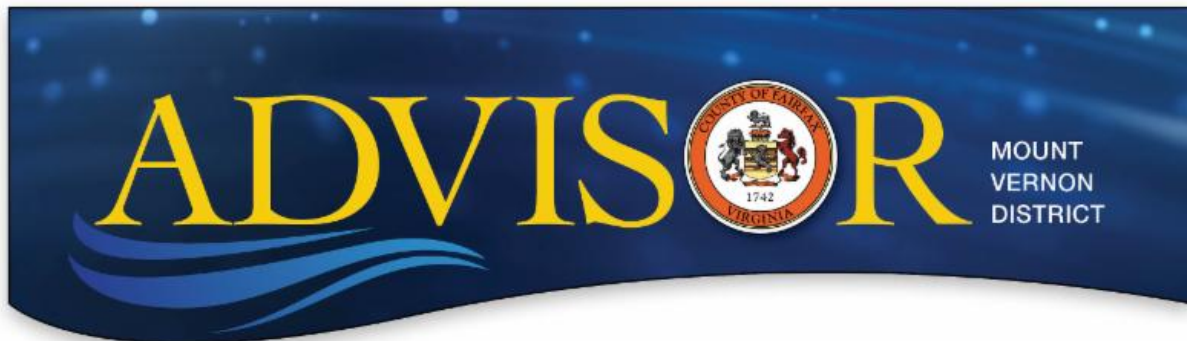


May 2020



Neighbors,

What an **unusual time** we find ourselves in. As I thought of my usual May messaging – **moms, flowers, spring** – I am reminded how **different everything is** for us right now. **Moms (and dads)** find themselves **working from home**, maybe out of work, or working in challenging environments. We are **home**

schooling our children, **preparing meals** at home, ordering no-contact delivery, becoming **exercise instructors** and zoom experts. We will not be taking mom out for her **traditional Mother's Day brunch**, planning a **family outing** or get-together, **visiting grandma and grandpa**, and the list goes on. All of these can cause **anxiety and stress**, but our moms persevere and continue to **find strength to keep our families together**. Would you like to find a **special way to recognize your mom this Mother's Day**? Send us a **short note with a photo** to mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov by **May 7** and we will put together a **special Mother's Day tribute!**



Spring is here and many of us are doing **more gardening** than we ever have and that is creating **new challenges**. I am hearing from many of you about the **cancellation of yard waste removal services and glass recycling**. First, please know many County resources (including) staffing are being **reallocated to deal with immediate service needs** and **these services will resume** as soon as staff is available. From my many conversations, I also **expect the county to compensate residents** for the loss of these services. If you do have County waste collection, did you know you can **place your yard waste** in your **regular trash bins** on trash day and **it will be picked up**? Also, some haulers are **continuing or renewing** yard waste pick ups. Read more about yard waste collection below.

As many of us look for more opportunities to **enjoy spring in the great outdoors**, we think of our parks. I have been a **strong advocate to our park authorities** to keep them open or to reopen, always with **proper safety and social distancing** procedures enforced. This week, they have announced they will do just that, starting with **reopening garden plots and some farmers markets**. Read below for more information and **watch for additional openings** to come.

Over these last few weeks, I have heard **many heartwarming stories** about residents helping others and **doing good** in our community. **Do you know someone who is helping** a neighbor, supporting a local business in a unique way, supplying masks to front line workers, cleaning up our streams or educating our children? **Send us a short note and photo** to mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov by **May 25** and we will create a **special recognition of our community heroes**.

Thank you all for your **continued support, acts of kindness, messages of caring, actions of personal responsibility!** Most of all, take care of yourself, your families and your neighbors! **We will get through this together!**

Respectfully yours in public service,



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



TEAM MVD Volunteers at UC Food Pantry
(photo pre-COVID-19)

Visit our Website

TEAM MVD is Here for You!

As we all adjust to life in a pandemic, **County government remains open to serve you** and while TEAM MVD is largely working remotely, **I want to remind you we are for you**. We are rotating staff through our office and working from our homes to answer your calls, respond to emails, take virtual meetings and keep our **District initiatives and important projects moving forward**. We begin each day with a video meeting on Microsoft Teams to **collaborate and stay on top of issues that affect us all**, including COVID-19, transportation, land use, health and human services and public safety issues, to name a few. Please know that while you cannot visit our office right now, **we can help with any issues or concerns you have**. Reach out to us at mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-780-7518!



I also wanted to share our **expanded resources** with you! Our newest employee **Nick Rinehart is a bilingual English/Spanish speaker**. If you know someone who needs our assistance and could use this additional assistance, **please spread the word!** In addition, **Christine Morin speaks fluent Greek**, and our office has full access to **telephone translators in most languages**, give us a call and let us know how we can help!

Read about how the County **outreach team is working in multicultural communities** during the pandemic...

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Latest COVID-19 News Links

[County Launches New COVID-19 Language Portal and Enhanced Website Language Translation Services](#)

[County Opens Public Comment on Plans for Using CARES Act Funding in Response to COVID-19](#)

[Help with SNAP, Medicaid, Employment Assistance and More](#)

[Village Drive Village Stays Connected During COVID-19](#)

[Fairfax County Still Seeks Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) Donations](#)

Learn How Our Outreach Team Works with Multicultural Communities During COVID-19

Fairfax County Now Offers COVID-19 Text Messages in Spanish

El Condado Fairfax Ahora Ofrece Mensajes de Texto de COVID-19 en Español

The Reassuring Voice We Need: Meet Public Health Nurse Shawn Harper

Working Hard to Keep Fairfax County Strong (#FFXstrong)

FCPS

- FCPS has created a [Parent Resource Center](#) that includes **workshops, consultations, and other guidance**. You can also call 703-204-3941 and [email](#). They are open M-F 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- If you are in need of **technical support for your student**, FCPS has created a [guide](#).
- [More resources...](#)

Staying Safe at Home, Support for Victims of Abuse

The Fairfax County Police Department takes **domestic violence, child abuse and elder abuse very seriously**. Abusers may **use this crisis** to find additional ways to **exercise control and power over their victims**.

- If **anyone at risk** or if you **know someone** at risk of danger, you can call or text 911 or call 703-691-2131 (the non-emergency line).
- For the **Domestic and Sexual Violence Services** Hotline call: 703-360-7273.
- For the **Child Protective Services** Hotline call: 703-324-7400.
- For **elder abuse, exploitation or neglect** call: 703-324-7450.
- **"Staying Safe at Home"** covers **safety issues** for those living with someone who may harm them, to think through **how to maximize their safety** under these current challenging circumstances, or for those concerned for the **safety of someone they care about**. Language assistance available.
- Department of Family Services **"Assistance at a Distance"** is a **ready resource** with all of the important DFS contact numbers.

El Condado Fairfax Ahora Ofrece Mensajes de Texto de COVID-19 en Español

- Para inscribirse, textear FFXCOVIDESP a 888777. [Lea más...](#)
- [Vea el portal de idiomas del Condado de Fairfax aquí.](#)
- Access Fairfax County's new [COVID-19 language portal](#).

Fairfax County Flag Lowered in Honor of Residents

By order of the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, Jeffrey C. McKay, the **County Flag was lowered on Wednesday, April 29, 2020**, at all County facilities in honor of the **residents who have died of COVID-19** and in **recognition of the many essential workers** who are responding to the pandemic. It will remain flying at half-mast indefinitely.

Stay Connected and WIFI Hotspots

Area internet companies have created **low to no cost internet options** for low-income families, students, and teachers. Learn more:

- [Verizon](#)
- [Comcast](#)
- [Cox](#)
- [Cox FREE WIFI Hotspots](#)

Car Maintenance

The [Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles](#) has **extended vehicle registrations** that expire in **March and April by 90 days**, and those that expire in May by 60 days. **Emissions inspection facilities may still be open**, but call your specific facility in advance to confirm. If you are required to obtain an **Air Check emission inspection** to renew your registration in March or April, you also have an **additional 90 days**, or 60 days for those expiring in May. The **Air Check Virginia vehicle emissions inspection program** for drivers in Northern Virginia **remains operational**. Please avoid in-person visits and call 703-583-3900 between M-F, 8:15 a.m. - 5 p.m. for assistance.

The **validity of driver's licenses and identification cards expiring on or before June 10, 2020** is **extended for a maximum of 90 days**, not to exceed July 31, 2020.

2020 U.S. Census

April 1 was Census Day! Have You Completed Yours?

Looking for things to do as we practice social distancing and adapt to the new stay-at-home order? Take this time to **complete the 2020 Census!** Everyone Counts! **Many Federal funding decisions are based on Census counts** and those **dollars are more important** to our community now, more than ever! [Learn more...](#)



Franconia Police Station in the Community



As we all shift to virtual meetings, our district police stations are no different! Officers at the Franconia Police Station recently held their **monthly Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting through a Zoom virtual meeting.** They, like most stations, are also holding their daily roll-call on virtual meeting platforms.

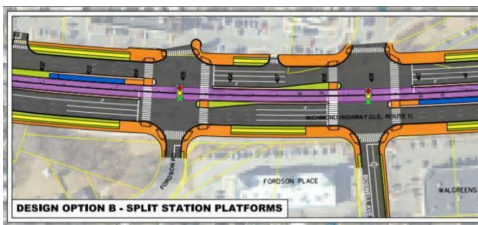
The Officers at the station also created this video thanking all our frontline workers:



Upcoming Virtual Events

- Mon-Thurs: [Library Storytime for Preschoolers Online](#) - 10 a.m.
 - May 5: [FREE Online Introduction to Piano Lab \(Primers\)](#) - 10 a.m.
 - May 8: [FREE Online Introduction to Piano Lab \(Beginners\)](#) - 10 a.m.
 - May 13: [Mount Vernon/McClutcheon Farmers Market Opens](#) - 8 a.m.
 - May 14: [Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber May Biz Zoom Meetup](#) - 8:30 a.m.
-

In the News



BRT Design Altered to Allow Full Access to Fordson Road

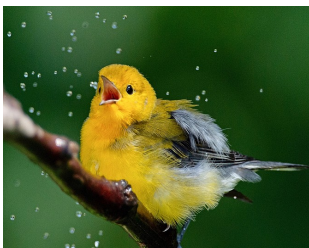
The preliminary design for the Richmond Highway Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project now has **Fordson Road accessible from both the northbound and southbound lanes** of Richmond Highway, the Fairfax County Department of Transportation

announced last week. The design for the Fordson Road intersection had **originally only allowed for right turns in and right turns out**. That proved to be unpopular with some residents of the Gum Springs area, and after a **series of community meetings** last summer FCDOT came up with three possible alternatives. [Read more on Covering the Corridor...](#)

Inova Announces Hundreds of Layoffs, Says It Has Lost Millions in Revenue



Saying that *"these are exceedingly difficult times,"* **Inova CEO J. Stephen Jones** announced that the healthcare provider was **cutting 427 positions** due to financial stress caused by the coronavirus pandemic. [Read more and watch the video on Covering the Corridor...](#)

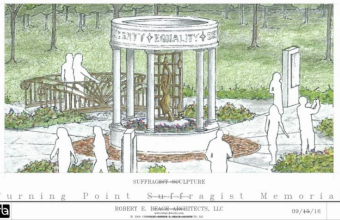


Lorton Man Wins National Photo Contest

Amateur wildlife **photographer Randy Streufert**, of Lorton, received notification of his Grand Prize win in the **National Wildlife Federation's (NWF) "Garden for Wildlife" photo contest**. His winning photo captured a male prothonotary warbler enjoying a misting bath in **Streufert's garden on Mason Neck**. [Read more in the Connection...](#)

Chalk It Up

Fairfax County Police in the **Mount Vernon District** are **keeping kids engaged** during social distancing with a **sidewalk chalk challenge**. Three winners will be chosen and **receive visit from police officers** in their neighborhood. Submissions will be accepted until May 8 and children 12 and under are invited to participate. [Read more in the Patch...](#)



Solid Waste Crew Completes Sitework for National Memorial

Big ideas are rarely realized without **overcoming unforeseen obstacles**. That is the case in Lorton, where a **national memorial to American suffragists** is under construction at **Occoquan Regional Park**. The Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Association **broke ground on the project last fall**, with the goal to open the garden-style plaza in **August on the 100-year anniversary** of the certification of the 19th Amendment. But that plan hit a snag when the **estimate for sitework came back higher** than expected. With the threat of a construction delay looming, **creative thinking and cooperation were needed** to bring this big idea to life. [Read more and watch drone footage...](#)

Ways You Can Help



Help from the Heart

The Fairfax County Communities of Trust is sponsoring a **drive to collect needed personal hygiene products and household cleaners** to families and individuals facing hardship. **Collection boxes** are being placed at all **8 Fairfax County District Police stations**. The items will be picked up and distributed to local food pantries near the stations.

Stuff the Bus

Food Drive Steps up to Fight Hunger and Feed Hope. Due to the extraordinary events taking place during the COVID-19 pandemic, the **demand for food has surged** in the County. On **Saturday, May 16 and Tuesday, May 19**, Fastran buses will be parked at **20 locations** throughout the County to **collect food donations**. However, unlike past years, the buses will **not be parked in grocery store parking lots**. Instead, buses will be parked in **less-frequented lots**, including all **Board of Supervisors' offices (yes, we will have one at the Mount Vernon Governmental Center)** and the Fairfax County Government Center, to allow donors to **comply with social distancing** recommendations. The donations will **benefit 11 nonprofits** in the County. **Additional locations and donation hours** will be announced soon.



For those who are **unable to donate in person**, Stuff the Bus will also be holding a **virtual food drive**. [Learn more...](#)

A FUNDRAISER
to provide face masks to predominantly minority communities in Virginia
COVID-19 in the African American Community

Washington DC 65% of population 78% of deaths	Louisiana 32% of population 70% of deaths	U.S. Surgeon General: "And many Black Americans are at higher risk for COVID"
Michigan 14% of population 41% of deaths	Illinois 15% of population 41% of deaths	

Coordinated by the
OKK Foundation
NOVA Equity Agenda Coalition
First Baptist Church of Vienna

Facial Masks for Minority Communities

The Omicron Kappa Kappa (OKK) Foundation is partnering with the **Northern Virginia Equity Agenda Coalition (NOVA EAC)** and First Baptist Church of Vienna to **purchase 20,000 masks** to distribute to **minority and lower-income families** to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Through this effort, **many Richmond**

Highway groups will receive masks for their **staff, volunteers and for distribution their low-income community members**, including Rising Hope Church, United Community, New Hope Housing, Groveton Baptist, Gum Spring Community Center and Audubon. **Help our community stay safe!** [Learn more and donate...](#)

Community Information



Body Worn Cameras

The Fairfax County Police Department continues with its **implementation plan for phase one of the Body Worn Camera program** which launched this Friday, May 1, in three district stations: Reston, Mason and **here in Mount Vernon**. All patrol officers in the **Mount Vernon Police District will wear body worn cameras** when engaging with the community. [Learn more and see the video...](#)

Public Safety Reminder

Fairfax County Police are asking everyone to **please slow down and follow the speed limit** on our roads. There has been a lot less traffic during the pandemic, but **traffic laws are still in effect**.

ZMOD Continues and We Need Your Feedback



The County is **modernizing its zoning ordinance**. The latest updates include adjusting regulations on **accessory dwelling units and home based businesses**. [Learn about the proposed changes and share your feedback...](#)



Farmers Markets and Garden Plots

The Fairfax County Park Authority will **soon open three Farmers Markets** – Reston on May 9, **Mount Vernon/McCutcheon on May 13**, and Burke on May 16. Market operations will differ from years past. There will be a **need for compliance** with the Governor's [social distancing orders and safety guidelines](#) to limit the spread of COVID-19. Details will be on the Farmers Market website soon. [County garden plots](#) reopened on April 29, with [new social distancing guidelines](#). [Learn more...](#) **Twin Springs Farm** is offering **online ordering** and **grab and go pick up** in the Sherwood Library parking lot. [Read more...](#)

June 23 Democratic and Republican Primary Election Information

What is on the Ballot?

- Republican Primary Senate Countywide
- Democratic Primary 11th Congressional District

Voter Registration/update deadline: May 26 by 11:59 pm



Absentee ballots are encouraged! Absentee ballot request deadline: **Now – June 16** by 5:00 pm

****June 9 date was postponed per Governors Executive Order 56****

[Read more...](#)



Marriage Licenses Go Virtual

A new **"Virtual Marriage License" appointment program** is now in place and is the **exclusive way to get a marriage license** from the Fairfax Circuit Court Clerk's Office **during the COVID-19 pandemic**. [Learn more...](#)

Who's Not Collecting Yard Waste

At this time, **waste collection companies** reporting that they are **not collecting yard waste separately** are limited to Patriot, Bates Trucking, Trash Away, Champion Services and Mclean Trash. As you probably already know, the **County also had to suspend yard**

waste collections in Sanitary Districts. The **remaining licensed collectors** (e.g., American Disposal, Republic) are now **operating with separate yard waste collection**. [Contact information for licensed collectors...](#)

EnviroPod episode 18 features **John Kellas, Deputy Director, Solid Waste Management Program**, DPWES, talking with host Scott Coco about **necessary changes in trash and recycling activities** in the County. [Listen...](#)

The Science of Well-being

Yale University is offering this **FREE online course** where you will engage in a series of challenges designed to **increase your own happiness** and **build more productive habits**. As preparation for these tasks, Professor Laurie Santos reveals **misconceptions about happiness**, annoying features of the mind that lead us to think the way we do, and the research that can help us change. You will ultimately be prepared to **successfully incorporate a specific wellness activity** into your life. [Learn more...](#)



Fairfax County Fire Boat

The new **Fairfax County Fire and Rescue fire boat** is currently undergoing sea trials! The new boat is scheduled to arrive in time for this year's boating season and will reside at **Gunston Station #20**.

Educational and Other Opportunities for Students

Jump Start Program from Northern Virginia Community College

NOVA is offering **tuition-free online classes** for approximately **70,000 Northern Virginia high school students** this summer. Classes are for **rising and graduating seniors** looking to **earn college credit** and will run from June 1 to July 15. [Learn more...](#)

Traveling Players- Family fun, classes and MORE!

Family Fun Improv Jam!

Show off your quick wit and imagination with **family friendly theatre games!**



Improvisation Classes! May Madness on Zoom

Take your comedy game to the next level and become an **improv master** in just four weeks!

- [Family Fun Improv](#) (grades 4-6, plus a parent/grandparent, play as a team!)
- [Improv Sports](#) (grades 6-8) & [Improv Olympics](#) (grades 8-12)

Auditions for Award-Winning Summer Acting Conservatories (grades 4-12)

Real challenges. Real Growth. Selected spots still available. **May 2 – via Zoom.**

Congressional Art Competition Entry Dates Extended

Each spring, the Congressional Institute sponsors a **nationwide high school visual art competition** to recognize and **encourage artistic talent** in the nation and in each congressional district. Since the **Artistic Discovery competition** began in 1982, more than 650,000 high school students have participated.

Students submit entries to **their representative's office**, and panels of district artists select the winning entries. Winners are **recognized both in their district** and at an annual awards ceremony in Washington, DC. The **winning works are displayed for one year** at the U.S. Capitol.

- **Congressman Beyer's District** has extended this year's entry deadline to May

29. [Read more...](#)

- **Congressman Connolly's District** has extended this year's entry deadline to May 8. [Read more...](#)

Supporting Our Seniors

Fairfax 50+ Podcast Coping with Social Isolation

This helpful podcast with **Phyllis Miller Palombi**, a Reston-based **marriage and family therapist**, who is the Hunter Mill district representative on the Fairfax Area Commission on Aging. [Listen...](#)



Saving Our Environment



Earth Day 2020: 50 Ways To Take Climate Action

Fifty years ago, 20 million Americans came together with a cause. They raised their voices to call for an **end to unmitigated environmental degradation**. The result, over the course of several years, was the enactment of the **Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act and the Endangered Species Act** – three policies considered **pillars of environmental protection** today. [Learn](#)

[more and take action...](#)

Environmental Excellence Awards Call for Nominations Is Now Open

Each year, the **Fairfax County Environmental Excellence Awards** recognize individuals, organizations, businesses and county employees who:

- Advance or support the **County's environmental goals** and policy statements
- Dedicate **personal time and expertise** beyond normal fiscal or civic responsibilities
- **Demonstrate leadership** as a role model for others



The **2020 call for nominations is now open** and nominations will be **accepted until June 1, 2020**. If you know of an **individual or organization deserving of recognition** for their **accomplishments between June 1, 2019 and May 31, 2020**, please consider nominating them. [Learn more...](#)

Team MVD



Mount Vernon District Staff: Abdul Shaban, Donna Slaymaker, Sally Kidalov, Supervisor Dan Storck, Christine Morin, Camela Speer, Volunteer Shirley Short & not yet pictured, Nick Rinehart.

April 2020 Activities:

- Phone calls: 84
- Meetings: 147

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

Looking for a Summer Internship?

Are you, or do you know a **college student, looking for a summer internship** in local government? Join our **dynamic TEAM MVD working for the residents** of the Mount Vernon District. Get an up-close look at **how local government works**, learn about constituent issues and how to resolve them, all while gaining **valuable real-world work experience**. If you would like to be considered, please send your **resume and a cover letter** outlining your interests to mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov by May 15.

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.

Citizen Corps Council

The Citizen Corps Council meets the fourth Thursday of every odd month. The council serves to **coordinate preparedness initiatives** across the county through internal and external volunteer programs such as, **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)**, Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS), **Neighborhood Watch**, and Fire Corps. Two (2) year term.

There are **several At-Large positions** available as of February 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

