

October 20, 2020



Yesterday the **Board of Supervisors (BOS)** met and for the first time since March, the **Board held three presentations** recognizing Delegate Vivian Watts for the VACO Achievement Award, Mayor Laurie DiRocco of Vienna and Mayor Lisa Merkel of Herndon for their years of service.



I was pleased to present the **final report of the Joint Environmental Task Force (JET)** to the Board for acceptance. Over the last year, the JET has worked hard to **develop proposed recommendations on environmental actions** to present to the County and School Boards for their consideration. With staff input, the BOS **will discuss these recommendations in the spring.**

The BOS took action to **help our businesses** as the weather gets colder by **authorizing closed or partially closed tents** for expanded outdoor dining and fitness options, which we have many of in the District.

The BOS also **approved the removal of four Confederate monuments, markers, and howitzers from Fairfax County's Judicial Complex.** The Virginia Department of Historic Resources **historical marker #262 will be returned to the State;** the ownership of the John Quincy Marr monument will be transferred to the Stuart Mosby Historical Society; and the ownership of the two Dahlgren howitzers will be transferred to the Manassas National Battlefield Park.

We also took the **next step in installing solar panels** on County locations by approving the **lease of the space needed for the panels** to the first solar contractor with completed contracts. One of the **first facilities** to get solar panels in the District will be at the **Noman Cole Plant in Lorton.**

You can read more about **upcoming community meetings** and information below.

Respectfully yours in public service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Storck".

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

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The following are **highlights from the Board of Supervisors October 20, 2020 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.

To view the **October 20, 2020 Board Package** [click here](#).

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## Board Matters

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### Acceptance of Joint Environmental Task Force (JET) Report - Joint with Supervisor Penny Gross

This Board Matter and the **JET Report** build on previous actions by the Board of Supervisors (BOS) on October 30, 2018, then chaired by Sharon Bulova and the School Board, then chaired by Karen Corbett Sanders, to establish the **Joint Environmental Task Force** to accelerate our actions in **response to the climate crisis**. The JET was charged with working with staff and **engaging the community to identify areas for collaboration** between the two entities to further overall County efforts in energy efficiency and environmental sustainability, **developing implementation strategies and making recommendations** to the Boards. [Read the full Board Matter...](#)

*Action:*

- *Accepted the Joint Environmental Task Force Report.*
- *Directed the County Executive to bring an action plan to the Board's Environment Committee no later than March 2021 for implementation of the recommendations in the Report.*

### Recognize October as Pedestrian Safety Month

The National Highway Safety Traffic Administration (NHSTA) has launched the first National Pedestrian Safety Month with the goal of increasing awareness about pedestrian safety and reminding pedestrians and drivers that staying safe is a shared responsibility.

Nationally, there was a 3% increase in pedestrian fatalities between 2017 and 2018, totaling 6,283 deaths in 2018. This is the highest number of pedestrian deaths since 1990. In Fairfax County, there have been 12 pedestrian fatalities in 2020; 4 of those deaths have been in the Mount Vernon District, along the Richmond Highway Corridor. [Read the full Board Matter....](#)

*Action:*

- *Therefore, Mr. Chairman, without objection, I ask that we recognize October as National Pedestrian Safety Month in Fairfax County and support the NHSTA initiative. I also ask that the Office of Public Affairs publicize information in recognition of this month and help communicate these safety tips for drivers and pedestrians.*

### Semiquincentennial Anniversary of the American Revolution, the Revolutionary War, and the Independence of the United States of America

During the 2020 Session, the Virginia General Assembly passed, and the Governor signed, legislation to establish the American Revolution 250<sup>th</sup> Commission within the executive branch of state government. The purpose of the Commission is to commemorate the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the American Revolution, the Revolutionary War, and the Independence of the United States. On October 9, 2020, Governor Northam released the names of the appointees for Virginia's American Revolution 250<sup>th</sup> Commission. The legislation also mandated that George Mason's Gunston Hall would appoint and establish an Advisory Council composed of non-legislative citizen members. [Read the full Board Matter here](#)

*Action:*

- *Appoint a seven person Semiquincentennial workgroup led by Gunston Hall including representatives from Visit Fairfax, Mount Vernon Estate, National Museum of the US Army, George Mason University, Fairfax County History Commission, Fairfax County Human Rights Committee, along with associated County history, equity and human*

- rights staff members; and
- Charge the work group with providing recommendations by July 2021 to this Board of the preferred approach for organizing and leading county-related efforts for the inclusive observance and celebration. Recommendations to include high level SMART goals related to planning, promotion, types of civic, cultural, historical and educational activities, ways, means, timetables, approaches and accountability.

## **Fairfax County Recycles Day - Joint with Supervisors Penny Gross and Pat Herrity**

America Recycles Day takes place each year in November and is the only nationally recognized day dedicated to promoting and celebrating recycling in the United States. Nationally, thousands of organizations, including our neighboring jurisdictions, hold events to educate people about recycling resources in their community. [Read the full Board Matter here....](#)

### *Action:*

- Therefore Mr. Chairman, I move that we declare November 15<sup>th</sup>, Fairfax County Recycles Day, in alignment with the national initiative to better promote our local efforts to recycle and ask OPA to publicize. Furthermore, I move that we prepare a proclamation to be presented to the Director of the Solid Waste Division and members of the recycling team on Monday, November 16<sup>th</sup> at the ribbon cutting for the new food scrap drop off program at the I-66 transfer station.

## **Request for Preliminary Analysis of Potential Historic Overlay District of River Farm**

AHS has long sought to make River Farm a living representation of its principles and organizational vision of raising awareness about and fostering sustainable, earth-friendly gardening and horticultural practices. Thus, we were greatly shocked and saddened by the news on September 4, 2020 that the AHS Board of Directors intended to sell the River Farm property.

I have been coordinating and leading our local efforts among federal, state and local elected officials and our federal, regional and county park leaders from the moment the AHS Board shocked us all with their decision. The attached letter expresses our desire to partner with the AHS Board, for them to slow down this process and give us time to come up with solutions that allow River Farm to remain publicly accessible and not be sold to a private developer. [Read the full Board Matter here....](#)

### *Action:*

- *THEREFORE, we request that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Planning & Development Heritage Resources Staff to analyze and gather information to create an expedited Historic Overlay District for River Farm. We further direct Heritage Resources staff to assemble and provide all this information and deliver it no later than 3 weeks from today's date. County staff has advised us that they have already started this process and the deadline is feasible.*

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# **Public Hearings**

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## **Consider Adoption of Amendments to an Uncodified Ordinance to Provide a Method to Assure Continuity in Fairfax County Government During COVID-19 Emergency by Temporarily Approving Outdoor Dining and Outdoor Fitness and Exercise Activities Subject to Certain Conditions, Thereby Suspending Any Requirement for Individualized Approvals of Such Activities**

Approved extending the Board's previous ordinance, and to amend it to **allow tents that are partially or completely closed**, to **expand outdoor dining and fitness options** to help businesses as the weather gets colder.

## **Lease County-Owned Properties for the Purpose of Installing Solar**

## Facilities (Braddock, Hunter Mill, Mason, Mount Vernon, Providence and Springfield Districts)

Approved the lease of County-owned property to **Sigora Solar** for the **installation, operation and maintenance of solar photovoltaic panels** for the purpose of on-site electric generation at **eight locations** throughout the County, including the Lab Building at the **Noman M. Cole Pollution Control Plant** in Lorton.

## Proposed Amendments to the Public Facilities Manual (PFM) Regarding the "PFM Flexibility Project," a Fairfax First Initiative to Improve the Speed, Consistency and Predictability of the County's Land Development Review Process

Approved amendments to the **Public Facilities Manual (PFM) for the Flexibility Project** with a focus on **technical issues, incorporating flexibility and innovation** to coordinate with specific requirements in the VA code, County Code, the Comprehensive Plan, and the **Urban Design Guidelines**, among others.

## Proposed Amendments to the County Code for Minimum Private School and Child Care Facility Standards and Home Child Care Facilities

Approved amendments to align County code to **new state childcare licensing** and reflects federal and state **childcare facility background checks**.

## Proposal to Vacate and Abandon a Portion of White Spruce Way

Approved **abandonment of a portion of a public road, White Spruce Way** in Lorton.

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## Board Appointments

**Mount Vernon residents were appointed or reappointed to the following:**

- **Robert Surovell** (Industrial Development Authority)
  - **Cathy Ledec** (Tree Commission)
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# District Information & Upcoming Events

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## Series of Virtual Community Meetings Scheduled on Richmond Highway Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project

Fairfax County Department of Transportation will hold a series of **virtual community meetings in English and Spanish** this fall that will provide an **update on the Richmond Highway Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project**. Each meeting will focus on a specific component of the project, including **right-of-way acquisition, station design and BRT branding**. The public is invited to **ask questions and provide feedback** on the various aspects of the project. To learn more about the Richmond Highway BRT and to **register for the online meetings**, go to the [project website](#). The first meetings are scheduled for **October 20 and 22**.

## County Seeks Community Input on Funding Pool Categories

Fairfax County's Consolidated Community Funding Pool is an **allocation of funds earmarked** by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to be **administered to local nonprofits and community-based organizations** as an investment in programs and services that **strengthen the county's ability to fill the human services needs** of its residents. To determine how these funds should be allocated, Fairfax County, with **significant community input**, establishes categories that are reflective of the **needs residents feel are most important** in their communities. In preparation for the next funding cycle, **we are seeking your insight** on our current category areas:

- **Financial Stability**
- **Food and Nutrition**
- **Health**
- **Housing**
- **Literacy/Educational Development/Attainment**

- **Positive Behaviors and Healthy Relationships**
- **Support/Community/Social Networks**

As we gather feedback from the community, **your input is important**. Please take a moment to **share your thoughts and opinions** by taking the **Community Feedback Survey online**. The survey will be **available until Friday, October 30, 2020**. All responses will be anonymous.

## VolunteerFest 2020

Slated for **October 24 and 25, VolunteerFest** is a community-wide event that engages **volunteers of all ages and abilities** in a weekend of service to **support local nonprofit partners** and government agencies. This year, in order to provide opportunities for everyone who wants to **serve and to get needed donations to nonprofits**, we are offering new **"at-home projects."** Volunteers can choose from a wide variety of projects that **fit their interest area and budget**: for example; write holiday cards for vulnerable populations, purchase materials and make no-sew fleece blankets for Veterans in hospice care, bake homemade treats for rescue dogs, and much more! For those who can and **desire to serve in-person**, we also have some smaller **socially distanced opportunities available**, such as assisting with local food drives and grounds beautification projects. For a complete listing of projects, please **visit Volunteer Fairfax's website here**. It's easy to sign-up by creating a volunteer profile. Teens will have fun working on these projects while **earning service hours** and it's also a **great way for families and small groups** to serve together.

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Visit our Website

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STAY CONNECTED

