

November 2019



When you elected me Mount Vernon District Supervisor almost four years ago, **I made many commitments** to the people who live, work, learn and play in this awesome, diverse, thriving community we call home. We have much to celebrate in the Mount Vernon District (MVD) from our history and heritage, to our arts, parks, schools and employment opportunities. Today, I am **reporting on what my team (TEAM MVD) and I have done**, particularly over the last year, to keep these promises to you.

**Community engagement** has been a high priority of mine and we continue to look for ways to increase our communications with you. You can find out about a wide variety of topics and happenings in the MVD and the County by subscribing to our newsletters, checking our [website](#), following us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#), and by signing up for your neighborhood [Nextdoor social network](#). We also get out into the community almost daily to meet you, including attending Homeowner's Association, civic group, religious group, chamber and public meetings. Each year, we host the annual [Mount Vernon Town Meeting](#) and send a [work summary mailer](#) to every household, as well as organizing many other community events. Check out our [website](#) for upcoming events and hope to see you there!

On the **transportation** front, [Bus Rapid Transit \(BRT\)](#) is coming to the Richmond Highway Corridor! Combined with the continued [widening of Richmond Highway](#), the BRT will increase transit options, take more cars off the road and improve motor, pedestrian and bike safety along the Corridor. We are working with the National Park Service and Congressman Don Beyers' office to improve safety on the George Washington Parkway through a [new study](#). In many communities, we continue to work to add sidewalks and trails for safety and to improve neighborhood streets, whether it is [roadway restriping](#) for bikeways or initiating [traffic calming](#) studies to determine how to improve residential street safety.

Everyone knows Fairfax County has an excellent primary and secondary **school system**, and college opportunities abound. Providing new lifetime learning opportunities and revitalizing [Original Mount Vernon High School \(OMVHS\)](#) are priorities of mine. Opening OMVHS for senior and teen activities, as well as a school registration office are just the first steps. The master planning continues for future uses at OMVHS, with a major goal of providing additional educational and business incubator opportunities. Our [partnership with Fairfax County Public Schools \(FCPS\) and the Northern Virginia Community College \(NVCC\)](#) to develop educational and career certification programs at OMVHS is greatly advancing this goal and will position the local labor force to compete for Amazon HQ2 jobs, as well as keep and draw young, high-tech workers to the MVD.

Many initiatives are underway to increase **economic development** in the MVD. Planning continues for [Embark Richmond Highway](#) which will bring a multimodal future to the Corridor, encouraging walkable, livable, 21<sup>st</sup> century communities. Our Strategic Economic Development Team (SEDT) and our Tourism Task Force meet regularly to increase business development and integrated tourism opportunities in the MVD. The [Workhouse Arts Center](#) is expanding its offerings, while simultaneously, the Lorton 2040 Visioning Task Force has begun meeting to map out the future of the southern part of the MVD. Have an opinion on what Lorton should look like in 2040? [Take the survey today!](#) In addition, I have helped bring about a [proposal to build a SnowWorld indoor ski](#)

and snow facility on the I-95 Landfill between the Workhouse and Occoquan Regional Park!

**Environmental efforts** have become a priority in the County, spearheaded by my [Fairfax Green Initiatives Board Matter](#) adopted unanimously by the Board of Supervisors in February. Highlights of the initiatives include the County's new [Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination](#) and the launch of a [Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan \(CECAP\)](#). Simultaneously, the County and Schools formed the [Joint Environment Task Force \(JET\)](#), of which I am a founding member, to accelerate sustainability initiatives and goals between our entities. On a very local level, the MVD Governmental Center now has its own [Purple Bin for glass recycling](#), new natural landscaping in our gardens, outdoor gardens, and an [annual Environment Expo](#) (more on that below). Watch for much more to come on environment and energy efficiency issues in the coming months!

Annually, we pass a balanced **County budget** with full funding for our schools, while also increasing our budget reserves and identifying and making effective cost savings efforts. We helped drive the opening of our local Domestic Violence Shelter, initiate and adopt the reports of the [Affordable Housing Resources Panel](#) and the [Embark Housing Advisory Group](#), complete the design and funding for the new [Lorton Community Center](#) and renovated Library, engage in the [County's comprehensive strategic planning](#), kick off the [Grist Mill Park Master Planning](#), complete the [Huntington Levee](#), and even get a new bus shelter at the Cherry Arms Bus Stop, to name a few.

I am **excited by all we have accomplished, and all we have yet to do**. We continue to work on funding for undergrounding utilities along the Richmond Highway Corridor, completing the design of the [South County Police and Animal Shelter](#), advancing [Natural Landscaping](#) and other environmentally friendly actions. This fall, we officially dedicated the South County Center as the Gerry Hyland Government Center, and anticipate breaking ground on the North Hill Workforce Housing Units, continuing to activate the Workhouse Arts Center by bringing in more partners and completing the Urban Design Guidelines for Richmond Highway.

**It is my pleasure to represent you** and I am excited by all the opportunities for us to continue working together.

Respectfully yours in public service,



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



Remember to vote on **Tuesday, November 5, 2019**. [What you need to know for Election Day...](#)

[Visit our Website](#)

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## Tour de Mount Vernon

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Thanks to everyone who came out to ride, volunteer and support the **4th Annual Tour de Mount Vernon!** It was a rolling success! Watch the highlights below. [See the photos...](#)



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## 2nd Annual Environment Expo

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Join us for the 2nd Annual Mount Vernon District Environment Expo: **How YOU Can Act on Climate Change** on **Saturday, November 16, 2019, from 8 a.m. - noon** at Walt Whitman Middle School. This event will educate and inform local residents on **environmental challenges** that we face on a daily basis, including ones that are unique to the Mount Vernon area given our proximity to water and the many industrial facilities nearby. Attendees will leave the Expo with **simple actions you can take** to make an impact on climate change. Please share information about this event with your family, friends and neighbors!



Join us for the morning to **LEARN, ENGAGE and ACT** to save our environment!

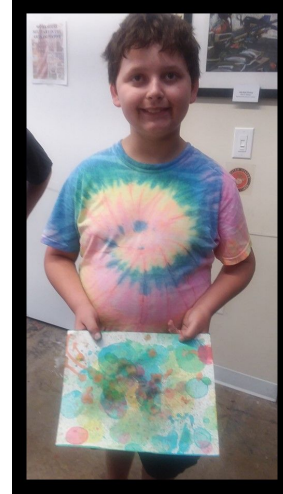
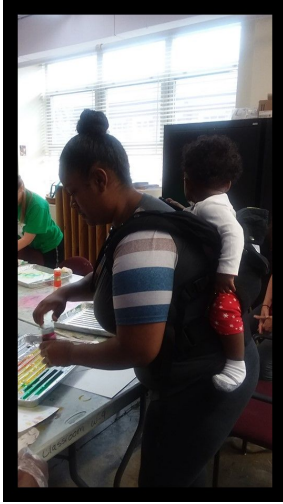


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## Community Spotlight

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## Workhouse Military in the Arts Initiative

The Workhouse **Military in the Arts Initiative (WMAI)** program developed from a desire to provide access to greater **art therapeutic services** and free experiences in the arts, for the benefit of **current and former military members and their families**. WMAI features a unique method combining elements of art psychotherapy, therapeutic arts practices, arts courses to enhance quality of life and to promote rehabilitation, coping skills, resiliency, growth and support systems for **overall military family health, wellness and functioning**. Through this holistic model, the Workhouse offers additional resources that go beyond the traditional psychotherapy model of treatment, with a goal to develop an innovative, **community-based mental health/arts center** model through the visual, performing, literary, culinary and movement arts practices that seeks to **reunify the mind, body and spirit** which can become fragmented and distressed due to the more ongoing, challenging aspects of military life. The Workhouse method focuses on **Mental Health, Nutrition, Fitness and Spiritual Balance**.

One example of WMAI programming is **Bubble Painting & Printmaking**. This workshop is both a therapeutic and fine art activity where attendees create fine **art monoprints and paintings** using non-traditional art materials such as **bubbles colored with food dye**. The activity is called "**Bubble Therapy**" because simply put, it's impossible to frown when you're blowing bubbles! It provides a natural mood and energy boost, while increasing mindfulness. While this experience instantly puts **smiles on faces** and creates fond memories of childhood, it also helps attendees of all ages **focus on the importance of breathing**. For those who struggle with panic attacks or anxiety, it's difficult to remember to breathe deeply and consistently to properly **oxygenate the body to better manage stressors**. In this art activity, attendees focused on controlled breathing to **create unique and colorful artworks**.

**Other activities include:** The Story Workshop, Artistic Innovation (Yoga and Art) and Make & Take Art Workshop for Military Families. [Learn more...](#)

This month, the Workhouse is also featuring a **WMAI exhibition: 2nd Annual Telling Our Stories – Veteran Artists in our Community**, opening November 9 in building 9A. As well as **Veteran's Day Open House** on Saturday, November 9 from noon - 6 p.m.



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## Lorton Visioning 2040 - Survey Closes November 9, 2019

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# What does the future of Lorton look like to you?

The Lorton Visioning initiative is a collaborative community effort among Lorton's community members and leaders with the goal of developing a vision of Lorton in 2040. Our mission is to engage with and listen to Lorton's 30,000+ residents and with your involvement and support, create a powerful Lorton 2040 vision.

<https://tinyurl.com/Lorton2040>



We would appreciate if you could also share the link with your friends, neighbors, and adjacent neighborhoods!

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## Upcoming Events

- Community Farmers Markets
- November Arts Events
- Saturdays: English Conversation Group - 12:30 p.m.
- Nov 5: DMV2GO at Sherwood Library - 10 a.m.
- Nov 5: Entrepreneurship 101: Starting a Business in Fairfax County - 7:30 p.m.
- Nov 6: Senior Safety Summit - 9 a.m.
- Nov 7: Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions C-PACE Webinar - noon
- Nov 9: Child Safety Seat Inspections - 9:30 a.m.
- Nov 9: Kingstowne Library 2nd Saturday Book Sale - 10 a.m.
- Nov 9: Friends of Mason Neck Annual Meeting - 10 a.m.
- Nov 11: Veteran's Day - County Offices & Libraries Closed
- Nov 12: County Libraries Closed - Integrated Library System Replacement
- Nov 12: South County Federation Meeting - 7:30 p.m.
- Nov 13: Occoquan Dam Siren Testing - 10 a.m.
- Nov 13: South County Task Force Presentation on the High Rate of Evictions on the Richmond Highway Corridor - 1 p.m. @ Gerry Hyland Center
- Nov 13: Wildlife Conservation in a Changing Climate - 7 p.m.
- Nov 14: Opportunity Richmond Highway Showcase - 8 a.m.
- Nov 14: Turning Point Suffragist Memorial Groundbreaking - 10 a.m.
- Nov 16: Environment Expo: How YOU Can Act on Climate Change - 8 a.m.
- Nov 16: Civilian Review Panel Training - 8 a.m.
- Nov 20: Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations Meeting & 50th Anniversary Celebration - 7 p.m.
- Nov 21: Annual Pohick Church Christmas Mart - 10 a.m.
- Nov 25 & 26: DMV2GO at Hollin Hall Senior Center - 9 a.m.
- Nov 30: Liberty Lorton Turkey Trot - 9 a.m.
- Dec 3: Deadline to submit South County Site Specific Plan Amendments
- Dec 4: I-95 Auxiliary Lane Public Hearing - 7 p.m.

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## In the News



### Fire Damages Several Businesses in Belle View Shopping Center

A six-alarm fire damaged multiple businesses in the **Belle View Shopping Center**. The fire was called in shortly after midnight, **Sunday, October 20**, and appears to have broken out in the rear of the **east side of the shopping center** near a cleaners and a recently opened sushi and ramen restaurant.

Videos taken from the scene show **flames visible on the roof** of the center. [Read more in Covering the Corridor...](#)

## Social Services and Education Meet in County Community Schools Program

When Fairfax County Public Schools appointed **Clint Mitchell as the new principal at Mount Vernon Woods Elementary School**, the district's primary directive to its newest administrator was **change the culture**. It did not take Mitchell long to understand why. When the 2016-2017 school year began, the Mount Vernon based elementary school **had not been fully accredited by the state of Virginia in the past five years**. On an average day, the principal's office hosted as many as **20 or more students who had been removed from class**. [Read about the success of the Community Schools Pilot in the Fairfax Times...](#)

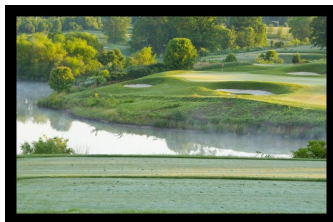


## SFDC Honors Businesses Beautifying Richmond Highway Corridor

Several Richmond Highway businesses and properties received recognition for landscape improvements at the **Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation's (SFDC) 18th annual Mary Thonen Beautification Awards**. SFDC president Mark Viani presented awards to the **top three winners** in three separate categories: **residential, hospitality/lodging and retail**. The event was held at new business [Woodlawn Press Winery](#). [Read about the winners on Covering the Corridor...](#)

## United Community's 50th Anniversary Homecoming Underscores the Power of Community

On Saturday, October 19, 2019, **United Community celebrated its 50th Anniversary Homecoming** with nearly 200 people joining the festivities at the Mount Vernon Country Club. The evening's theme, **Honoring Our Past, Embracing our Future**, was headlined by **keynote speaker Sharon Kelso** – a beloved, high-power woman who led United Community for more than 25 years. The former executive director was awarded the **Gerald W. Hyland Humanitarian Award** from the award's namesake – Kelso's dear friend and **former Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland**. [Read more in the Zebra...](#)



## Laurel Hill: Peace Amid Chaos

Stroll down the fairways of **Laurel Hill Golf Club** in Lorton, 20 miles or so from the nation's capital, and it becomes extremely difficult not to think of those unfortunate souls who have strolled these fairways before. The land, you see, was for decades the site of a federal prison, the idea originating from President Theodore Roosevelt. In 2001, the prison was shut down and the land was purchased by Fairfax County, with part of it developed as a golf course. Several signs of the prison are still visible today, including a guard tower close to the 11th hole. [Read more in the Morning Read...](#)

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## Mount Vernon Police Station in the Community

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**Mount Vernon District Police Station Officers** welcome opportunities to engage in the community. Recently, they hosted **Coffee with a Cop** and attended the **Jefferson Manor HOA Community Day**. This month, join them for:

- **Community Truck or Treat**, November 1 from 5 p.m. - 7 p.m. at the Original Mount Vernon HS (Richmond Hwy).
- **Public Safety Career Fair & Recruitment Event**, November 16 from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. at Bethlehem Baptist Church (Sherwood Hall/Fordson Rd)

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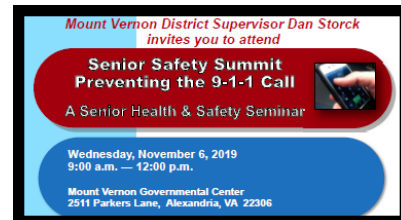
## Supporting Our Seniors

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### Senior Safety Summit

Join us Wednesday, **November 6 from 9 a.m. - noon** at the Mount Vernon Governmental Center for a Senior Health & Safety Seminar! The morning will include **informational booths from 9 - 10 a.m.**, followed by a variety of **presentations from 10 a.m. - noon**. Presentation topics include the File of Life Program, Project Lifesaver, Services for Older Adults, Defending Yourself from Scams/Fraud and Financial Exploitation.

[View the flyer for more information...](#)



### Family Caregiver Month

**November is the National Family Caregiver Month**, a time to celebrate and recognize the thousands of families who provide **care for an older adult or an adult with a disability**. In 2018, The Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services reported that **1 in 5 Virginians is a caregiver**. The report stated that currently **1.8 million Virginians are over the age of 60**, and this number is expected to increase to 2.3 million by 2030. The report added that **35 percent of the caregivers are adult children**, and 13 percent are aging spouses. As the nature of caregiving becomes more complex, family caregivers may face a **significant financial and emotional burden**, which in turn can lead to serious health problems. If you are a family caregiver of an older adult or an adult with a disability, the **Department of Family Services, Adult & Aging** division offers information, support, and resources to assist family caregivers. **Some of their programs include** in-home care, respite services, caregiver support and consultation, bathing services, care management, as well as **monthly webinars on caregiving topics**. For more information on programs and services, call: 703-324-7948 TTY 711 (Monday - Friday; 8:00a.m.-4:30p.m.) or [visit](#).

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## Important Safety Messages

## Hypothermia Prevention Program Begins November 15

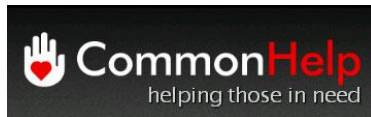


The county's life-saving Hypothermia Prevention Program is coordinated by the **Office to Prevent and End Homelessness**, which contracts with four nonprofits to increase the number of **available emergency shelter beds** by hundreds each night throughout the winter, December to March. A primary goal of the hypothermia prevention program is to ensure that **everyone in need of shelter during the coldest months has access** and the option for shelter. Last winter (December 2018 through March 2019), the program **provided almost 1,200 people** experiencing homelessness in our county with a **warm, safe place to sleep and a healthy meal**. [Read more and find out about services in the Mount Vernon District...](#)

## Community Information

### Opportunity Richmond Highway

Opportunity abounds on Richmond Highway for **new development and redevelopment**. Learn about new **financial incentives** for new development on Richmond Highway like Opportunity Zones and investment opportunities. The **Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation** and **Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce** will be hosting an Opportunity Showcase Event **Thursday, November 14 at 8am**. This event will be held at the **Belle Haven Country Club** located at 6023 Fort Hunt Rd. [Click here to register...](#)



### Need Help With Your Heating Bills? Applications Accepted Oct. 8 – Nov. 8

The purpose of the Energy Assistance Program is to help eligible households with low income (in Fairfax County and the Cities of Fairfax and Falls Church) offset expenses associated with heating and/or cooling their homes. [Learn how to apply...](#)

### La Voz del Condado de Fairfax

Fairfax County's weekly **Spanish radio program**, "La Voz del Condado de Fairfax," is broadcast on WUST Radio (1120 AM) **Tuesdays at 9 a.m.** and can be found on [Soundcloud](#) on the County website. A recent broadcast discussed the **Infant & Toddler Connection (ITC)** program which serves **children birth to three with developmental delays and disabilities**. If you, a family member or a caregiver has a question about their child's development, refer them to ITC. [Listen to the broadcast...](#)



### New and Improved Library Catalog Launches Nov. 13

Visitors to the [Library's website](#) will soon notice some changes as the **catalog gets a significant upgrade** that is more **user-friendly with a better design**.

Beginning Wednesday, Nov. 13, **searching the library's collection**, including books, DVDs, thermal cameras, book club kits, audiobooks, digital resources, nature backpacks and more will be **smarter, more intuitive and mobile friendly**. [Learn more...](#)

### Entrepreneurship 101: Starting a Business in Fairfax County

The FCEDA holds **free monthly workshops** for individuals interested in starting a business in Fairfax County. Held in partnership with the Virginia Department of Small Business and Supplier Diversity (SBSD), U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), and Community Business Partnership (CBP), the sessions have **attracted nearly 4,000 attendees**. The workshops are generally held on the **first Tuesday of each month**





unless a holiday precedes the first Tuesday, in which case the date is shifted to the second Tuesday of the month. There is no charge, but **pre-registration is required** and the workshops almost always fill up. [Read more and register...](#)



## Are You Satisfied with Our Service?

The **Solid Waste Management Program** wants to know! Your feedback will help **improve services** throughout the County. If you visit County disposal sites, receive County collection service, or have visited their [website](#), please take this **brief customer satisfaction survey**. Your opinion matters. [Rate your experience...](#)

## You Can Help Clean Up Our Community!

Did you know you can report dumping, dilapidated signs, random parked vehicles with for sale signs to the County government for clean up? Recently our Chief of Staff, Christine Morin reported a site along Richmond Highway. See the difference for yourself below. [Report issues here...](#)



*Before*



*Sign repaired  
Truck removed  
Building painted  
Parking lot completely repaved and marked  
Lot completely cleaned up!*

## The Camp Alexandria Opens in Mount Vernon

Congratulations to Alejandra Font and Saman Bakhtiar for opening **The Camp Alexandria** last month in the **Woodlawn Center** on Richmond Highway! Their motto is "**Empowering Our Community Through Health & Fitness**". [Learn more...](#)



## Saving Our Environment

### Wastewater Treatment Project Earns Sustainability Award

A project to **replace the chemical disinfection system** with an **ultraviolet light system** at the County's **Noman M. Cole, Jr. Pollution Control Plant**, in Lorton, has earned an **Envision Gold award** from the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure. The **\$72M capital improvement project** is one of many upgrades to the plant, which treats more than 40 percent of the county's wastewater. [Read more...](#)





Two new **Donation Stations** in Lorton and Fairfax are now accepting **gently used clothing and household goods**. The next time you visit the **I-95 landfill complex** or I-66 transfer station, bring your items to donate. An **attendant will help you unload items** and provide a **receipt for the donations**. The collected items are prepared for sale in local thrift shops. **Both locations are open seven days a week, from 8 a.m. to 4 pm.** Reducing waste (the first R in reduce, reuse, recycle)

by **repurposing unwanted but usable goods** is an important part of the County's **integrated waste management strategy**.

## Annual Environment Awards

**Mount Vernon Tree Commissioner Cathy Ledec** and **INOVA HealthPlex Lorton Clinical Director Helen Stevens** both received Environmental Excellence Awards from Fairfax County last month. Other Mount Vernon award winners included: the **Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions**, **Montebello Condominiums**, **Riverside Elementary School** and **Hollin Hills Elementary School**. Congratulations and thank you all for your **environmental stewardship!**



## Team MVD



*Mount Vernon District Staff: Anna Smith, Sally Kidalov, Christine Morin, Supervisor Dan Storck, Camela Speer, Donna Slaymaker & Abdul Shaban.*

### October 2019 Activities:

- Phone calls: 1451
- Meetings: 140

### 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 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Second Saturday Each Month (except August)

Lorton Library: 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.  
MV District Office: 12:30 p.m. - 3 p.m.  
Walk-ins and by appointment

## Want to Join Team MVD? We Are Hiring!

Team MVD is looking for a **Land Use Aide**. Interested applicants should **read the job announcement** and submit a **resume and cover letter** outlining education, experience, and availability to [Mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov). Include **"19-02454 Land Use Aide/Community Liaison"** in the subject line. **Know someone who might be interested?** Please help us spread the word!

## Public Art Comes to Mount Vernon

Be sure to stop by and see the new murals from the **Workhouse Mural Project**, now installed in our front yard!



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## Boards, Authorities and Commissions

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

There are also several **At-Large positions available** as of October 1, 2019 on County BACs.

- Affordable Dwelling Unit Advisory Board (Engineer/Architect Rep)
- Affordable Dwelling Unit Advisory Board (Lending Institution Rep)
- Alcohol Safety Action Program Local Policy Board (two open)
- Human Rights Commission
- Road Viewer Board
- Tenant Landlord Commission (3 openings - Citizen Member, Condo Owner, Landlord Member & Tenant Member)

[Click here](#) to learn more about these BACs.

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](#). You can also **check out the County's Volunteer Management System** for information on these and **other volunteer opportunities** near you.

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## Save-the-Date

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### Supervisor Dan Storck's Annual Holiday Open House

**Thursday, December 5, 2019**  
Mount Vernon Governmental Center  
2511 Parkers Lane, Mount Vernon

***Celebrate the holidays, meet Team MVD and see what's new at your District***

Visit our website

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

STAY CONNECTED

