

September 15, 2020



For the first time since March, the Board of Supervisor's **met at the dais in the Board Auditorium**, newly outfitted with plexiglass barriers, limited seating in the audience and masks required for all. While it was not "back to normal", it was perhaps the **next step to our "new normal"**.



During the meeting we discussed many weighty issues ranging from **removal of Civil War Memorials** to **banning guns in Fairfax County facilities and outdoor sites**. The Board had a 2:15 a.m. adjournment due to **hearing from many residents** on a variety of topics, including more than **20 speakers on the Civil War Memorial topic** and almost **100 on the gun control ordinance**. I carefully listened to each public hearing speaker and I have **heard from many residents on all sides of the issue**. For Mount Vernon residents' concerns, I've been assured that this ordinance **will not impede the rightful and lawful ability** of hunters to access hunting areas that are either in or nearby Fairfax. I voted in **support of the ordinance** that **prohibits weapons in County buildings, parks and at special events**, as it provides another level of safety and **it protects us** in our public buildings and parks. However, **after listening to about six hours of testimony** and hearing the **real stories and deep feelings** regarding guns and safety, I recognize that **individual needs and perspectives** on this issue can never be fully reconciled. I understand that ultimately, **our role in County government** is to find a path that results in **safer County properties for all**.

Another busy public hearing was on the **removal three publicly owned Civil War monuments** located at the **Fairfax County Judicial Complex**. While the Board ultimately decided to remove the monuments, it also **directed the Fairfax County History Commission Marker Committee** and the Virginia Department of Historic Resources to **study and prepare one of more markers** to more fully describe the **historic context of the actions** at the Fairfax Courthouse, including those that occurred at the Battle of the Fairfax Courthouse and **other periods of history** that occurred at the Courthouse. Topics in history could also include the **reconstruction era, voting at the courthouse and the experiences of the African American community**.

Thank you to everyone who took time out of their busy schedules, and into the wee hours of the morning, to come **testify on these important issues**.

Additional Meeting Highlights:

1. **Added \$12 million to the Fairfax Rise: COVID-19 Small Business and NonProfit Relief Grant Program.**
2. Approved an **additional allocation of \$20.1 million of CARES Act funding for FCPS's** response to COVID-19.
3. Requested funding for a **complete historical review of the Gum Springs Community** to create a recommended management plan that could clearly define, preserve, and celebrate this historic area.
4. Adopted an ordinance to establish an **economic incentive program** in five districts, including the **Richmond Highway Corridor**.
5. Declared **October 7, 2020 as Energy Efficiency Day**.

As an outcome of my **Fairfax Green Initiatives #1**, we adopted a **strengthened**

Sustainable Development Policy for County Capital Projects. The updated policy provides incremental steps to **improve building energy performance** and **reduce Greenhouse Gas emissions** for all new construction and major renovations of County buildings. The policy target is **Net Zero Energy eligibility for these projects by 2031**. While **I would like to see the County achieve this goal much sooner** and will continue to ask for a more aggressive approach, County staff have acknowledged they **will be doing Net Zero projects when possible prior to 2031**.

I know many of you are interested in the **Fairfax Peak project proposed** at the I-95 Lorton Landfill and would like to know more about it. This week's action was to authorize a **public hearing on October 6** to consider whether the County will permit **Alpine-X LLC** additional **access to the proposed site** to **do on-site research and conduct studies** to determine the site feasibility.

You can read more about the **latest COVID-19 information** and **upcoming community meetings** below.

Respectfully yours in public service,



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

The following are **highlights from the Board of Supervisors September 15, 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.

Para recibir la información de **nuestro boletín electrónico en español**, o **para hablar con un hispanohablante**, comuníquese con **Diego Rodriguez Cabrera** a su preferencia, por teléfono al (703) 619-4339 o por correo electrónico: diego.rodriquezcabrera@fairfaxcounty.gov.

All presentations and recognitions were postponed.

To view the **September 15, 2020 Board Package** [click here](#).

Administrative Items

Authorized Public Hearings on:

- Proposed County Code amendments **adding requirements for home child care facilities** for additional out-of-state **criminal background checks and sex offender registry searches** for any adult who has lived in another state in the preceding five years. Public hearing will be held on **October 20**.
- Proposed amendment to the **Erosion and Sedimentation Control Ordinance** that strengthens enforcement. Public hearing will be held on **November 17**.
- Proposal to vacate and **abandon a portion of White Spruce Way**. Public hearing will be held on **October 20**.
- Permit **Alpine-X LLC access to the proposed indoor ski facility site** to do on-site research and conduct studies. Public hearing will be held on **October 6**.

You can now **testify remotely by phone, video** and in writing, as well as providing in-person testimony.

Action Items

Item 6: Authorized the Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) to apply for **funding in the amount of \$586,393**, including \$117,279 in Local Cash Match. The funds will be used for **preliminary engineering** for completion of the **southern portion of the**

Mason Neck Shared Use Trail. Many thanks to **Joe Chudzik for his many years of work** to get this trail completed. *The full item can be read on pages 388 - 390 of the Board Package.*

Item 10: Approved updates to the **Sustainable Development Policy** for County Capital Facilities Projects. The updates include incremental energy performance improvements and green building standards with a target of achieving **Net Zero Energy eligibility by no later than 2031** for all new and major County building projects. *The full item can be read on pages 473 - 487 of the Board Package.*

Item 11: Authorized an **additional \$12 million in funding** for **Fairfax Rise: COVID-19 Small Business and NonProfit Relief Grant Program**. This is in addition to the **\$46 million already allocated** to support the **1,000 applicants on the wait list** for the program. *The full item can be read on pages 488- 491 of the Board Package.*

Board Matters

Proclaim October 7, 2020, Energy Efficiency Day in Fairfax County - Joint with Supervisor Penny Gross

Energy Efficiency Day is an opportunity to share the transformative **benefits of saving energy**. Energy efficiency is the heart of a **clean energy future** and critical to the **Board's climate action commitments**. Energy efficiency continues to be the cheapest, quickest, and cleanest way to meet our energy needs and **reduce utility bills for residential**, business and industrial customers. Energy efficiency can also make our **homes and workspaces healthier**, safer and more comfortable.

Smarter energy use reduces the amount of electricity we need to power our lives, which helps **avoid power plant emissions** that can harm our health, pollute our air and warm our climate. **Cutting energy waste saves U.S. consumers billions of dollars** on their utility bills every year, **up to \$500 per household** from appliance efficiency standards alone. [Read the full Board Matter...](#)

Action

Directed:

- *A proclamation be prepared with my, Chairman McKay and Supervisor Gross' signatures designating October 7, 2020, as Energy Efficiency Day in Fairfax County.*
- *The Office of Public Affairs to register the County as a participant in Energy Efficiency Day 2020 on the [official website](#), where information can be found to publicize energy efficiency tips and information in recognition of this day.*

Additional Funding towards the Completion of Architectural and Community Survey for Gum Springs Historic District - Joint with Chairman Jeff McKay

Throughout almost 200 years of history and existence, the **Gum Springs community** tells the story of the **oldest free sustained African American community** in Fairfax County. Although the history of Gum Springs is recognized by the County, **no comprehensive cultural resource survey** has been conducted for this area. In 2018, during the adoption process of the Embark Richmond Highway Comprehensive Plan Amendment, the Gum Springs Community was identified as an **important historic and cultural community** needing further study.

In June 2020, **County Heritage Resources staff**, working with the **Gum Springs Historical Society**, applied for and received a Certified Local Government (CLG) **grant in the amount of \$10,800**. This money, including a non-federal share of \$16,700 (\$27,500 total), is intended to prepare and **complete a National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form** for the Pride of Fairfax Lodge #298 (former Odd Fellows meeting hall), located at 7809 Fordson Road, Alexandria, VA. [Read the full Board Matter...](#)

Action

Approved a budget consideration item of \$60,000 as part of fourth quarter carryover to be allocated to the Fairfax County Department of Planning and Development to further fund the cultural resource survey, a complete historical context of Gum Springs, and to develop a management plan with recommendations.

Walking Wednesdays - Joint with Supervisor Dalia Palchik

This year, in the midst of the pandemic and school closures, **Walking Wednesdays will**

be a **County wide community program** designed to promote **community values of physical and mental health**. FCPS Safe Routes to School is pairing with Fairfax County Park Authority's **Move Your Way campaign and Healthy Strides**.

Engaging in physical activity is often **easier for people when they can join with others**. Even though we will be social distancing we can walk together apart. This program encourages **Walking Champions in each neighborhood** to help get out the word and engage their neighbors to participate. Each community could find **creative ways to encourage and promote safe walking, biking, and outdoor exercise** before school or work.

The first Walking Wednesday will take place on **October 7, 2020** which is also Walk to School Day. Even though we will not be walking to schools this fall **community members and families are encouraged to walk** in their neighborhoods and register as a family, school or neighborhood. **Supervisors Dalia Palchik and Dan Storck** will be **participating and promoting** in their districts and encourage our colleagues to join as well!

Action:

Directed the Office of Public Affairs to publicize the Walking Wednesdays program in collaboration with FCPS and the Park Authority's Move Your Way campaign.

Public Hearings

Consider Adopting an Ordinance to Establish an Economic Incentive Program (Mount Vernon, Dranesville, Lee, Mason and Providence Districts)

Adopted an ordinance to establish an **economic incentive program** for several areas in the County, including the the **Richmond Highway Corridor**. The ordinance - Incentives to Encourage Economic Growth - offers **regulatory incentives** in the form of **concurrent processing** of development applications and associated Comprehensive Plan amendments, inclusion of development applications in the LDS Project Management Program, **a fee reduction of 10 percent for site plan review**, and a **partial real estate tax abatement** to private sector developers who assemble and develop properties in accordance with the ordinance and **consistent with the vision of the Comprehensive Plan**. *The full item can be read on pages 520 - 536 of the Board Package.*

Consider Amendment of Chapter 11 of the County Code to Reflect Amendments to State Anti-Discrimination and Fair Housing Statues Enacted during 2020 GA Session

Amended to reflect recently approved **State Anti-Discrimination and Fair Housing statues**, following the passing of SB 868 and HB 6 of 2020 GA Session, **incorporating all protections to County Code**. Protections under these news statues include:

- **prohibits discrimination in private employment** based on sexual orientation and gender identity.
- **prohibits discrimination in public accommodations** on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or status as a veteran.
- **prohibits discrimination in credit** on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, disability, and status as a veteran.
- **adds discrimination on the basis of an individual's** sexual orientation, gender identity, or status as a veteran as an **unlawful housing practice**.
- **prohibits discrimination on the basis of a person's source of funds** to the list of **unlawful discriminatory housing practices**.

Additional amendments **bring the Fairfax County Fair Housing Act into fuller conformity** with the Virginia Fair Housing Act. Including:

- providing **reasonable accommodations for "assistance animals"** that provide assistance or emotional support to persons w/ Disabilities.
- limits the exemption of **"making and publishing of discriminatory statements or advertisements** by property owners in connection to sale and renting of housing".
- **limits the exception** of "housing for older persons" and "familial status".

The full item can be read on pages 544 - 586 of the Board Package.

Consider the Adoption of Amendments to Chapter 6 of the Fairfax County Code Relating to Weapons

Amended County Code to **prohibit the possession, carrying and transportation of**

firearms, ammunition, components or combination thereof in the following areas:

- **in any building**, or part thereof, **owned or used by the County**, or by any authority or local governmental entity created or controlled by the County, for governmental purposes.
- **in any public park owned or operated by the County**, or by any authority or local governmental entity created or controlled by the locality.
- **in any recreation or community center** facility operated by the County, or by any authority or local governmental entity created or controlled by the County.
- in any public street, road, alley, or sidewalk or public right-of-way or any other place of whatever nature that is open to the public and is **being used by or is adjacent to a permitted event** or an event that would otherwise require a permit.

The full item can be read on pages 621 - 633 of the Board Package.

Upcoming Land Use Cases

Board of Zoning Appeals

September 30

- **Nazim T. Arda**, SP 2020-MV-011 Appl. under Sect. 8-914 of the Zoning Ordinance to permit a **reduction to minimum yard requirements** based on an error in building location to permit an accessory storage structure (shed) to remain 1.5 ft. from the west side lot line and 1.3 ft. from the rear lot line. Located at **6752 Blanche Dr., Lorton**, on approx. 8,132 sq. ft. of land zoned R-5.
 - **Nickolas A Ploutis & Gissel Ploutis**, A 2020-MV-005 Appl. under Sect. 18-301 of the Zoning Ordinance. **Appeal of a determination that the appellant is allowing the use of a dwelling unit for transient occupancy** (short-term lodging), without a short-term lodging permit, in the R-4 District in violation of Zoning Ordinance provisions. Located at **2520 Belleview Ave., Alexandria**, on approx. 6,270 sq.ft. of land zoned R-4.
 - **Nickolas A Ploutis & Gissel Ploutis**, A 2020-MV-012 Appl. under Sect. 18-301 of the Zoning Ordinance. **Appeal of a determination that the appellant is allowing the use of a dwelling unit for transient occupancy** (short-term lodging), without a short-term lodging permit, in the R-4 District in violation of Zoning Ordinance provisions. Located at **6105 North Kings Hwy, Alexandria** on approx. 6,836 sq. ft. of land, zoned R-4.
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COVID-19 Updates

FCPS

Fairfax County Public Schools is **offering ALL students a healthy breakfast and lunch at no cost** through December 31. The grab and go meals are offered at **several school sites and along bus routes** throughout the County. [Grab and Go Meal Sites and Bus Routes](#)

- Grab and go meals will be served at school sites and community locations from **8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday** (excluding holidays) with both breakfast and lunch being served at the same time.
- **Buses are delivering grab and go meals** throughout the County. Several new bus routes have been added and some bus stop locations have changed. Any changes to bus routes are posted on the website by 5 p.m. each day. [Bus Routes for Food Distribution](#)
- **If there are bus delays** while distributing grab and go meals, the information will be posted here: <https://busdelay.fcps.edu/>. FCPS will send a message to the affected school communities if a bus route is delayed.
- **New: Breakfast and lunch meals for Saturdays and Sundays will be distributed at all sites and on bus routes every Friday.**

FCPS' goal is to provide every FCPS student daily access to a healthy breakfast and lunch. Please visit <https://www.fcps.edu/return-school/food> for more information.

Drug Take Back Boxes Reopen

Clean out your medicine cabinet this weekend! Drug take-back boxes reopened Monday, September 14! Take-back boxes are **located at each of our eight district police stations**. Accepted items include **prescription medication** (schedule II-V controlled and non-controlled), **prescription ointments, over-the-counter medications and medications for pets**. Prohibited items include needles (sharps), liquids of any kind, illegal drugs, non-prescription ointments and lotions, aerosol cans, and inhalers. **Our district stations are open 24/7.**

District Information & Upcoming Events

South County Site Specific Plan Amendment Virtual Meetings

September 22 at 6:30 p.m.

The September 22 meeting will be for a **final vote** on the proposed nomination for **Engleside Trailer Park/Ray's Mobile Homes**. The **Belle View nomination has been withdrawn** by the nominator. [More information about the nominations and the meeting...](#)

Huntington Metro South Bus Loop

The Huntington Metro South Side Bus Loop will be **closed from September 21 until mid-October**. Please follow signage at the station for redirection. [Click here](#) to **see bus loop relocation**.



LOCK IT OR LOSE IT



Mount Vernon
District Station



**Let's work together to prevent crime!
Below are some tips to prevent vehicle
theft.**

- Keep your vehicle doors locked at all times.
- Never leave the keys inside the vehicle.
- Do not leave valuables inside your vehicle.
- If you have something of value in your vehicle, hide it from plain view.
- Report suspicious activity! You know your community best.

**For immediate emergency assistance, call 9-1-1!
Otherwise, please use our non-emergency
number at 703-691-2131.**

Visit our Website

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

STAY CONNECTED

