

# Season's Greetings



Mount Vernon Advisor  
[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/mountvernon)  
December 2017



## Sign up for the Mount Vernon Advisor



Dear Neighbors,

December is a magical time of year for many, but a challenging one for others. And so, I encourage you to share your holiday spirit this season:

- Bake an extra batch of cookies for the neighborhood children.
- Look in on an elderly neighbor.
- Call a long-lost friend.
- Make an end-of-year contribution to your favorite Mount Vernon non-profit.
- Support your local food bank.

This past month has provided our office with many opportunities to share holiday spirit. Our **Holiday Open House** was well attended, with over 70 residents visiting, sharing their thoughts on community issues, and connecting in their community! Thank you to all who participated in our food drive! We collected **280 pounds of food** for the **Lorton Community Action Center Food Bank**. Check out our Holiday Open House photo album below. In addition, we participated in the Helping Hands Blanket and Coat Drive for refugee families, honored our local police and fire fighters and participated in many holiday events.

As you may know, we recently announced the appointment of the **new Mount Vernon Planning Commissioner, Walter Clarke**. Walter's term will begin on April 1, 2018. Walter's leadership on various Chambers' of Commerce, roles as President of the non-profit Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation (SFDC) and Co-Chairman of the Embark Richmond Highway Advisory Group, uniquely qualify him for this

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position. As a community and business leader, Walter brings great skills as an arbiter and the ability to effectively interact with community groups, businesses and individuals. **Outgoing Planning Commissioner, Earl Flanagan** will be working closely with Walter over the coming months to ensure a smooth transition. When you see these gentlemen in the community in the coming weeks, please join me in welcoming Walter to this new position and thanking Earl for his three decades of service to our community.



As we reflect on 2017, I would like to share some of our **major accomplishments** to improve the quality of life for our residents. This past year has seen the approval of the **Police Body Camera Pilot Program** at the Mount Vernon District Station, the establishment of the **Northern Virginia Cultural Arts District**, and the first lease under the **Resident Curator Program** to rehabilitate the **Stempson House** in Lorton. Additionally, the **Huntington Club Condos** and **Riverside Apartments** are moving forward with redevelopment plans, the **Embark Comprehensive Plan** language was drafted and the **Original Mount Vernon High School** redevelopment process began. We also started community task forces to guide establishment of the **Lorton Community Center** and the **South County Police Station and Animal Shelter**. While the year began with a fire at the **Covanta Plant**, it is ending with improved safety features, an enhanced public communication plan and the plant reopening in the coming weeks. We are enjoying the benefits of the **Richmond Highway widening** from Fort Belvoir to Jeff Todd Way and the **Lorton Road and Workhouse Way widenings**. We were pleased to host the **South County Job Fair**, the **2nd Annual Tour de Mount Vernon**, the **30th Annual Town Meeting**, among others, as well as participate in the **Workhouse Brewfest**. Overall, it has been a great year filled with excitement, challenges and many rewards for the Mount Vernon District!



Recently, our office was awarded the **GIS Excellence Award for Best Use of GIS for Public Outreach**. Please join me in congratulating **Tae Choi**, Mount Vernon District Community Development & Land Use Aide, **for leading TEAM Mount Vernon in this effort!** Tae's use of Virtual Fairfax gave the 300 attendees at the 2017 Mount Vernon District Town Meeting a Virtual tour of the district, with 45 aerial and street view stops. Way to go, Tae!

As always, last week's **Board of Supervisor's (BOS) meeting** had many important actions and here are the **top 5 things** you need to know:

1. Supervisor Storck and the Board demand transparency and prompt release of in-car video in FBI investigation.
2. Sixteen Fairfax County employers awarded "Best Workplaces for Commuters".
3. Original Mount Vernon High School Master Planning public hearing held.
4. New Deputy County Executive for Health and Human Services, Tisha Deeghan, appointed.
5. New funding grant for Richmond Highway Bus Rapid Transit received.

In closing, from our family to yours, wishing you a holiday season filled with warmth, laughter, family and friends.

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

**Save the date!**

**The 31st Annual Town Meeting will be  
Saturday, February 3, 2018 at 7:45am  
at Mount Vernon High School.**

*See you there!*

**November 2017 Activities:**

- Phone calls: 850
- Meetings: 44
- Hosted meetings: 30



Mount Vernon District Staff: Allison Miessler, Donna Slaymaker, Christine Morin, Supervisor Dan Storck, Camela Speer & Tae Choi

**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](mailto:mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov)

**Office Hours**

Monday - Wednesday, Friday:  
8:30 am - 5 pm  
Thursday: 8:30 am - 7:30 pm

Second Saturday Each Month.  
Lorton Library: 9 am - 11:30 am  
MV District Office: 12:30 p.m. - 3 p.m.  
Walk-ins and by appointment



## Mount Vernon District Holiday Open House



Thank you to everyone who joined us for our **Holiday Open House**. A special thanks to the Bryant High School students who not only shared their amazing artwork with us, but also came out to attend the event and meet the Supervisor as well!





## Embark Comprehensive Plan Update

Since the comprehensive plan amendment approval in May 2015, the Embark team, comprised of Fairfax County staff and a Citizen Advisory Committee, have been working to draft the **Embark Richmond Highway Plan**. The Comprehensive Plan Amendment process has considered:

- Planning goals and objectives for the corridor.
- Land use density and mix for the areas in the vicinity of the proposed Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) stations between Huntington and Fort Belvoir.
- Corridor-wide transportation systems, urban design and public facilities.

Recently, Supervisors Dan Storck and Jeff McKay thanked the Embark team for their efforts during the process, noting they have devoted an amazing amount of time and did a wonderful job working with the community to develop the Embark Comprehensive Plan Amendment. However, Supervisors Storck and McKay also expressed concern to the team that the Plan language regarding Metrorail does not reflect strongly enough the "Route 1 Multimodal Alternatives Analysis". The Supervisors are adamant that the Metrorail related wording must be changed to reflect that it's not a matter of "if", it's a matter of "when". **Both Supervisors agree it is crucial that the Embark team make the appropriate edits throughout the entire proposed Comprehensive Plan language**, prior to its formal consideration by the Board, to make it clear that Fairfax County is committed to Metrorail's Yellow Line extension to Hybla Valley. For more information, visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpz/embarkrichmondhwy/>

Critical Next steps include:

- **Planning Commission public hearing: Thursday, January 25, 2018 at 7:30pm**
- **Board of Supervisors public hearing: March 20, 2018 at 4:00pm**

## Stempson House Lease Signing

Earlier this month, **Lieutenant Commander (LCDR) Steven J. McCullough** signed a lease with the **Fairfax County Park Authority for the Stempson House**, the first house to be renovated under the Park Authority's Resident Curator Program. The Stempson House property is located at 9501 Furnace Road in Lorton, VA, in Laurel Hill Park. It was built in 1937 by inmates of the nearby Occoquan Workhouse and Reformatory, later known as the Lorton Prison, for use by prison employees as a residence, and later as a security office.



LCDR McCullough has been an Active Duty Coast Guard officer and pilot for over 19 years and is currently assigned to the Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, DC, as the Senior Watch Officer of the Coast Guard National Command Center. Growing up in Hagerstown, MD, close to many Civil War era battlefields, combined with having a father who was a history buff and attending school in one of the oldest cities in the country, peeked LCDR McCullough's interest in American History at a young age. He graduated with a B.A. in History and Economics and lived in Arlington for several months before joining the Coast Guard.

Traveling frequently and owning several homes along the way, LCDR McCullough honed his Do-It-Yourself (DIY) skills and gained experience dealing with aged structures and dated materials. His most recent restoration/renovation was a 1930's farm house in upstate New York, which included gutting a bathroom and laundry room, a major kitchen renovation, creation of a modern luxury master suite, hardwood flooring, ceramic tile, drywall and roof repair, mold remediation, a carpenter ant infestation and major landscape improvements.

Supervisor Dan Storck welcomed LCDR McCullough to the community and thanked for his service to this new and innovative program. Supervisor Dan Storck stated that he is looking forward to following this project, noting that LCDR McCullough plans to share his renovation progress with others interested in the Resident Curator Program and the local



community. LCDR McCullough responded that he looks forward to helping build the program in its early stages, as well as, hopefully, becoming a valued member of the Fairfax County and Lorton communities.

[Click here](#) to see LCDR McCullough's pictorial blog of the project.

[Click here](#) to see the NBC4 report.

[Click here](#) to see photos from the lease signing ceremony.

## Day of Community Service to Our Community

On Friday, November 3, 2017, more than **70 employees of Washington REIT** arrived at **Mount Eagle Park in Alexandria**, armed with paint, brushes, cleaning supplies and trash bags. This energized, enthusiastic and dedicated volunteer team gave their time and talents to spruce up the 11-acre neighborhood park. A long list of trail and park maintenance projects was completed throughout the day, to

include painting and installing new signs, re-sanding and edging the sand volleyball court, painting fences, trail clean up and maintenance, scrubbing and re-mulching playground equipment, weeding, litter pickup and planting 25 trees. Not only did these volunteers donate their time, but they donated the needed materials and supplies as well!



Thank you to the Washington REIT for their **day of service to our community**.

To read more, check out the Fairfax County Park Authority's story: [The Impact One Day of Volunteering Can Have](#).

## 11th Annual Police & Fire Fighters Tribute

The Mount Vernon Lee Chamber of Commerce honors our local police and fire fighters at annual ceremony.



**First Row L to R:** Sonja Caison, Chamber Vice President; SGT Jonathan Nytes, Franconia Station; MPO Alice E. Eggers, Franconia Station; Detective Phillip Edwards, Franconia Station; Detective Marvin Goodley, Mount Vernon Station; PFC Nicholas Shively, Mount Vernon Station; APO Juan "Rick" Lopez, Mount Vernon Station; SLT Michael Jessee, Mount Vernon Station; SGT Alicia Handy, Fort Belvoir Police; Steven Kinchen, Fort Belvoir Police: Dewitt Parker; Fort Belvoir Police.

**Second Row L to R:** Scott Stroh III, Chamber President; Jane Gandee, Chamber Chairman; Andrew Funk, Fort Belvoir Fire Department; Sean Murphy, Fort Belvoir Police: Jonathan Lang, Fort Belvoir Fire Department; John Leary, FCF&RD; APO Athena Caul, Franconia Station; Christian McCreary, Fort Belvoir Police; Carlos Solomon, FCF&RD; Mike Fischer, FCF&RD; Christopher Craft, Fort Belvoir Fire Department; Paul Arney, Fort Belvoir Police; Jason Roberts, FCF&RD.

## Spirit of America Dedication

**"Spirit of America"**, the life-sized **Bald Eagle Sculpture** commissioned by the Friends of Mason Neck State Park, was unveiled and dedicated at a ceremony on Sunday, December 10, 2017. The sculpture represents the Park's commitment to the preservation of the Bald Eagle. Although the Friends of

Mason Neck State Park were challenged to find the right sculptor and materials to fulfill their vision, they persevered and ultimately selected noted sculptor Mike Curtis of Sagle, Idaho.

More than 50 people attended the ceremony, including Delegate-Elect Kathy Tran, Delegate Dave Albo, and Supervisor Dan Storck.

**Mason Neck State Park** is the only State Park in Virginia with a sculpture that reflects the image and purpose of the park.



"Spirit of America"

## 2017 Mary Thonen Richmond Highway Beautification Awards

On Wednesday, December 6, 2017, the **Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation** (SFDC) presented the **2017 Mary Thonen Richmond Highway Beautification Awards**. This annual award program recognizes local establishments for their outstanding contributions to Richmond Highway beautification in the form of landscape improvements. The award was named to honor a community champion and long-serving board member, the late Mary Thonen.

Each year, ten businesses are selected as finalists for the Mary Thonen Awards, with the top three receiving special recognition from SFDC. Outgoing SFDC President and future Mount Vernon District Planning Commissioner, Walter Clarke, presented this year's awards along with Lee District Supervisor Jeff McKay. Mount Vernon District Supervisor Dan Stock, Delegate Paul Krizek, and James Migliaccio, Lee District Planning Commissioner, also attended.

### The top three awardees for 2017 are:

- **First Place: Cherry Arms Apartments, of Hybla Valley**
- **Second Place: Mount Vernon Square Apartments, of Hybla Valley**
- **Third Place: Mount Vernon Plaza Shopping Center (Federal Realty Investment Trust), of Hybla Valley**

The remaining seven finalists received certificates for display at their businesses. Those seven finalists are:

- City Side Apartments, of Huntington/North Gateway
- Kentucky Fried Chicken, of Hybla Valley
- Montebello, of Huntington/North Gateway
- Red Roof Inn, of Huntington/North Gateway
- The Beacon at Groveton, of Beacon Hill
- The Mehr Borthers Sunoco, of South County
- Washington Square Apartments, of South County



## West Potomac High School Pond Retrofit Project

**The long awaited West Potomac High School stormwater management facility project is complete**, adding a pond to what was a brush-filled forest. The new stormwater management facility makes a significant positive contribution to meeting our Chesapeake Bay

ordinance requirements.



*Before*



*After*

## Panhandling Concern in Fairfax County

**In 2017, our Police Department has received approximately 2,100 calls related to panhandlers in Fairfax County.** The calls range from traffic issues to concerns about the panhandler to fears about a suspicious person at an intersection. The good news is that our county has many services and staff dedicated to help those in need. But we need your help!

**We encourage you to not give money to panhandlers.** Panhandling is not against the law in our county, but the only way we can stop it is to stop giving money to panhandlers. We know that some panhandlers come from outside our county or even outside Virginia and operate as part of organized, professional panhandling rings.

### **There are ways to help:**

- Provide a panhandler with our human services hotline number - 703-222-0880.
- Consider making a donation or volunteering for one of our nonprofit community partners dedicated to assisting our residents in need.

For more information and ways to help, [click here](#).

## Stay Informed - Winter Weather is Here

Winter has officially arrived and our first snow of the season fallen. In Fairfax County, much preparation goes into planning for snow events. It is important to know the information pertinent your community before the snow begins to fall to be prepared and remain safe. For the majority of Mount Vernon residents, it is likely that your road is owned and maintained by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT), who is responsible for plowing over 13,000 miles in Northern Virginia. During a snow event, primary streets are always the highest priority for clearing, with secondary street plowing beginning once primary streets are mostly clear. VDOT does their best to pre-treat roads with a brine solution (a mix of 23% salt and 77% water) a few days in advance of a storm. However, this only works when the pavement temperature is above 20 degrees and there is no rain prior to the snow arrival.

While most of the roads in Northern Virginia a maintained by VDOT, there are a number of streets in Mount Vernon that are owned by Fairfax County and/or privately owned. The County is responsible for plowing only a few miles of designated sections of roadway that are in the Fairfax County Road Maintenance and Improvement Program. Privately owned streets are the responsibility of the homeowner/condominium association or property management company.



Before it snows, make sure you find out who owns your road by [clicking here](#).

Since this is not likely to be the only event of the season, we encourage you to visit [Fairfax County's 2017 Winter Weather Guide](#) filled with links and information specific to your community.

To read more, [click here](#).

## Hypothermia Prevention Program

The long, cold winter nights are upon us. Imagine spending the night sleeping outside. For those experiencing homelessness in our county this is a frightening and potentially life-threatening reality.

To help ensure no one has to sleep outside during the winter months, a collaborative effort by the county, nonprofits and faith communities created the Hypothermia Prevention Program more than a decade ago. Last winter, the program provided more than 1,000 people experiencing homelessness in our county with a warm, safe place to sleep and a healthy meal.

*[Hypothermia](#) is a condition brought on when the body temperature drops below 95 degrees. Warning signs include uncontrollable shivering, memory loss, disorientation, incoherence, slurred speech, drowsiness and apparent exhaustion.*

If you see someone at night who is unsheltered and you think he or she could be at risk of hypothermia, call the county's non-emergency phone line at 703-691-2131.

[NewsCenter has more on the hypothermia prevention program](#) and other county news and event information.

## Christmas Tree, Oh Christmas Tree

Getting ready to put up a real, or artificial, Christmas tree in your home? Did you know that one-third of all Christmas tree fires are a result of electrical failures or malfunctions? Many of these fires can potentially be prevented by following some simple steps. [The Fire and Rescue blog has some important information for you to consider](#).

## Winter Tree Care

### Fertilizing Trees

Usually, healthy trees do not need fertilizer. In a forest setting, decaying leaves and other organic matter provide a slow, steady source of natural fertilizer. In an urban setting, however, soils are likely to be compacted, poorly aerated and drained and low in natural fertilizer because of annual leaf removal which may stress trees. There is also competition from lawns which surround many urban trees. Fertilization may be needed in these situations to increase plant vigor.

The majority of the feeding root system for many trees is less than twenty inches deep, while the structural support roots go deeper. In general, the availability of nutrients to the shallower roots will depend on soil quality, aeration and drainage. Having a wide, shallow mulch ring around each tree can help mimic their natural habitat and provide a slow release of nutrients, while also improving soil structure and drainage.

Signs of tree stress or need for nutrition are:

- Premature fall color and leaf dropping.
- Smaller than normal leaf size.
- Chlorotic (pale green or yellowish) leaf color.
- Noticeable reduction of twig, bud or branch growth.

Before applying fertilizer to your lawn or mulch area specifically for your trees, you should test your soil to see what nutrients, if any, may be lacking in the soil. Soil test kits are available from Virginia Cooperative Extension.

You may also want to contact an International Society of Arboriculture Certified Arborist to assess the health of your tree or trees to give you guidance on possible fertilizer needs. See <http://www.goodtreecare.com/> for a list of certified arborists.

If you decide to fertilize, do so in the late winter or early spring using fertilizer that is high in nitrogen. The nitrogen content is indicated by the first number in the listed ratio, such as 27-3-3, or 26-4-6. Follow the label directions on the container, for example, if using 27-3-3 use one pound per inch of trunk diameter at breast height, so that a ten inch diameter tree will take ten pounds. Do not over fertilize or fertilize too frequently, as too much is worse than too little.

More information about trees is here or call the Fairfax County Urban Forest Management Division (UFMD) at 703-324-1770, TTY 711.

## Spirit of Mason Fun Ride



The Mason Cycling Club is hosting its first annual **Spirit of Mason Fun Ride in Fairfax, January 7th, 2018 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

The recreational 50-mile ride will take cyclists from the campus of George Mason University to Gunston Hall, and back, in honor of the university's namesake.

Mason, one of our founding fathers, made great accomplishments during the Revolutionary War and significant contributions to the United States Constitution. He was also instrumental in getting our state to ratify the Bill of Rights.

The ride will happen rain or shine and will have aid stations along the way, as well as prizes for all who finish the trek. Proceeds from the event will go to numerous causes.

Please click [here](#) for more details about the event.

## Former Lorton Prison Becomes Luxury Apartments

Our district is constantly improving, and we are frequently finding new uses for our older buildings. The former **Lorton Reformatory** is set to become a luxury apartment community with construction continuing through 2018. Reuse of the former prison will provide additional residential opportunities, as well as retail, restaurants, apartments, offices and more.



Please click [here](#) to watch a video that details future plans for the former prison.

## Fairfax Alerts

### "In the know, on the go."

Fairfax County's FREE alert system sends you important information during an emergency, helps you navigate your commute and shares community information.

You can also customize your Fairfax Alerts to receive the information pertinent to you.

- Get alerts on up to 10 devices such as a cell phone, home phone or email.
- Receive alerts for 5 geographic locations such as home, work and school.
- Weather, traffic, public safety and emergency alerts.
- Learn about county government non-emergency notices such as taxes and elections.
- Mobile app available.

Don't miss this important information! Sign up today for Fairfax Alerts at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts).



## Boards, Authorities and Commission Members Needed

Help serve your community by serving on a Fairfax County Board, Authority or Commission. Please ask your friends, neighbors and community members if they are willing to help serve Fairfax County. Supervisor Storck has vacancies on:

### **Commission on Aging**

To identify and promote better understanding of the problems of the aging and to plan and promote and where it is found necessary, conduct activities to contribute to their well-being. Meetings are at 12:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of every month, except August.

### **Trails and Sidewalks Committee**

To report to the Board for the purpose of providing citizen input and oversight to planning and developing a countywide trails system. The Trails and Sidewalks Committee evaluates existing facilities for trails, sidewalks and bicycle routes and assists the county in producing maps of these facilities, and plans new facilities. Committee members also evaluate subdivision plans and site plans for trail facilities. Monthly meetings are held from 7-9 p.m. in conference room 8 at the Fairfax County Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax.

### **Small Business Commission**

The purpose of the Fairfax County Small Business Commission is to: (a) study, report and make recommendations on issues of concern to small businesses in Fairfax County; (b) advise and



assist the Board of Supervisors, County Executive and County employees on any matter that will enhance the capability of small businesses to succeed in Fairfax County; and (c) promote and assist small businesses generally, but especially with respect to minority-owned and emerging businesses, to establish themselves, develop, and succeed in their pursuits of commercial opportunities and in their vendor relations with Fairfax County. Meetings are usually last Monday of every month @ 7:00 p.m. in Conference Room 9 or 10, Fairfax County Govt. Center.

### **Wetlands Board**

The board shall preserve and prevent the despoliation and destruction of wetlands within its jurisdiction while accommodating necessary economic development in a manner consistent with wetlands preservation. Members of the Board shall hold no other public office in the County except that they may be members of the local planning or zoning commission, directors of soil and water conservation boards, or local erosion commissions, the local Board of Zoning Appeals or the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance Exception Review Committee. Statement of Economic Interests Disclosure required. eff. 4/26/16. Meeting times varies.

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](mailto:Donna.Slaymaker@fairfaxcounty.gov).

For more information, please download the [brochure](#) for a brief guide to BACs, or learn more on the county website [here](#).