations and warnings. **FCPD training and policies** related to the data sets will be discussed. FCPD stated, "We look forward to implementing this additional layer of accountability and leveraging data analytics to continue to strengthen trust and confidence in your police department."

There are three police Districts that cover the Mount Vernon Magisterial District and they are listed below. Virtual town halls will begin at 5:00 p.m. To join a meeting, click the meeting links below.

- West Springfield District – November 24 - recorded
- **Mount Vernon District – December 16**
- **Franconia District – February 7**

These meetings will be **recorded and available to our community at a later date.** Any questions, please contact FCPDChiefsOffice@fairfaxcounty.gov.

December OEM Newsletter

Team MVD



Mount Vernon District Staff (clockwise): Donna Slaymaker, Nick Rinehart, Christine Morin, Sally Kidalov, Supervisor Dan Storck, Camela Speer, Volunteer Shirley Short, Abdul Shaban, Diego Rodriguez Cabrera.

November 2020 Activities:

- Phone calls: 875
- Meetings: 212

Office Hours

Monday - Wednesday, Friday:
8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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

Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Second Saturday Each Month (except August)
MV District Office: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Walk-ins and by appointment

Boards, Authorities and Commissions

Help **serve your community** by serving on a Fairfax County Board, Authority or Commission (BAC). Please ask your friends, neighbors and community members if they are willing to help serve Fairfax County.

A. Heath Onthank Award Selection Committee

The Committee serves to grant recognition for accomplishment of outstanding worth in advancing and improving public service in County by merit system employees. One year term with generally one meeting each spring.

There are **several At-Large positions** available as of September 2020 on County BACs.

- Affordable Dwelling Unit Advisory Board (Engineer/Architect Rep)
- Affordable Dwelling Unit Advisory Board (Lending Institution Rep)
- Alcohol Safety Action Program Local Policy Board (ASAP)
- Athletic Council (Women's Sports Alternate Rep)
- Board of Building and Fire Prevention Code Appeals (Design Professional)
- Civil Service Commission
- Engineering Standard Review Committee
- History Commission (Historian)
- Human Rights Commission
- Road Viewer Board
- Tenant Landlord Commission (3 openings - Citizen Member, Condo Owner, Landlord Member & Tenant Member)

[Learn more about these BACs...](#)

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](#). You can also **check out the County's Volunteer Management System for information** on these and **other volunteer opportunities near you**.

Visit our website

Mount Vernon District Office | 703-780-7518
MTVernon@fairfaxcounty.gov | FairfaxCounty.gov/MountVernon

STAY CONNECTED

