



## Mount Vernon Advisor BoS BRIEF

April 10, 2018

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The following are **highlights from the Board of Supervisors meeting held on April 10, 2018**. We have included items of particular interest to Mount Vernon residents. For additional information, please go to the County's [Board Agenda and Meeting Schedule section on the County's website](#). You may listen to highlights from the Board meeting on your computer or listen directly on iTunes. Subscribe to the podcast, or choose a program and listen in.

## A MESSAGE FROM SUPERVISOR STORCK

One of the **most important actions** of the Board of Supervisors (BOS) is to pass a balanced budget each year. That budget must strike the **right balance** between **keeping taxes affordable for our residents, while maintaining the high quality services** for which our County is known. At today's BOS meeting, and for the next two subsequent days, we **will be listening** to residents, business owners, community organizations and anyone else who wants to **share their thoughts on the proposed FY 2019 budget**.

Did you know you can still **provide video testimony** for the budget public hearings? Video submissions **must be submitted by 9:00 a.m. April 11**, to be heard at the April 12 public hearing. I **encourage you to share your thoughts on the proposed FY 2019 budget and submit your videos now!** [Click here](#) to submit video testimony.



### Top 3 Things You Need to Know from the BOS Meeting:

1. Board **listened to constituent feedback** at budget public hearings.
2. Board recognized the **County Department of Tax Administration** for its efforts during the "Pre-Payment Avalanche", when **County staff processed thousands of payments** in the last few days before the new year.
3. Board **approved a minor height variation** for the **Artis Senior Living facility** coming to Fairfax Station.

In support of our **environmental efforts** in the Mount Vernon District, and countywide, I presented a **Board Matter** for County staff to report on the actions taken to **implement natural landscaping** on county and public school properties. This change in landscape maintenance practices was introduced by my predecessor Gerry Connolly. It is **important that we learn what actions have been taken** and find ways to **advance those yet to be implemented**. Read more about this below in the Board Matter section.

The Board also designated:



April 12, 2018 as Holocaust Remembrance Day



April 2018 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month



April 2018 as Child Abuse Awareness Month



May 6 - 12, 2018 as Nurses Week



May 2018 as Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month



May 2018 as Lyme Disease and Fight the Bite Awareness Month

## ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

To view the April 10, 2018 Board Package [click here](#).

**Admin 1:** The Board designated **Melissa A. Emery** as a **Plans Examiner** to participate in the **Expedited Land Development Review Program**. The purpose of the Plans Examiner Program is to **expedite the review of site and subdivision plans** submitted by certain specially qualified applicants, i.e., Plans Examiners, to the Land Development Services, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services. *The full item can be read on pages 7 - 9 of the Board Packet.*

## ACTION ITEMS

**Action 1:** The Board approved the **Northern Virginia Law Enforcement Mutual Aid Agreement of 2018** between the County Police Department and various other law enforcement agencies in the Northern Virginia area. The purpose of this agreement is to **provide police aid across jurisdictional boundaries** in certain emergencies, thereby **increasing the ability of local governments to promote public safety and protect the general welfare of the citizens**. Local governments also recognize that it is to their **mutual benefit to cooperate in the enforcement of laws** designed to control or prohibit the use or sale of controlled drugs, as well as those dealing with sexual offenses, prostitution, and gang activity. This agreement has been in place since May 1991. *The full item can be read on pages 32 - 69 of the Board Packet.*

**Action 2:** The Board approved a **Water Quality Credit Exchange Agreement** between **Upper Occoquan Service Authority (UOSA)** and its member jurisdictions of the Cities of Manassas and Manassas Park, and Counties of Prince William and **Fairfax**. The UOSA plant **provides wholesale wastewater reclamation services** to its member jurisdictions. This agreement allows UOSA member jurisdictions to be able to **utilize UOSA's water quality credits**. *The full item can be read on pages 70 - 83 of the Board Packet.*

**Action 4:** The Board approved a **minor variation for Artis Senior Living of Fairfax Station, LLC**, to

increase building height by 4.1% above what is shown on the Generalized Development Plan. The Artis will be a **memory care facility located on the north side of Ox Road**, beside the Shoppes at Lorton Valley, on approximately 5.3 acres of land. During final design of the building, it was determined that the **final grade to peak measurement would be 19 inches higher** than previously anticipated. *The full item can be read on pages 95 - 102 of the Board Packet.*

## BOARD MATTERS

### 1. Board Matter: Natural Landscaping Techniques on County & School Properties

In 2005, at the direction of Former Chairman Gerry Connolly (Board Matter 4a. June 21, 2004), a **Natural Landscaping Committee** submitted to the Board a report for **implementing natural landscaping techniques on County and Public School properties**. The interagency Committee had representatives from the Park Authority, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, Urban Forestry Division and Facilities Management Department.

Creating more **natural habitats of native plants** and **converting degraded and grassy areas** to more natural habitats are ways County agencies can **begin to address some of the environmental challenges** the County faces, and some of the goals of the recently updated **Environmental Vision**. These approaches provide multiple advantages:

- Reduce mowing and maintenance costs;
- Reduce polluting emissions from lawn maintenance and other vehicles;
- Provide support for native wildlife;
- Increase the County's biodiversity;
- Be outdoor classrooms for all ages, boosting scientific knowledge;
- Absorb pollutants and stem stormwater runoff; and
- Provide other free, ecological services.

#### **Action**

*Directed the Park Authority, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, Urban Forestry Division and Facilities Management Department to come to a future Environmental Committee meeting to provide a progress report on the implementation outlined in Chairman Connolly's June 21, 2004 Board Matter.*

## PUBLIC HEARINGS THAT IMPACT THE MOUNT VERNON DISTRICT

### Public Hearing on the FY 2019 Effective Tax Rate Increase

The Board heard public comment on the **proposed real estate tax rate increase to \$1.155 per \$100 of assessed value**. The County Executive's proposed budget is balanced based on a real estate tax rate of \$1.155, which is an **increase of \$0.025 over the current rate for FY 2018**.

### Public Hearing on Proposed Amendments to the Fairfax County Code Relating to Sewer Service Charges, Base Charges, Availability Charges, and Fixture Unit Charges

The Board approved the **amended ordinance relating to Sewer Service Charges, Base Charges, Availability Charges**. It **reaffirmed the FY 2018 - FY 2022 sewer rates and establishing FY 2023 rates**. Although the sewer charges in the sewer ordinance are multi-year, all sewer charges are reviewed, adjusted as necessary, and adopted annually to ensure sewer charges are accurately priced.

### Public Hearing on the County Executive's Proposed [FY 2019 Advertised Budget Plan](#), the Advertised Capital Improvement Program for Fiscal Years 2019-2023 (CIP) (With Future Fiscal Years to 2028) and the Current Appropriation in the FY 2018 Revised Budget Plan

The Board heard public comment on the County Executive's Proposed FY 2019 Advertised Budget Plan. The proposed budget is **\$8.42 billion**, with **\$2.26 billion going directly to funding our schools**. It includes a recommended **Real Estate tax rate increase of 2.5 cents** (from \$1.13 to \$1.155 per \$100 of assessed value). The proposed budget **invests in County priorities** and our future by **fully funding our schools**, recognizing the **value of our County employees**, supporting important issues like **gang prevention** and the **opioid crisis**, and maintaining **strong community services and programs**. [Click here](#) for more information regarding the proposed budget and the budget process.

The Board is **hearing today from many citizens**, and will continue to do so over the next two days. Comments have ranged from **support of the Advertised Budget Plan** to **objections over proposed tax**

increases and concerns about funding for community services.

The Board will adopt the final FY 2019 Budget on May 1.

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