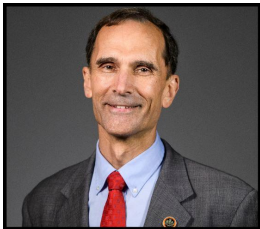


March 19, 2019

BOS BRIEF

MOUNT
VERNON
DISTRICT



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. Local government **provides many services** that impact your daily life such as schools, public transportation, safe roadways, public safety, clean air and water, parks, libraries and connected human services. All these things are **funded with your local tax dollars**.

I am grateful that through **economic growth and cost savings** in County government operations, the proposed budget **increases funding to schools**, and maintains funding levels for public safety, transportation, environment and human services while **not increasing the real estate tax rate** to our residents.

As you may know, **Virginia is a Dillon rule state**. This means the County has only **limited taxing authority** and must rely heavily on real estate taxes (about 65% of our budget) to fund our services and investments. Currently, the County **only receives 2.3% of its funding from the State**, with the State returning to us **only 23% of what Fairfax County residents contribute in State taxes**. (These taxes are principally contributed through the fairest and most progressive form—income taxes.) We need to work with our State legislators to more **directly return even just a few percentages** more of our income tax dollars which **could significantly lower our real estate tax rate**. Even if the state were just to allow the County the **same options as the nearby cities** of Alexandria, Falls Church or Fairfax, we could lower our real estate tax rate by **enabling the Board to diversify our funding options**.

The Board and I **greatly value public engagement** in the budget process, and there are several ways to provide your input. For example, did you know you can **provide video testimony** for the budget public hearings, by **recording yourself on your phone** and submitting it to us. I encourage you to share your thoughts on the proposed FY 2020 budget and **submit your videos now!** [Click here](#) to submit video testimony. Other options include [registering to speak](#) at the budget public hearings, or [submitting written testimony](#). If you would like **assistance recording or submitting video testimony**, please contact our office at 703-780-7518. **We want to hear from you and are happy to help!**

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

1. Approved a **Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (CPACE)** and Resiliency Program.
2. Approved Board Matter requesting Governor Northam **amend SB 1759** regarding **undergrounding of utilities** on Richmond Highway.
3. Formally requested **all current and future VDOT projects** located in the County meet the County's local **stormwater management regulations**.

Please be sure to scroll to the end of this Brief to **see upcoming events and important information** in the District!

The following are **highlights from the Board of Supervisors March 19, 2019 meeting**, including items of particular interest to Mount Vernon residents. For additional

information, please go to the County's Board Agenda and Meeting Schedule. 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.

The Board also designated:



March 2019 Alternative Dispute Resolution Month



April 2019 Arab-American Heritage Month



April 2019 Fair Housing Month



March 18-24, 2019 Women Veterans Week



April 1-7, 2019 Public Health Week



April 7-13, 2019 Library Week

To view the March 19, 2019 Board Package [click here](#).

Administrative Items

Item 5: Approved streets in **Lindam Hill** to be accepted into the **State Secondary Roadway System**. *The full item can be read on pages 49 - 51 of the Board Package.*

Item 6: Approved traffic calming measures, including **one speed hump each on Smithway Drive and Mary Baldwin Drive**, as part of the Residential Traffic Administration Program (RTAP). *The full item can be read on pages 52 - 56 of the Board Package.*

Item 7: Approved **3rd Quarter FY 2019 Budget review** and amendments to current appropriation levels. *The full item can be read on pages 75 - 84 of the Board Package.*

Item 9: Authorized advertisement of **April 9-11 public hearings** on the County Executive's proposed [FY 2020 Advertised Budget Plan](#); [brief synopsis of this plan](#); [FY 2020 – FY 2024 Advertised Capital Improvement Program](#); and [proposed tax rates for tax year 2019](#). The **recommended real estate tax rate for FY 2020 is \$1.15 per \$100 of assessed value**, which is the current tax rate. *The full item can be read on pages 85 - 124 of the Board Package.*

The Board authorized public hearings:

- To amend the current **FY 2019 Budget appropriation levels**, based on both the County and the Schools' **FY 2019 Third Quarter Reviews**. The hearing will be held **April 9, 2019, at 4:00 p.m., and April 10 and 11, 2019, at 1:00 p.m.**
- To amend Zoning Ordinances to add a **new community garden use** as a temporary special permit use with appropriate use standards, **define a farmers market** and modify the existing use standards, clarify and **expand the location regulations** for gardening and composting as an accessory use, expand the definition and associated **provisions for open space** to include **community gardens**, and make other editorial and clarifying changes. The **Planning Commission hearing** will be held on **April 24, 2019 at 7:30 p.m.**, and the **Board hearing** will be held on **June 25, 2019 at 4:00 p.m.**
- To move the **Bellevue precinct polling location to the Martha Washington Library**, 6614 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria. The hearing will be held **April 9, 2019, at 2:00 p.m.**

Action Items

Action 2: The Board approved project agreements between the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) and the County to provide **Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement (CMAQ) program funds**, and matching funds, for the **operation of five Fairfax Connector Stores**. *The full item can be read on pages 179 - 203 of the Board Package.*

Action 3: The Board approved a project agreement between the Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) and the County **to fund the County's I-95 Transit and TDM Plan operating assistance**. This grant is used to fund the operating cost of **Fairfax Connector Route 393**, which operates from the **Saratoga Park-and-Ride and the Gambrill Road Park-and-Ride** in the Springfield area to the **Mark Center and the Pentagon**. *The full item can be read on pages 204 - 210 of the Board Package.*

Action 4: The Board approved the refinancing of **Revenue Refunding Bonds Series 2019A** for the Six County Public Facilities Projects – James Lee Community Center, Herndon Harbor House, Bailey's Community Center, Mott Community Center, **Gum Springs Community Center, and South County Government Center**. *The full item can be read on pages 211 - 399 of the Board Package.*

Information Items

Info 2: The Board received a **status report** from the County's Department of Transportation that included an **update on all active transportation projects and activities** in the County. **Projects can be viewed online** in an [interactive map](#). *The full item can be read on pages 418 - 553 of the Board Package.*

Board Matters

Ides of Bark Dog Festival

This **Sunday, March 24, 2019**, the Mount Vernon District and the Fairfax County Park Authority are hosting the **annual Ides of Bark Dog Festival from 1:00 – 4:00 pm at Grist Mill Park**. This year, participants will receive many **treats from local canine businesses**, watch **demonstrations by the Fairfax County Police Canine Unit**, learn **pet care** and **pet CPR** from pet technicians, and even have the opportunity to participate in a **canine obstacle course**. It makes for a great day with our furry, four legged friends.

I also want to mention that **we will miss K-9 Doby**, who recently tragically lost his life

while serving in the community. He will certainly be in our thoughts on Sunday.

This **amazing community event** could not happen without the **incredible support** of the Fairfax County Park Authority, Fairfax County Police Department, Fairfax County Fire Department, local dog park groups and our wonderful vendors. My sincerest appreciation goes out to each of these groups and **I invite everyone to join us on Sunday!**

Action

Directed the Office of Public Affairs to advertise and promote the Ides of Bark.

Undergrounding Letter to the Governor (Joint with Supervisor McKay)

During the recent General Assembly (GA) session, the Board spent a significant amount of time discussing **legislation regarding the undergrounding of utility lines** near transportation projects. As the Board will recall, **SB 1759 was introduced** to require any existing overhead electric distribution, cable, or telecommunications lines to be **replaced with underground lines** to accommodate a transportation project in an area of **transit-oriented development (TOD)** if the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) determined it was necessary. The **costs would have been borne by the CTB or by an electric utility** through an electric rate adjustment clause. Though the County did not request that legislation, **the County did support the introduced bill**, as it provided a possible mechanism for funding the **high costs of undergrounding** utility and telecommunications lines.

However, the **bill changed significantly** throughout the legislative process. The final bill that passed the GA **establishes a pilot program in Fairfax County** allowing undergrounding of electric utility distribution lines in TOD areas in conjunction with **transportation infrastructure improvement projects** (the projects must be identified by the CTB as reducing congestion, improving mobility, incorporating transit systems and improving safety). The bill **allows Fairfax County and an electric utility** to enter into an agreement providing that: the **County pays upfront** the utility's full cost of relocating and converting lines underground that is not recoverable under applicable rates (net of relocation credits); the **County imposes a levy** on electric utility customers to recoup those costs (residential utility customers will only be charged **up to \$1 per month**); and, the **utility converts, operates, and maintains** the agreed portion of the line underground. The **final bill is silent** on whether **telecommunications and cable providers** must similarly underground their lines, and who would bear the responsibility of paying for that undergrounding. [Continue reading...](#)

Action

- *Directed the Board to send a letter, under the Chairman's signature, to Governor Northam requesting that he amend SB 1759 to provide safeguards for the County in entering into an agreement for undergrounding utility lines, as well as ensuring that the upfront costs of such a project are borne equally by the Commonwealth, the utilities, and the County.*

Public Hearings

Amend the Uses, Proffers and Conceptual Development Plan for Wesley Housing, Previously Approved for Mixed-Use Development, to Permit Mixed-Use Development and Associated Modifications to Proffers and Site Design with an Overall Floor Area Ratio of 2.99

This property is located at the intersection of **Biscayne Drive and Huntington Avenue**. Public hearing was **deferred to April 9, 2019, at 2:00 p.m.**

Proposed Zoning Ordinance Amendment Re: Article 12, Signs, and Related Provisions

Approved [new zoning regulations for signs](#) that include rewriting the ordinance in **"content neutral"** manner to meet a U.S. Supreme Court ruling. Additional changes include:

- reorganizing all provisions in a more **user-friendly format to include graphics** and a new section of defined terms
- establishing new regulations for **electronic display signs**; and
- establishing more **uniform regulation** of signs in all zoning districts.

Proposal to Abandon and Discontinue Portions of Lorton Road and

Furnace Road and Petition for Acceptance of the New Alignment for Lorton Road, Furnace Road, and Workhouse Road

Adopted changes to the **Lorton Road, Furnace Road and Workhouse Road** configurations in Lorton, based on **recent roadway improvements**, to be accepted into the Secondary System of State Highways.

Consider Adopting Ordinance Creating a Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) and Resiliency Program

Adopted a new ordinance for the **Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy Program**, a **private loan program** to assist commercial, industrial and nonprofit property owners to make **energy-efficient, renewable energy, water-saving and climate resiliency improvements**. This is one of the many initiatives called out in my **Fairfax Green Initiatives** Board Matter. One of the the next steps will be to draft a similar **residential program - RPACE**.

Board Appointments

Mount Vernon residents were appointed or reappointed to the following:

1. Lanita Thweatt (Community Action Advisory Board)
 2. Garrett McGuire (Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board)
 3. Storme Gray (Advisory Social Service Board)
-

Upcoming Events

Buying and Using a New TV
Wednesday, March 27, 2019, 12:00 p.m.
Inova Mount Vernon Hospital
2501 Parkers Lane, Mount Vernon

An employee from Fairfax County's Communications Policy and Regulation Division will guide you on way to access the latest features of TV's, including "Streaming" of video programming over the internet and access to TV over the air.

Richmond Highway Urban Design Pop-Ups

POP-UP STUDIOS will showcase pedestrian-friendly streetscapes and building design ideas that will help to define the future character of the Richmond Highway corridor. Pop-in to see the work and share your ideas on either date:

POP-UP STUDIO #1

April 4, 2019, 4pm to 7pm

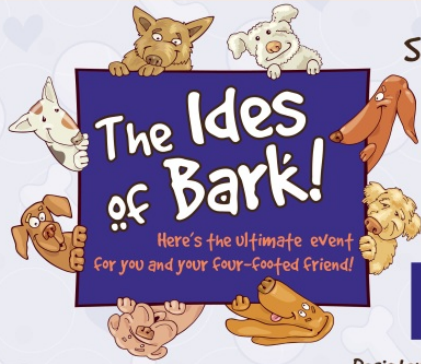
POP-UP STUDIO #2

April 6, 2019, 11am to 3pm

Location: Both POP-UPS will be held at the Mount Vernon Plaza Shopping Center 7648 Richmond Highway (behind McDonalds and next to DTLR)

More Events:

- Mar 23: [Trap, Neuter and Return \(TNR\) Community Cat Training](#) - 2 p.m.
 - Mar 24: [Ides of Bark Dog Festival](#) - 1 p.m.
 - Mar 26: [Richmond Highway Corridor Improvements Design Public Hearing](#) - 6:30 p.m.
 - March 27: [Leadership Fairfax Information Session](#) - 12 p.m.
 - Mar 27: [Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations Meeting](#) - 8 p.m.
 - Mar 28: [Mount Vernon District 2019 Paving and Restriping Meeting](#) - 6:30 p.m.
 - Apr 2: [Entrepreneurship 101: Starting a Business in Fairfax County](#) - 7:30 a.m.
 - Apr 4: [Public Meeting: Fairfax County and Franconia-Springfield Parkways Study](#) - 7 p.m.
 - Apr 6: [2019 Teen Job Fair - South County](#) - 10 a.m.
 - Apr 6: [Light Bulb Exchange Events Feature FREE LEDS](#) - 2 p.m.
 - Apr 8: [Northern Virginia Positive Aging and Wellness Fair](#) - 8:45 a.m.
 - Apr 8: [Leadership Fairfax Information Session](#) - 5:30 p.m.
-



Sunday, March 24, 2019

1-4 p.m.

Admission is FREE!

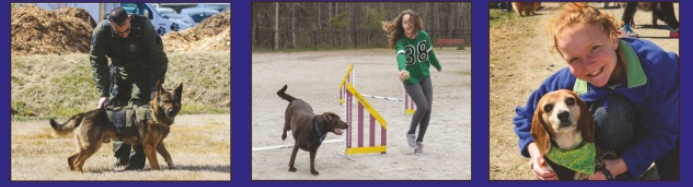
Grist Mill Park

4710 Mt. Vernon Memorial Hwy., Alexandria

Games • Prizes • Food
Fun • Vendors

Demonstrations by the
Fairfax County Police K-9 Unit

Register your dog with Fairfax County.
Fee is \$10 (Cash or check). Owners
must show proof of a current rabies shot.



Supported by Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Storck



Inclusion and
ADA Support
703-324-8563.
TTY: Va Relay 711.



www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks

Visit our Website

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

STAY CONNECTED

