

February 2021



Neighbors,

African American history is Mount Vernon history with the **Quander family**, the **oldest documented African American family in the Country**, and **Gum Springs**, the **oldest African American community** in Fairfax County; we have much to **celebrate during Black History month** in the Mount Vernon District. This was **never more apparent** than this summer when we all marched together during the **Black Lives Matter Beyond the Walls March!** Read more below about **ways to celebrate and observe** Black History Month.



I invite you to **join us for a Mount Vernon District (MVD) annual tradition** – the 34th Annual Town Meeting and the first fully Virtual Town Meeting – on **Saturday morning, February 6, 2021, streaming on Channel 16 and Facebook!**

While 2021 will look different, we have been getting together for this **community-wide event** for too many years to **let COVID-19 stop us**. Like past years, we look forward to **engaging with hundreds of our highly informed, passionate residents**. This year will include **Q & A's with your local leaders**, special recognitions and updates District projects and priorities. The highlight of the morning will be a **"virtual flying tour" of all that is happening in the District** – this year from your own living room in your fuzzy slippers!

Speakers this year include: Board of Supervisors Chairman **Jeffrey C. McKay**, County Executive **Bryan Hill**, Mount Vernon District School Board Member **Karen Corbett Sanders**, Health Department Director **Dr. Gloria Addo-Ayensu**, Fort Belvoir Garrison Commander **Col. Joshua SeGraves** and Special Guests Congressmen **Gerry Connolly** and **Don Beyer**. Some will join us virtually and some in person, but all will provide **important updates and information**.

There are **many ways you can watch and participate** in this year's Town meeting, from **Facebook live, to interactive video streaming to listen only phone lines**; we have something for everyone. For information on these **various options, visit our website**.

Unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions, we are **unable to host** our very popular vendor **Exhibit Hall where residents** are able to connect with County and community service providers. We are, however, **providing our ever popular "Goodie Bags"** that will be filled with much of the **information typically found in the Exhibit Hall**, and even a few **giveaways!** Bags can be picked up outside our office by the front door **starting Monday, February 8**. We are located in the Mount Vernon Governmental Center at 2511 Parkers Lane. In addition, **all the information** included in the bags will be **posted to our website** shortly after the meeting.

Hope to "see" and listen to you all virtually at the 34th Annual Town Meeting!

Respectfully yours in public service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Owen Smith".

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



*Join us for the first all virtual Town Meeting
on February 6!*

COVID-19 Updates: The Board received a presentation from the Health Department today regarding **information and data on COVID-19 vaccinations**. [View the presentation here](#) and see **more COVID-19 updates below**.

FCPS Updates: You can view Mount Vernon **School Board Member Karen Corbett Sanders** [latest newsletter here](#).

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 suscribirse, 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.

Social Media

Do you follow us on **Facebook and Twitter**? We share **timely and relevant** information, as well as **have some fun** on our social media accounts.

You can also **now follow us on Instagram!**

We hope you join us in the "socialsphere"!

- **Facebook:** @SupervisorDanStorck
- **Twitter:** @DanStorck
- **Instagram:** @SupDanStorck



NEW FEATURE - Pet Adoption Corner

Meet Wilcox the beagle! Wilcox's origin story is a complete mystery. He was **found as a stray** - with a microchip! But all our detective work on the **microchip led to nothing**. Neither the implant facility, nor the owner info, and not even the animal information was registered! **Mystery.** No owner came forward for Wilcox, so now he's ready for



adoption. He's about a **year old and 50 pounds**. He's a nice boy who **looooves to be active!** Daily long walks to get his energy out will be a must! He **may also be a good running partner**, and we think he'd **really like hiking** - so many smells! We don't know his exact age, but we guess he's a young adult, and at almost 50 pounds he's a solid dude. He **doesn't have many manners** so get ready for a jumpy, mouthy, barky dog!! Hound lovers will **love Wilcox's baying bark**, and he employs it readily when he's happy, excited, hungry, smells something interesting, etc. Read more about [Wilcox](#), [other available pets](#) and [steps to adoption](#).

Community Champions Needed!

Help Restore Parkland at Mt. Vernon District Park and Paul Spring Stream Valley Park

Invasive plants prevent us from enjoying our forests and **degrade our natural ecosystems**. Ever stroll through **Mt. Vernon District Park or Paul Spring Stream Valley Park** and get stopped by **shrubs with thorns** or see trees collapsing under the **choking hold of heavy vines**? They may have been invasive species. Some of them, like multiflora rose and porcelain berry, **can completely swarm over a section of woods and block out everything else**.



However, **invasives can be thwarted**. The Fairfax County Park Authority has a **volunteer program that battles invasive species**, removing them and **replacing them with native species**.

Do you live near Mt. Vernon District Park or Paul Spring Stream Valley Park? Get involved in **protecting your local park** and help create **healthy wildlife habitat**. Volunteer for the **Invasive Management Area program** and become a leader in invasive plant removal. Even a **few hours on a single day** will help. Work with a team or on your own to help restore the natural area or park near you. **Students and scouts**, do you need to earn some community service hours? IMA is the program for you! **Call or email to get involved**: 703-324-8700, or parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov. [Learn more...](#)

Black History Month

20+ Ways To Celebrate Black History Month in the DC Area

The **African American experience** is intricately entwined in the **rich tapestry of Fairfax County's history** and in America's story. As you celebrate America's Black history this year, you'll have the opportunity to **visit sites around the region** in person, or online, to reflect on an **inspiring journey of hope, sacrifice, liberation, empowerment and beauty**.



Here are a **few places** that should be on your **"must see" list**, not just during Black History Month, but **any time throughout the year**. [Read more...](#)



County Libraries Sponsor Black History Events

Celebrate **Black History Month** virtually on **February 7 at 2 p.m.** with **Kiley Reid**, bestselling author of *Such a Fun Age*. "**Reid constructs a plot so beautifully intricate and real and fascinating that readers will forget it's also full of tough questions about race, class and identity....With this entertaining novel, Reid subverts our notions of what it means to write about race and class in America, not to mention what it means to write about love.**" —Washington Post

[Check out this and other FCPL events all month long...](#)

Upcoming In-Person & Virtual Events

- Feb 1 - 13: Mardi Gras at the Workhouse Arts Center
 - Feb 5: FREE Virtual Employment Expo for Job Seekers Age 50+ - 10 a.m.
 - Feb 6: 34th Annual Town Meeting - 9 a.m.
 - Feb 7: Black History Month with Kiley Reid - 2 p.m.
 - Jan 7: Dementia Friend Presentation - 4 p.m.
 - Feb 9: South County Federation Meeting - 7 p.m.
 - Feb 17: Flying Squirrels with Friends of Dyke Marsh - 7 p.m.
 - Feb 24: Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations Meeting - 7 p.m.
 - March 1: Virtual Mount Vernon Budget Town Meeting - 7 p.m.
-

Land Use



Hunting Creek Tributary at Fairchild Stream Restoration Project

The transformation of this area from a **washed out stormwater pipe runoff area** to a **well-engineered stream valley** is a sight to behold. Instead of an ugly blight destroying our community and washing away natural resources, we now have a **lovely, park-like area that residents will enjoy** for decades to come. Thank you to the **County stormwater management team** for the excellent planning, execution and **hundreds of plantings** to create this new natural area and to **preserve the natural springs of Spring Bank!** And, a **special thanks to resident Martin Tillet** and the **Spring Bank Community Association** for engaging and working with the County on this project.

The project was **substantially complete on January 13, 2021**. Additional landscaping work is scheduled for February 2021, consisting of **live stake trees and shrubs** to be installed along the stream banks. Maintenance mowing of the **newly installed native meadow** will be scheduled during the first few years of meadow establishment, as well as **continued management of non-native invasive plants** throughout the project area. [Visit the project webpage...](#)

Liberty Marketplace Announces Lidl as Anchor

Grocer

Elm Street Development announced last week that **Lidl**, **twice-ranked a Top-10 U.S. Grocer** by Food & Wine Magazine, will **anchor Lorton's Liberty Market** with a 30,000 square-foot store. Lidl (rhymes with "needle") offers customers the **highest quality fresh produce, flowers, meat, bakery items** and a wide array of household products at the lowest possible prices. Lidl produce is **brought in fresh each day** and features more than 100 high quality fresh fruit and vegetable options. An opening date will be announced at a later date. Liberty Market is the **commercial component of the 80-acre project called Liberty**, which is the transformation of the historic Lorton Reformatory (also known as Laurel Hill) into a **vibrant urban village**.

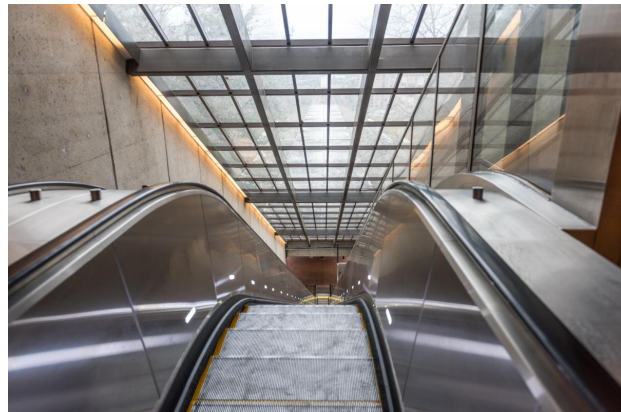
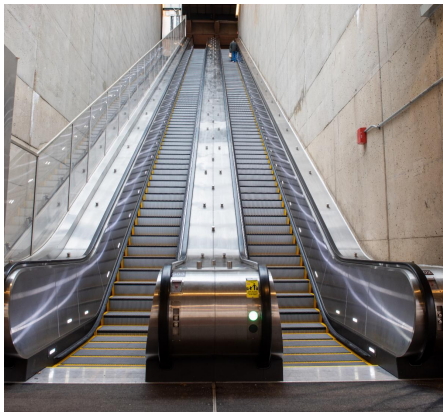


I am very **pleased to welcome Lidl** to the Lorton community and appreciate the **additional retail options** it will provide South County residents. With this announcement, we are all looking forward to seeing an **increase in interested merchants in Liberty Market**, leading to a **vibrant, walkable, and new community gathering hub**.

Transportation

Huntington Metro Station Update

The **elevator replacement project** at the Huntington Metrorail Station is **complete** and the **south entrance has reopened!**



Metro, AT&T, T-Mobile and Verizon Announce Wireless Service in Rail Tunnels Systemwide

Transit riders and visitors to the nation's capital now enjoy one of the **most connected wireless** experiences of any **rail system in the U.S.** with **coverage available in all tunnels**. The nation's major wireless carriers —**AT&T, T-Mobile, and Verizon**—and Metro today officially announced the **final milestone**, more than a decade in the making, to provide **wireless service** for those who use the Metrorail system. With **Metro's 100-mile tunnel network now connected to each wireless carrier's network**, customers can communicate or stream content throughout their journey from the **street to the station and in the train**. [Read more...](#)



Community Outreach

County Passes Trust Policy

Last week, Fairfax County became the **first Virginia jurisdiction** to pass an inclusive **Trust Policy**, which **ends voluntary information sharing and cooperation** with the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) by **all Fairfax agencies including the police**. This action formally adopts a **long-standing practice** of prohibiting County employees from cooperating with federal immigration agents — a **step aimed at**

addressing reports that some **undocumented immigrants** in the County have **avoided seeking help** during the coronavirus pandemic, out of **fear of being deported**.

Parks & Environment



Climate Action Needs You!

Did you know, **68 percent** of County residents believe that **individual citizens should do more to address climate change**? Climate change is a global problem, but it also stands to **impact us locally** and we have a responsibility to **address it head on**. That's why I am pleased to share some information with you about the **County's efforts** to create a **Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan**, or CECAP. [Read more...](#)

[Learn more about the County's CECAP efforts...](#)

Mason Neck State Park Welcomes New Chief Ranger

Meet Eric Percival who began work as Mason Neck State Park's Chief Ranger in January. Eric's chief function will be **law enforcement**, but he also expects to help out on park maintenance issues and **preserving the park's natural resources**. Eric was born in Woodbridge, earned a **degree in Forestry**, and worked at Leesylvania State Park before becoming a **police officer at Dulles Airport**. Eric's wife Sarah formerly was employed as the Chief Ranger at Leesylvania State Park. **Eric, Sarah and their two children** will live on the park property, where they'll have an **unmatched opportunity** to experience all that the park has to offer. Next time you're at the park, keep an eye out for Eric and **welcome him** to our **beautiful slice of nature**.



In the News

Fairfax County Park Authority Presents Preliminary Plans for North Hill Park

By the end of this year, a **new 12-acre park will open** at the new **North Hill development site**. At a recent virtual meeting, members of the Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) presented **details on North Hill park**. The park will be located off of Richmond Highway in Woodley Hills **between Dart Drive and Grandview Drive**, just south of St. Louis Catholic Church and Bryant Alternative High School. [Read more in Alexandria Living Magazine...](#)



Police Release Findings Of Speed Study At Richmond Highway Location

Police analyzed the **speed of drivers** at a location on **Richmond Highway**. The study recorded speeds on southbound Richmond Highway (Route 1) at **Belleview Avenue** for six days (Dec. 30 to Jan. 4) and northbound Richmond Highway at **Quander Road** for seven days (Dec. 22 to 28). At the **Belleview Road intersection**, the **highest recorded speed was 86 mph**. At the **Quander Road intersection**, the **highest speed was 92 mph**. The **speed limit** for both of these areas is **45 mph**. [Read more on the Patch...](#)

Dollar Tree to Open New Store at Former Rite Aid

Discount store Dollar Tree has filed permits to renovate and move

into the **former Rite Aid pharmacy at 6711 Richmond Highway**. According to construction bid descriptions and Fairfax County permits, Dollar Tree will start construction on its **new store in February**. Dollar Tree already has about a dozen stores in Southeastern Fairfax County and in Alexandria. [Read more in Alexandria Living Magazine...](#)



Small Projects Improve Local Parks

Fairfax County, contractor, and **volunteer work efforts** at **several South County locations** in the past week made small improvements to provide better experiences for park users. Tasks included removing invasive vines, channeling water drainage, and picking up trash as part of the National Day of Service for Martin Luther King Day. [Read more in the Connection...](#)

Community Information



Halcyon Incubator 2021 Opportunity Intensive

The County is supporting the Halcyon Incubator, a Georgetown-based **incubator for social enterprises** as they offer an **Opportunity Incentive cohort** to businesses who are **based in the DMV** and serve or are located in **economically distressed areas** identified as opportunity zones. **This life changing**

opportunity offers entrepreneurs:

- **Community** of like-minded social entrepreneurs
- Access to **mentorship, advising** and a deep network of supporters
- **\$5,000 stipend** per venture
- Pro bono support from **legal, technical, communications and business partners**
- Halcyon Incubator takes 0% equity for participation

[More information and to apply... \(apply by February 11\)](#)

Save River Farm

This **beloved community gathering space** that encompasses **27 acres of open space**, gardens and historic home along the Potomac River **need our help!** The American Horticultural Society has **listed it for sale** on the open market.



UPDATE: The **Fairfax County History Commission** voted unanimously to become **Partners of the Save River Farm Campaign**. In addition, the commission has **sent a letter** to the American Horticultural Society asking them to **ensure that the property is sold to an entity that will preserve public access to this historic asset**.

Join us today by **visiting Save River Farm** to learn more, sign the petition, **make a donation** and more!

Take this Short Survey and be Entered to Win

Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation (SFDC) is conducting a survey to help identify the **needs of entrepreneurs** in Fairfax County. SFDC aims to better serve entrepreneurs with **more targeted programming, increased capacity and access** to the resources needed to **build your business**. Please take **5 minutes to complete** the survey and be entered to **win a \$100 Amex Gift Card**. Your answers matter! The survey is available in English and Espanol. [Take the survey...](#)





Mardi Gras at the Workhouse

Let the good times roll at the Workhouse! We are thrilled to announce our **first-ever Mardi Gras celebration**, featuring two weeks of **family-friendly in-person and virtual events** to fight the winter blues. Join us **February 1-13** for a series of **free online Mardi Gras-themed workshops**. Safe in-person activities such as a **Drive-Through Parade** and **two Drive-In Comedy shows** are on sale now. Check out **cooking classes** too and stay tuned for more activities. Together, we can make this winter better with the arts. **Are you excited yet?** [For more information and tickets...](#)

Connection Newspapers - Our Local News Source - Needs Your Help

The pandemic has **crushed many newspapers** across the country, and **one of America's oldest newspapers** and its affiliated **Connection Newspapers, websites and digital media** is at risk. The Northern Virginia, DC and MD area's best read and **most trusted source for community news**, which includes the [Alexandria Gazette Packet](#), [Mount Vernon Gazette](#) and all Connection Newspapers in the metropolitan region. The pandemic has hit small businesses hard, which in turn has **reduced advertising revenue** that keeps these local newspapers alive to **provide hyperlocal news to residents**. [Read more and donate...](#) You can also sign up for a [free digital subscription](#).



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").

Supporting Our Seniors

Real Estate and Vehicle Tax Relief Extended

The County has **extended the deadline for real estate and vehicle tax relief**. The County's [tax relief program](#) provides **additional aid to seniors** above the age of 65 and **those who are permanently and totally disabled**. Qualified taxpayers may also be eligible for **tax relief for renters**.

Applicants must **file between January 1, 2021 and May 3, 2021**. Some exceptions may be available if applications are filed late **due to a hardship** which prevented the application from being filed on time.

Senior Citizen Tax Relief Workshops 2021

Although in-person workshops **will not be held for tax year 2021** because of the ongoing health risks **caused by COVID-19**, the Department of Tax Administration **mailed applications to residents in January**, which asked residents to sign an affidavit to **certify they still are within the program threshold** (short form), and return it to DTA. The preferred methods to return completed applications are listed on the application: **E-mail** at TaxRelief@fairfaxcounty.gov, by **fax** at 703-802-7595, or **first-class mail** to: Department of Tax Administration, ATTN: Tax Relief Section, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Suite 225.5, Fairfax, VA 22035-0032. **Residents in the program** also received a letter with their application that included **additional methods available to discuss their application** with DTA staff, which include virtual meetings by Zoom video conferencing, and by telephone (703-222-8234; TTY 711). **Real estate tax relief is available for older adults and people with disabilities who meet certain qualifications**. Qualified residents also **may be eligible** for car tax and rent relief. [For more information, visit](#), or call 703-222-8234; TTY 703-222-7594.



Free Virtual Fairfax County, Va. Employment Expo for Job Seekers Age 50+ Friday, Feb. 5, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Are you looking to **retool, recharge and reinvent yourself**? A new series of **virtual 50+ Employment Expos** can help mid-life and older job seekers **network with employers and training institutions** and learn job search skills.

This event is **free and open to job seekers who are age 50+** (thanks to support from The Morris & Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation and generous donors of the Jewish Council for the Aging). [Learn more and register to participate...](#)

Become a Dementia Friend

Dementia Friends gives people an **understanding of dementia** and the small things you can do that **make a difference in your community!** Please join us for an **hour presentation on Zoom** to Become a Dementia Friend!

Dementia Friendly Fairfax is inviting all ages of **Mount Vernon community** to join us **free on Zoom, February 4 and February 16**, 4pm to Become a Dementia Friend!

[February 4...](#)

[February 16...](#)

COVID-19 Vaccine Information

[What You Need to Know About Limited Vaccine Supply](#)

[Vaccine Distribution Process To Follow State Guidelines](#)

[Older Adults and the COVID-19 Vaccine in Fairfax](#)

[Vaccine and Vaccination Frequently Asked Questions, Part 1](#)

[COVID-19 Vaccine and Vaccination Frequently Asked Questions, Part 2](#)

[What You Need to Know if You Have Registered to Get a Vaccine Appointment](#)

[Process for Scheduling Vaccination Appointments at Health Department Clinics](#)

Important Safety Information

Can Your Fireplace Ashes!

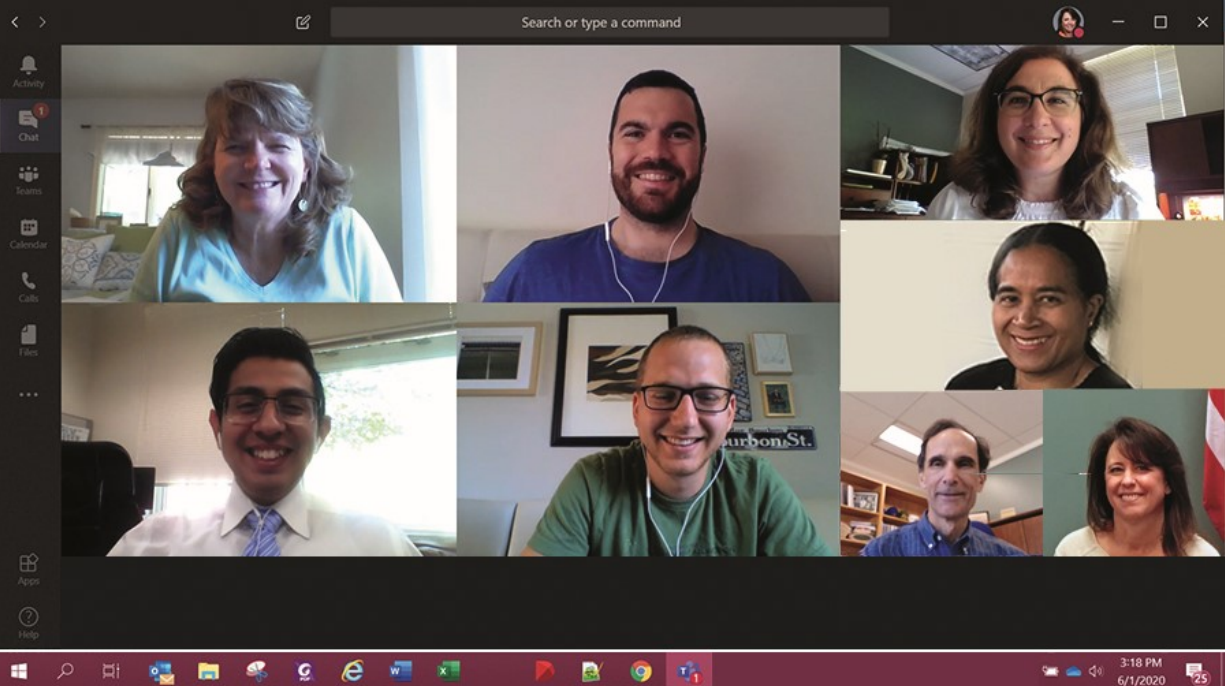
Thinking of building a **fire in your fireplace** this evening? Please **make sure you do so safely!** Every winter, we experience several **home fires** that were **caused by improperly discarded fireplace/wood stove/fire pit ashes**. A totally preventable and unnecessary fire!

If you have not already done so, please make sure you have your **fireplace inspected and cleaned** before using. [Read more...](#)



February OEM Newsletter

Team MVD



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

January 2021 Activities:

- Phone calls: 889
- Meetings: 200

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 a.m. - 5 p.m.
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 December 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)
- Board of Building and Fire Prevention Code Appeals (Design Professional)
- Civil Service Commission
- Engineering Standard Review Committee
- Celebrate Fairfax
- History Commission (Historian)
- 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

