

November 2020



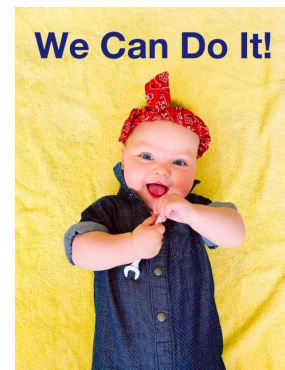
Neighbors,

*"Democracy is the heartbeat of this nation."
—President-Elect Joe Biden*

This has been a **long and difficult year**, with stressors on many fronts. **Losing my best-friend** and others that I have shared **joys and challenges** with have made this year particularly harsh. Each of you have had your **own heartaches and hurt**, bearing them **without the easy hugs or touches** or interactions that COVID has stolen from us. Through all of this, we persevere, **find strength in each other** and reasons to **celebrate and reminders of our loves**.



I found our culture's **recent years' rhetoric and actions** too negative, personal and counter to what **helps us be our best**, lifts us up, strengthens us and **empowers us to reach our full potential**. We are not enemies; **we are each Americans**. We should **expect no less from our elected leaders**, including me. I celebrate all our diversities including our social and political ones from **"Don't tread on me"** to **"Together is better"**. We know each of us will **need a little help at times**. So, let's **restart our engagements** through more listening and understanding and **trust my granddaughter Hazel's repurposed WWII admonition that:**



Our **Thanksgivings may be different** this year as we all look for **safe ways to gather and be thankful**. Our **hearts and relationships** will continue as the ties that bind, even if we are gathering over **Zoom or socially distanced in the backyard**. My community thanks-givings start with our **election workers and voters**— we were record-breaking in the numbers, locations, hours and safety protocols in Fairfax County. **I spoke with many of you** who waited in line for up to three hours to vote and consistently **you were joyful** to be in line, **talking to your neighbors** and doing your part to vote. Outside our windows, we saw **new voters celebrating, seasoned voters sharing voting stories** and many **parents sharing the presidential election with their little ones**.

The Mount Vernon early voting station was led by **Jim Hicks, with the Office of Elections**, and his **dedicated team of workers** who answered thousands of questions and **moved thousands of people** through the polls. Jim and his team received **anonymous snacks, pizzas and food deliveries** and are so grateful for the **tremendous community support**. Our office, along with many others, also brought **food, snacks and water for voters** standing in line. To all the anonymous donors, **thank you!** The election workers and voters truly **appreciated your thoughtfulness and generosity**.

It is these **community connections that hearten me** as we move into a season of thankfulness and as I strive to **represent you fairly and respectfully** each and every day! **Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!**



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

Visit our Website

Quick Links

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District Representatives

Boards, Authorities and Commissions
Mount Vernon Advisor Archives
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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.rodriquezcabrera@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Election



County Key Data

- **Results and data for this year's election** can be found [here](#). **Historical data** can be found [here](#).

- The percentage of voters who **cast their ballots early** was **significantly higher** than the percentage of votes cast on Election Day. This was **largely due to the pandemic**, but in addition, this year the General Assembly allowed **no-excuse early voting** for the first time.
- County voter turnout was slightly down this year in comparison to years past.

Bond Referendums

County voters **overwhelmingly passed four bonds**, which allows the Board of Supervisors to **finance public facilities and infrastructure projects**. Each bond passed with **support between 66-72%**.

Transportation Bond

- Authorizes the County to **issue bonds totaling \$160 million**.
- It will be used to finance the County's share of **costs to support WMATA**. Funds will be used for WMATA construction, facility improvements and equipment.
- [Read more...](#)

Parks Bond

- Authorizes the County to **issue bonds totaling \$112 million**.
- Funds will be utilized for **land acquisition** for park expansion, **conservation of natural resources**, the development of **new parks** and supporting the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority ([NOVA Parks](#)).
- [Read more...](#)

Library Bond

- Authorizes the County to **issue bonds totaling \$90 million**.
- Funds will **renovate and upgrade** Patrick Henry Community Library, **Sherwood Regional Library** and George Mason Regional Library. **Kingstowne Regional Library** will be relocated.
- [Read more...](#)

Community Health and Human Services Board Bond

- Authorizes the County to **issue bonds totaling \$79 million**.
- The funds will be used to **relocate and renovate the Joseph Willard Health Center**, allowing the Fairfax County Health Department to provide **essential services during emergencies and operation interruptions**. In addition, the Crossroads facility, which provides **substance abuse support**, will be renovated.
- [Read more...](#)

Saving River Farm

Thank you to the **hundreds of you** who reached out to our office to express your **concern and dismay** about the possible **sale of River Farm**. Many of us have spent **enjoyable afternoons and evenings** at events and strolling the gardens at the **incredibly beautiful River Farm**. This 50-year local institution is full of **history, heritage and natural beauty**.



Like you, I was incredibly surprised and saddened to learn that the **American Horticultural Society (AHS) Board** has decided to **offer the property for sale** without talking to anyone in the community, including local leaders that could help retain this community gem.

I am leading a **coalition of federal, state, regional and local leaders** to find a solution to **ensure River Farm** remains a community asset and is **not lost to a private developer**. Conversations with AHS **confirm they are willing to work with us** to keep this property available to the public, but **your continued advocacy is also critical** to our efforts.

Our local legislators have started **petitions to rally and show community support** for River Farm. **Sign the petitions today!**

[Senator Scott Surovell's Petition...](#)

[Senator Adam Ebbin's and Delegate Paul Krizek's Petition...](#)

Retirement of Police Chief Edwin Roessler



I hope you will join me in **thanking Chief Ed Roessler for his service** to Fairfax County residents and our outstanding Fairfax County Police Officers. Chief Roessler has had a **storied 31-year career** with the County, including **eight years as Chief**, continuing to keep Fairfax County one of the **safest jurisdictions of our size**. I especially appreciate the improvements he made in **advancing transparency and accountability**, pushing for destigmatizing **mental health issues** for officers, and his leadership to implement the **Diversion First and body worn camera programs**. During his tenure, he also created the **Chief's Council on Diversity Recruitment**, as well as championing the **Open Police Data Initiative** and the **Communities of Trust Committee**. When the police department rolled out the **therapy dog program**, Chief Roessler showed his commitment to this program by **becoming a trainer for one of the dogs** in the inaugural class. I will especially miss seeing him training **chocolate lab Indy!**

Community has always been important to Chief Roessler and this was evident during his many **community interactions** in the Mount Vernon District. Most recently, he marched with us in June for the **Beyond the Walls Black Lives Matter March** along Richmond Highway. We will miss his **engagement with our community**.

I recognize that this is a **difficult time to be a police officer**, here and across the country. While the Chief position is always a **challenging job**, this is especially true now. Chief Roessler has been an **innovative and far sighted leader** and replacing him will not be easy. I look forward to **working with the community and County stakeholders** during the selection process.

I wish Chief Roessler much **happiness and relaxation in retirement**.

Suffragist Memorial Taking Shape



The **three suffragists sculptures** for the **Turning Point Suffragist Memorial** are arriving and being installed! The statues are of **Alice Paul, Carrie Chapman Catt and Mary Church Terrell** and each weigh more than 300 lbs. After delays due to COVID-19 and other challenges, the **memorial at Occoquan Regional Park** will be finished and **dedicated in spring 2021**.

Walking Wednesdays

Keep your **physical and mental health** in shape by taking a **walk around your neighborhood** every Wednesday! Start your day on the right foot by joining **your classmates and your community** to take steps toward better physical and mental health. The program kicked off on Wednesday, October 7 (Walk to School Day) and **continues throughout the school year**. Families are encouraged to **chalk the sidewalk** and find other ways to **cheer on their neighbors** as they walk their neighborhood block. Remember to **maintain a safe distance** from others outside your family and follow all COVID-19 safety protocols. **Tag your photos with #FCPSWalkingWednesdays**.

I recently **joined families in the Woodley Hills Estate** neighborhood for a walk! **Please contact my office** (703-780-7518 or mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov) if you would **like me to join your Walking Wednesday group** for a future date!



Upcoming In-Person & Virtual Events

- [Farmers Markets Open](#)
- Nov 10: [Slavery and the American Revolution Lecture Series: Declaring Independence](#) - 12 p.m.
- Nov 10: [South County Federation Meeting](#) - 7 p.m.
- Nov 10: [Plant Communities Shaped by Water](#) - 7:30 p.m.
- Nov 11 & 13: [Inova FREE Flu Clinic](#) - 3 p.m.
- Nov 14: [VIRTUAL Webinar: Fairfax County's 16th Annual History Conference – "Votes for Women!" "The Rest of OUR Story" - Passage of the 19th Amendment](#) - 10 a.m.
- Nov 16: [How to Recycle Right in Fairfax County Webinar](#) - noon
- Nov 17: [American Recycles Day Community Event](#) - 10 a.m.
- Nov 17: [Slavery and the American Revolution Lecture Series: Claiming Legal Freedom](#) - noon
- Nov 18: [Ribbon Cutting I-95 Food Scraps Drop Off Location](#) - 10 a.m.
- Nov 18: [Fairfax Water Occoquan Dam Siren Test](#) - 10 a.m.
- Nov 18 & 20: [Inova FREE Flu Clinic](#) - 3 p.m.
- Nov 18: [Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations Meeting](#) - 7 p.m.
- Nov 20: [Save the Parkways' Trees; Let's Tackle Ivy](#) - 10 a.m.
- Nov 24: [Slavery and the American Revolution Lecture Series: The Constitution's Counter-Revolution](#) - noon
- Dec 4: [FREE Fairfax Virtual Employment Expo for Job-seekers Age 50+](#) - 10 a.m.

Transportation

Richmond Highway BRT Update

Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) is holding a series of **virtual community meetings in English and Spanish** this fall that will provide **updates on the Richmond Highway Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project**. The final meetings are scheduled for **December 8 & 9** and will be focused on the **BRT System branding**. To learn more about the Richmond Highway BRT and to **register for the online meetings**, go to the [project website](#).

The November meetings were focused on **BRT station design** and a **public survey is**

open until December 15 and we want YOUR input. Our office will be coordinating additional smaller community meetings - watch for dates to come! [Take the survey now...](#)



VRE Welcomes Back Riders with Health and Safety Top of Mind

As more Mount Vernon District residents **return to work and congestion increases** on the region's roads, many are **rethinking their commutes**. One option is the **Virginia Railway Express (VRE)**, which has taken a variety of precautions to **protect the health and safety** of its passengers. These measures include an **enhanced cleaning regimen, installation of social-distancing decals and hand-sanitizer dispensers** on rail cars and platforms, and a **facial covering requirement**. [Read more...](#)

Metro Forward - Doing Our Part for Safety



Health, Housing & Human Services

Affordable Housing: Newly Renovated Apartments Available NOW at Murraygate Village

The Fairfax County Department of Housing and Community Development is now **leasing newly renovated, affordable apartments at Murraygate Village** (7800 Belford Drive). **One-, two-, three- and four-bedroom apartments** are available for immediate occupancy! The units are considered among the **most affordable in the area**. Murraygate Village is located near **public transportation, excellent schools**, shopping and Fort Belvoir. [Learn more and apply today...](#)

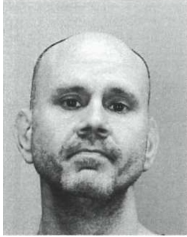


Help to Quit Vaping - New County Program

While it is too soon to know the **specific impacts of COVID-19** on people who use e-cigarettes, we do know that the coronavirus that causes **COVID-19 attacks the lungs** and there is **growing evidence that vaping can harm lung health** overall. This is why it is more important than ever for **young people to quit vaping** to protect their health. Young people who use e-cigarettes may be vaping even more to **cope with stress and social isolation**, or they may be experiencing **difficult nicotine withdrawal symptoms** because of limited access to e-cigarettes. [Learn more...](#)

In the News

Fire Investigators Make Arrest in Mount Vernon Fire



Investigators from the **Fairfax County Fire Investigations Section (FIS)**, in coordination with the Fairfax County Police Department and federal law enforcement partners, have **arrested 48 year-old Louis Garbers** in connection with an **incendiary vehicle fire** that occurred August 15, in the 4200 block of Sonia Court in the Mount Vernon area. [Read more in the Fairfax Times...](#)

Fairfax County to Start Right of Way Acquisition Process for BRT Project as Early as February

The **Richmond Highway Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)** Project is moving forward and **acquisition of properties** to make room for the **initiative will start soon**, according to County officials. As many as **225 properties could be affected** by the BRT Project between Napper Road and North Kings Highway. [Read more in Alexandria Living...](#)



The Lowdown on Zero-Waste Living

Since the coronavirus pandemic started, many residents have started to **clear out clutter**. Some people, like Anna and Justin Marino, **have taken it even further**. The Marinos are part of a **zero-waste movement**, trying to live entirely **without single-use plastics and other waste**. "If we look at everything we buy, **consider its usable life**, and what we will do when we are done with it, **it can be eye-opening**." [Read more in Alexandria Living...](#)

October: Save a Pedestrian Month

Saving pedestrian lives is each of our responsibility and takes each of our efforts, whether a vehicle driver, passenger or just walking. October has been named National Pedestrian Safety Month to **draw attention to the number of highway deaths** each year and remind each of us of our crucial role in getting to **zero pedestrian deaths**. Sadly, Fairfax County is not immune from pedestrian fatalities. There have been **12 pedestrian fatalities in 2020** thus far; **four of those deaths** have occurred along the **Richmond Highway Corridor** just since January. [Read more in the Mount Vernon Gazette...](#)



Community Information

Rebuild VA Grant Program

Rebuild VA, the state's grant program to **help small businesses and nonprofit organizations** affected by COVID-19, has **expanded its eligibility criteria** to allow **more small businesses to apply**. Organizations with **less than \$10 million in gross revenue or fewer than 250 employees** will be eligible, and the **maximum grant award will increase from \$10,000 to \$100,000**. The program is open to **all types of businesses and nonprofits** that meet the new eligibility requirements. [Learn more...](#)



REV Initiative Provides Scholarships to COVID Impacted Workers

Virginia is **allocating \$30 million** in federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act dollars to help Virginians whose **employment has been impacted by the COVID-19** crisis pursue workforce training in a high-demand field. The **new Re-Employing Virginians (REV) initiative will provide scholarships to eligible individuals to enroll in a workforce or community college program in five essential industries**, including health care, information technology, skilled trades, public safety, and early childhood education. The initiative will provide **one-time REV scholarships of \$3,000** to register in a **qualifying full-time workforce program and \$1,500** to register **part-time or in a short-term, noncredit training program**. Deadline to apply is **December 14**. [Learn more...](#)

PPP Load Forgiveness Application Simplified

The U.S. Small Business Administration, in consultation with the Treasury Department, has released a **simpler loan forgiveness application for Paycheck Protection Program (PPP)** loans of \$50,000 or less. This action **streamlines the PPP forgiveness process** to provide financial and administrative relief to America's smallest businesses while also ensuring **sound stewardship of taxpayer dollars**.

Click [here](#) to view the **simpler loan forgiveness application**.

Click [here](#) to view the **instructions for completing** the simpler loan forgiveness application.

Click [here](#) to view the **Interim Final Rule** on the simpler forgiveness process for loans of \$50,000 or less.

November is Adoption Awareness Month

We can all agree that **every child should live in a loving, stable and nurturing home**. When reunification is no longer an option for some children in foster care, **adoptive parents can provide a home** where youth have the normal experiences that **children need as they grow up**.

They nurture children who have experienced abuse and neglect, and **help children overcome past traumatic experiences** so that they can **reach their full potential**. Are you ready to open your heart and home? [Learn more...](#)



NMUSA to Open on Veteran's Day

The **National Museum of the United States Army will open its doors on November 11, 2020**. All are invited to the **Virtual Grand Opening Ceremony** of the National Museum of the United States Army hosted by the Secretary of the Army, the Chief of Staff of the Army, and the Sergeant Major of the Army on **Wednesday, November 11 at 2:00 p.m.** Please note that out of an abundance of caution during the COVID-19 pandemic, there will not be an in-person audience for the ceremony.

[Register to attend the Virtual Grand Opening...](#)

Free timed-tickets to visit the Museum are now available through the [Museum's website](#). These tickets will be required for entry and are expected to be in high demand. [Learn more...](#)

NCS and FCPS Offer Virtual STEAM Series

In a new partnership, the **Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services** and **Fairfax County Public Schools** have teamed up to offer **Gathering STEAM**, an asynchronous course for students in **grades 7-12**. Each course explores a topic in **science, technology, engineering, arts or math** and engages students in an **entertaining television show format**. [Learn more...](#)



New Free Lecture Series Examines Slavery and the American Revolution

Fairfax County Public Libraries is offering a **new free virtual lecture series** examining slavery and the American Revolution. The series is being offered at **noon on Tuesdays** starting with **Declaring Independence on November 10**. [Learn more and register...](#)



Swimming with the Sharks

Lorton-based entrepreneur Nahum Jeannot, who is founder and COO "Chief Oatmeal Officer" of **GoOats**, a healthy oats-based snack food business, dived right in on **ABC's Shark Tank** on October 23 to see if he could **get an investment** in the company. Jeannot pitched the product to the Sharks and **got a bite from Barbara Corcoran**. [Watch the episode...](#)

Save the Parkways' Trees; Let's Tackle Ivy

Join the **Friends of Dyke Marsh** and the National Park Service on **November 20, 10 a.m. - 12 noon**, to learn how to **remove English ivy from trees**. To get more **information and to sign up**, email info@fodm.org and put **English ivy control** in the subject box. English ivy is an **aggressive invasive plant** that puts native vegetation and trees at risk. It can smother native plants and ivy vines can **climb trees and block sunlight** needed for photosynthesis.

America Recycles Week

Webinar: How to Recycle Right in Fairfax County

On **Monday, November 16, from 12 – 1:30 p.m.**, Fairfax County's Employees for Environmental Excellence and the Solid Waste Management Program are co-hosting a webinar on **How to Recycle Right in Fairfax County**. The webinar is an opportunity to **celebrate Fairfax Recycles Day** with residents, and learn more about **plastics and glass recycling**, and a **new pilot program that encourages food scraps to be dropped off for composting**.



The webinar will feature opening remarks from **Supervisors Dan Storck** and Pat Herrity, **experts from the plastics recycling industry and county staff**.

[Learn more and register...](#)

Questions? Email: recycling@fairfaxcounty.gov for more information.

The County will also be hosting the following in-person events:

- **Tuesday, November 17, from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.** at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax. The educational event will feature environmental education displays and information, the ever-popular **"touch-a-truck" event**, and the latest star of SWMP's recycling outreach program, **the Glass Monster**.
- **Wednesday, November 18, from 10 – 11 a.m.** at the I-95 Landfill Complex, 9850 Furnace Road, Lorton. **Supervisor Storck** and SWMP staff will **host a ribbon-cutting event** to celebrate the grand-opening of a **new drop off site for food scrap composting**. SWMP staff will be handing out a **limited number of reusable buckets**, with secure lids and a handle, that can be used to transport food scraps to drop off location.

These events are **open to the public and free of charge**. The County and its staff are committed to hosting these events as **safely as possible**, and we ask all attendees to **wear face masks and practice social distancing**.



Important Safety Information

Over Half of Deer Crashes Happen October - December

Fall is **breeding season for deer** and you can expect to see **more of them on our roads**. Please be aware that

deer are **unpredictable and crashes with them are a safety concern**. There are **hundreds of reportable accidents** involving deer in the County and more than half of our annual crashes occur during the months of **October, November and December**. Deer are most active **before sunrise to mid-morning**, as well as **dusk to early evening**. This is also the time when many of us are **headed to and from work or school**. [Learn more and watch the video...](#)



New Rescue Squad at Penn Daw Fire Station



Health & Safety Podcast: Scams, Fireplace & Candle Safety and VA Task Force-1
November 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.

October 2020 Activities:

- Phone calls: 1187
- Meetings: 257

Office Hours

Monday - Wednesday, Friday:
8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - 7:30 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

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.

Advisory Social Services Board

The Board serves to address **all matters pertaining to the social welfare of the people** served by the government; to monitor the formulation and implementation of **social welfare programs**; to meet with the Director of Social Services at least four times a year for the purpose of **making recommendations on policy matters**; to make an **annual report to the governing body** concerning the administration of the public welfare program; and to submit to the governing body other reports that the advisory body deems appropriate. Four (4) year term (limited to 2 full consecutive terms).

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

