

September 2021



Neighbors,

It's September and Back-to-School time! I hope you all had a **relaxing and safe summer!** I am very pleased and thankful that our **children are returning to the classroom**, and that they are **following CDC and Health Department guidelines**. Please take a moment to show your **appreciation to our teachers** as this challenging year gets underway. This is a **stressful time for everyone**. It is also important that we **pay extra attention on the roads**, with students and busses returning to the regular daily routine.

I am **grateful to our community** for the outpouring of compassion and desire to **help the many Afghan refugees** that are passing through or settling in our community. With an **established Afghan community** and **much cultural diversity** in Fairfax County, we are an ideal region to **welcome these refugees**, many fleeing with the clothes on their backs. I have heard from many of you **offering support and asking how you can help**.

Many of you have **reached out to our office** to express **your frustration** at not having your **waste picked up**, especially with all the recent rain. There are **serious labor shortages** in many industries all over the country. Locally, among other shortages, **public and private haulers cannot hire enough drivers**. In Fairfax, short-term changes have been **permitted for haulers to temporarily pick up yard waste at the same time as regular trash** and dispose of it the same way, by incineration at our **waste-to-energy plant**. We hope to return to regular yard waste recycling by the **fall leaf season**. You will find more information below.

We are also hearing from many of you about **River Farm**. The Board did pass the **Historic Overlay District (HOD) for Wellington at River Farm** in April, with additional recently **state authorized restrictions** to be considered at **Tuesday's Board of Supervisors meeting**. As you know, from the first announcement a year ago, **I have led** dozens of conversations with **AHS Board members, elected officials and community leaders** about **protecting and preserving River Farm's beauty and public access** from developers. You can read more about recent activity below.

If you have not yet been vaccinated, **I urge you to do so** as soon as possible to **protect yourself, your families, your neighbors and our communities**. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has **granted full approval** to the **Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine** for persons ages 16 and older. The vaccine continues to be available under emergency use authorization (EUA), **for individuals 12 through 15 years of age** and for the administration of a **third dose in certain immunocompromised individuals**.

Mark your calendars and join us for several exciting events this fall!

- The **6th Annual Tour de Mount Vernon Community Bike Ride** Saturday, October 23 at 8:30 a.m. starting at Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House.

In this Newsletter:

Ribbon Cutting
Tour de Mount Vernon
9/11 Remembrance
Upcoming Events
Land Use
Transportation
Health, Housing & Human Services
Public Safety
Parks & Environment
In the News
Community Information
Supporting Our Seniors
Pet Adoption
COVID-19
Important Safety Information
Team MVD
Boards, Authorities, Commissions

- Our annual **Senior Safety Summit** in September, date to be announced soon!
- **Ribbon Cutting for the Teen & Senior Centers** at Original Mount Vernon High School on September 22 at 5 p.m.
- **Fairfax Peak Community Information Meeting** September 25 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Workhouse Arts Center.

Finally, tomorrow is an important date as we mark the **20th Anniversary of the 9/11 attacks** on our nation. **Commemorations and service opportunities** will be held across the County and I hope you will find your own way to **honor those who serve and those who lost** their lives this day 20 years ago. **I invite you to join me virtually** for the County's **20th Anniversary Remembrance Ceremony at 2 p.m.** at the Bailey's Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department.

Respectfully yours in public service,



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



Great day handing out backpacks and school supplies with ICNA Relief USA!

Visit our Website

Quick Links

[About Supervisor Storck](#)
[District Staff](#)
[District Accomplishments](#)
[District Representatives](#)

[Boards, Authorities and Commissions](#)
[Mount Vernon Advisor Archives](#)
[Emergency Management Preparedness](#)
[District Videos](#)

Para **subscribirse para nuestro boletín en español** o si conoce a alguien quien quiera subscribirse, o **para hablar con un hispanohablante**, comuníquese con **Nick Rinehart** a su preferencia, por teléfono al (703) 780-7518 o por correo electrónico: nicholas.rinehart@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Upcoming In-Person & Virtual Events

- [Farmers Markets](#)
- [Quantico Noise Advisories](#)
- Sept 11: [9/11 20th Anniversary Remembrance & Day of Service](#)
- Sept 11: [Stuff the Bus](#) - 10 a.m.
- Sept 12: [Fall for LCAC](#) - 1 p.m.
- Sept 14: [Pickleball Study Virtual Community Meeting](#) - 7 p.m.
- Sept 15: [zMOD Lunch & Learn](#) - noon
- Sept 15: [Virtual Community Meeting on Draft Vision and Goals for the ActiveFairfax Transportation Plan](#) - 6:30 p.m.
- Sept 18: [Owl Moon Under the Stars, Mason Neck State Park](#) - 7 p.m.
- Sept 22: [South County Teen & Senior Center Ribbon Cutting](#) - 5 p.m.
- Sept 25: [National Public Lands Day](#) - 9 a.m.
- Sept 25: [Fairfax Peak Community Meeting](#) - 11 a.m.

You're Invited

to
**SOUTH COUNTY
TEEN & SENIOR
CENTERS**



at the
**ORIGINAL
MOUNT VERNON
HIGH SCHOOL**

RIBBON CUTTING



*Join Supervisor Dan Storck, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
and the Department of Neighborhood and Community Services
for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the*

*Opening of the South County Teen and Senior Centers
at the historic Original Mount Vernon High School*

Wednesday, September 22, 2021, 5 p.m.

*8333 Richmond Highway
Alexandria, VA 22309*

The event will be held rain or shine.

*Registration is preferred, but not required.
RSVP and find program and parking details at:*

<https://bit.ly/SouthCountyOpening>

Contact 703-324-4600 for more information.



Tour de Mount Vernon is Back!



Join me for our **annual community bike ride** on **Saturday October 23, at 8:30 a.m.**, starting and ending at **Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House**. The Tour de Mount Vernon brings cyclists on a **fun ride through the northern and central portions** of the Mount Vernon District including a **scenic route through Fort Belvoir**. The route will consist of paved roads, paved trails and will have several challenging sections. **Ride monitors and Fairfax County Police** will be on hand to help with directions and keep everyone safe. [Learn more and register to ride today...](#)

We also need volunteers! [Register here...](#)

9/11 20th Anniversary Remembrance

Saturday, September 11, marks the **20th Anniversary of 9/11**, one of the worst days in our country's history, and **particularly here in our Nation's Capitol**. It was a terrible national tragedy felt in our **own neighborhoods** when County residents lost their lives at the Pentagon. Saturday is also the anniversary of our **resilience as a community**, and the **bravery and service** demonstrated by our County **first responders and members of the military** who responded that day and every day to keep us safe. To **honor those who were lost**, as well as our first responders and military who were called to serve, there are several **events being held throughout the County**.

Online Fairfax County Ceremony

Fairfax County is hosting a **20th Anniversary Remembrance Ceremony at 2 p.m.** The event will be held at Bailey's Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department, 3601 Firehouse Lane in Falls Church, where **many first responders deployed from** to assist at the Pentagon. The public is encouraged to **view the ceremony online**. It will be televised on Fairfax County Government Channel 1016 (Cox) and Channel 16 (Verizon/Comcast) and [streamed live on our website](#). The ceremony can also be viewed on the [County's Facebook page](#).

VolunteerFest 9/11 Day of Service

Volunteer Fairfax is coordinating opportunities countywide to provide your **skills, time and**

donations during Saturday's day of service. Examples include in-person and at-home opportunities, such as:

- Create **"Positive Social Media Posts"** that will be shared with those that Recovery Program Solutions (RPSV) serves.
- Make **"Homeless Survival Kits"**.
- **Stuff the Bus** to support LCAC and United Community.
- Participate in **"Garden Give-away"** at South Run RECenter.
- Sign up for the county's Office of Emergency Management's seminar and **build your own emergency kit**.

[Learn more and register to volunteer...](#)

Land Use

Fairfax Peak Community Meeting

On March 23, the Board of Supervisors approved an **amendment to the Interim Agreement and Right of Entry Agreement (Amendment)** with Alpine X for the **"Fairfax Peak" project**, to allow for test drilling as part of diligence work to potentially reach into the landfill subgrade and/or bedrock. Alpine X **will be sharing the results of these test drillings with the public in fall 2021**.



We will be hosting a number of **community engagement sessions** in September, including a **community information meeting on September 25 from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.** at the **Workhouse Arts Center**. Alpine X, DPWES and DEI, the South County Federation, and other partners will be present to **answer questions about next steps** related to Fairfax Peak.

Lastly, I wanted to remind and reassure you that **many actions, much time** and a number of contingencies remain **before this project can be approved**, including public meetings, **land use approvals and meeting state regulatory requirements**. [Visit the project website...](#)



Penn Daw Fire Station, Emergency, Supportive & Affordable Housing at Beacon Hill

The September **Penn Daw Advisory Committee** meeting has been **rescheduled from Friday, September 10 to Friday, September 17 at 9:30 a.m.** [For more information on this project, upcoming meetings and FAQs...](#)

zMOD Lunch and Learn

Interested in learning about the County's new Zoning Ordinance? The new Zoning Ordinance was highlighted on this month's [County Conversation podcast](#). Tune in to hear a **discussion of the modernization effort**, including changes to the regulations on **accessory living units, home-based businesses, and freestanding accessory structures**. In addition, DPD staff will be hosting a series of **Lunch and Learn sessions** on Accessory Structures and Other Residential Changes, and Commercial and Industrial Changes. **Upcoming meeting information** is listed below and on our [zMOD Outreach Page](#).

Lunch and Learn – Commercial and Industrial Changes September 15, 2021, at 12:00 p.m.

Location: [Virtual – GoToMeeting](#)

Call-In Number: 1-877-309-2073

Access Code: 660-761-869

Transportation

[Help Develop a Roadmap for Better Walkways,](#)



Bikeways and Trails

The **ActiveFairfax Transportation Plan** introduces a framework for **advancing active transportation** that includes an overarching **vision statement, goals and objectives** that are rooted in the **public feedback received in Spring 2021**, previous planning efforts and initiatives, and best practices.

- The **Vision Statement** will be used as a guide to help Fairfax County make decisions that align with its philosophy and declared set of goals.
- **Goals reflect the desired result** that Fairfax County and its partners envision, plan, and commit to achieve.

[View the proposed vision statement, goals and objectives](#)

[Attend a virtual community information meeting on September 15 at 6.30 p.m.](#)

NVTA Updates TransAction - Your Input Needed!

NVTA is currently in the **process of updating TransAction** and a **transportation priorities survey is open to the public through September 17**. This survey is one of the many ways NVTA is **engaging the public** to find out what **transportation issues** matter to you most. The survey is available in **English, Spanish and Korean**. [Learn more about how you can engage in developing TransAction priorities...](#)



Health, Housing & Human Services

Stuff the Bus

The COVID-19 pandemic has increased the **need for food** for those in need in the County. **Stuff the Bus** is a collaborative program in partnership between Fairfax County Government and local nonprofits. **Help feed hungry families** by donating to Stuff the Bus on **Saturday, September 11 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.** Locations in our area:

- **Laurel Hill Elementary School**, 8390 Laurel Crest Drive, Lorton, to benefit [LCAC](#).
- **Gerry Hyland Government Center**, 8350 Richmond Highway, Alexandria, to benefit [United Community](#).



For those who are unable to donate in person, **monetary donations can be made** by visiting Volunteer Fairfax's [Stuff the Bus Donation Page](#). [Learn more...](#)



Opportunity Neighborhood Finance and Career Support

Opportunity Neighborhood (ON) is the **County-wide organizing framework** for residents, community-based partners, FCPS, Fairfax County, and other supporters and allies to work together to **deliver needed resources that are equitable, accessible and effective** for **vulnerable youth and their families**.

- **Need financial help?** Contact the [Financial Empowerment Center at South County](#) for a **free and confidential virtual meeting** with a Financial Coach to assess your financial situation and options.
- **Virginia Career Works (VCW)** provides specialized workforce programs such as **vocational training, resume assistance, and job prep workshops**. All services are free.

Public Safety

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Earns National Recognition for Efforts to Improve Treatment for Severe Heart Attacks

Fairfax County Fire and Rescue has received the American Heart Association's Mission: Lifeline® EMS Gold Achievement Award for implementing specific quality improvement measures to **treat patients who suffer severe heart attacks**. [Learn more...](#)



Parks & Environment



Part of the Solution to Plastic Pollution

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors is considering **adopting a new five-cent tax on disposable plastic bags** provided to consumers at grocery stores, convenience stores, and drug stores in the County. The purpose of the tax is to **curb our collective use of disposable plastic bags, to reduce the amount of plastic waste in our local waterways** and the damage it causes.

A **public hearing** about this [proposed tax ordinance](#) is scheduled for **Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 4:30 p.m.** at the Fairfax County Government Center. County residents and stakeholders are encouraged to **submit written testimony or to sign up to testify** in person **before noon on September 14, 2021**. More information on testifying at the public hearing is [available online](#) or by calling 703-324-3151 TTY 711. County residents are welcome to **share questions and concerns** about the bag tax with the Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination [via email](#).

Key points why this is important:

- **75% of all plastic ever produced is now waste**, and, as of today, a third of all plastic waste ends up in nature.
- Plastic pollution is a **serious problem for ecological and health reasons**. Plastics do not biodegrade like wood or other natural materials. Instead, plastic materials photodegrade, breaking down into smaller and smaller pieces but **never fully disappearing**.
- It is estimated that, on average, **each person consumes internally the equivalent of a credit card's worth of plastic** each week. The largest source of plastic ingestion is drinking water.
- If nothing changes, by 2025, the **ocean will contain one metric ton of plastic** for every three metric tons of fish.
- Making the switch to a reusable bag **saves about 53 megawatts of energy** per year, as well as 7 liters of water.
- [Read our FAQs...](#)

Celebration of Trees

This fall marks the launch of a **five-year native tree campaign**, a collaborative effort to **encourage residents and businesses** across Northern Virginia to **plant more native trees and preserve the ones** we have already. Organizations across the region will be putting on "**Celebration of Trees**" events to highlight the many benefits of native Virginia trees. Native trees:

- Cool our environment and **reduce air conditioning costs**
- Provide a **wind break** in the winter
- Capture stormwater and **protect our streams** and the Chesapeake Bay
- Clean our **air and water**
- Promote **human health**



Native trees specifically are an essential part of our **local ecosystem**, supporting our **butterflies, songbirds and all the other wildlife**. It is up to all of us to **plant and protect** them. You can find Celebration of Trees events and information about how to protect and plant native trees on the [Plant NOVA Trees website](#).

Draft Pickleball Study Released, Additional Public Comment Sought



The highly anticipated **Draft Pickleball Study** has been released and is now on the [Pickleball Study website](#). Planners with Fairfax County Park Authority are **seeking the public's input** on the emerging sport of pickleball and **encourage pickleball enthusiasts** and members of the public to **comment on the draft report**. The Park Authority will host **virtual meeting on Tuesday, September 14, 2021, at 7 p.m.** to discuss and comment on the draft documents. The meeting will be [online via PublicInput.com](#) and attendees may participate via **web browser, mobile device, text message or phone call**. [Learn more...](#)

Team MVD had a great time learning to play Pickleball with local residents last month! **Thank you to Milly Stanges and Helen White** for arranging this great opportunity! [Take the survey...](#)

Park Volunteers Sought for National Public Lands Day Efforts

Join me and the Fairfax County Park Authority for the **nationwide celebration of National Public Lands Day on Saturday, September 25**, from 9 until 10:30 a.m. Volunteers will contribute toward national efforts by helping to **weed and water pollinator gardens, pick up trash and remove invasive vines** within **Laurel Hill Park**, located at 8780 Lorton Road. A **brief ceremony will follow at 10 a.m.** at the Barrett House at the same location. [Learn more...](#)



Deer Management Archery Program Begins Saturday, September 11

The county's integrated Deer Management Program **reduces and stabilizes the white-tailed deer populations** to minimize safety and health hazards and other impacts related to an **overabundance of deer**. These impacts include **deer-vehicle collisions**, potential **spread of diseases**, and **environmental damage** attributed to deer that can impact the ecosystem. [Learn more...](#)

In the News

Commercial Developer Reportedly Interested in River Farm and Nearby Properties

A commercial developer reportedly has expressed interest in **purchasing historic property River Farm** from the American Horticultural Society, along with at **least two adjacent parcels** of land, according to a statement from the **Northern Virginia Conservation Trust**. [Read more in Alexandria Living...](#)



Dollars and Dirt: Fairfax County's Investment in Affordable Housing

In the article entitled **"Building Immunity: How affordable housing funding was protected from the effects of Covid"** the Washington Business Journal shared a **regional view** of what the area's jurisdictions are doing to keep progress moving towards **solving the region's affordable housing challenges**. [Read more on Newswire...](#)

Head of the Class

The **Gum Springs Community Center** was filled with activity August 18 as more than **100 families** turned for a back-to-school preparation day that included **free haircuts, backpacks and school supplies**. "We came together to help prepare the kids for school but also **add a little fun** to their day," said Fairfax County Fire and Rescue **Deputy Chief Willie Bailey**, organizer of the event. [Read more in the Mount Vernon Gazette...](#)





Potomac Riverkeeper Has Hands Full of Plastics

There's a gorilla in the room for the **Mount Vernon environmentalists**, and this gorilla is the **Potomac River**. This river is a treasure to many in the watersports crowd, but it's also a **carrier of garbage from points north**, and that's where Dean Naujoks, the area's **Potomac Riverkeeper** focuses his efforts. **Single-use plastics** make up just one culprit Naujoks' has on his radar. [Read more in the Mount Vernon Gazette...](#)

Children Enjoy 'Juice Box with Cops'

Officers and police equipment from **Fairfax County Police Department**, the Sheriff's Office, and George Mason University Police and Public Safety Department were at the **West Springfield Police Station** on August 14 to engage with the community. The event directed toward kids, "Juice Box with a Cop" mirrors past **community outreach events**, called "Coffee with A Cop," geared toward adults. [Read more in the Connection...](#)



Community Information

Temporary Change to Separate Yard Waste Collection Requirements

The Fairfax County Solid Waste Management Program advises **residents and collectors** that the **requirement for separate collection of yard waste on a weekly basis** is temporarily modified for approximately two months. Collectors may **collect yard waste with refuse (mixed collections)** without enforcement consequences. The temporary change is in response to **national labor shortages** adversely affecting the region. It is still **recommended that residents put their yard waste out in paper bags or reusable containers**, separately from their trash, as it is up to the collectors as to whether they will collect separately or not. Currently the **County is continuing to pick up yard waste separately** for those residents they service. [Learn more...](#)



Fourth Community Engagement Survey for the Countywide Strategic Plan Closes on September 24

We want to hear from you! Please share your input as we continue to develop the **Countywide Strategic Plan**. Our fourth **Community Survey** is now available in **multiple languages**. The survey **closes on Friday, September 24**. To learn more, please check out this [short video](#) or visit the [Countywide Strategic Plan site](#).

County Car Tax Bill to Increase for 12% of Vehicle Owners

About **12% of County residents** will see an **increase in their car tax bills** because of the pandemic. The **average increase is \$25** compared to last year for **vehicles valued at \$20,000 or less**, say County tax officials. [Learn more...](#)



Redistricting 101

Redistricting is the process to **draw new electoral boundaries**. It makes sure election districts have **roughly an equal number of people**. Redistricting is required by law, and it takes place **every 10 years** after the Census.

What districts are affected?

The County will draw new electoral districts that will apply to both the:

- Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
- Fairfax County School Board

[Learn more...](#)

How You Can Help Afghan Refugees

We are currently supporting a **U.S. Department of State operation** for people **evacuated from Afghanistan** and arriving at Dulles International Airport. After landing, some refugees are transported to the **federal processing site at the Dulles Expo Center** in Chantilly and then transported to **various military bases** around the country.

Donations are NOT being accepted at the Dulles Expo Center at this time. However, many **local organizations are eager provide support**, and Fairfax County does partner closely with **local refugee resettlement agencies** to share information, establish points of contact for benefit coordination, and provide training on **available programs and services**. The **local resettlement agencies** for the Northern Virginia area are:

- [Catholic Charities Diocese of Arlington](#)
- [Lutheran Social Services National Capital Area](#)
- [Ethiopian Community Development Council](#)

Other ways to help:

- Community Foundation announces the launch of [The Afghan Relief and Resettlement Fund for Northern Virginia](#).

Fall for LCAC

LCAC is asking faith communities, neighborhoods, businesses and individuals to support the event by **hosting food drives to collect our most needed items**. Donors are asked to drop off donations on **Sunday, September 12 from 1 - 3 p.m. at LCAC** (9518 Richmond Highway, Lorton). Questions about food or item donations? [E-mail LCAC...](#) [Learn more...](#)



Playground Replacement to Begin at Martin Luther King Jr. Park

The Fairfax County Park Authority has begun **work** on the Martin Luther King Jr. Park **playground replacement project**, which will **close the playground** during the construction period. Contractors have mobilized on site and **active construction activities began on September 7**.

The project includes replacement of the playground equipment and related site work. Contingent on the weather, the new playground is expected to **open at the end of November 2021**. [Learn more...](#)

Fairfax Water Customer Survey

Fairfax Water wants to **hear from you**--take this **5-minute survey** today! Your feedback will help **improve services** for customers. [Take the survey...](#)



FREE English Language Classes

The **Friends of Sherwood Library** are offering **free tuition** to in-person **English Language classes** for **Mount Vernon residents** held at the Sherwood Library this fall. The classes are being facilitated by the **Literacy Council of Northern Virginia**. They **require proof of vaccination** to participate in the in-person class. At the **registration event** at Sherwood Library on **October 2**, perspective students will register, provide proof of vaccination, and be **tested for proficiency** so they can be placed in an appropriate learning level class.



Substantial Completion of Little Hunting Creek Pump Station Rehabilitation

The Little Hunting Creek Pump Station Rehabilitation Project included rehabilitation of this **21 MGD pump station**. Located at 8600 Stockton Parkway, Alexandria, this pump station is the **third largest pump station in the County System**. Electrical and mechanical systems and equipment were upgraded. A **new air-conditioned electrical room** was constructed. **Three new and two refurbished dry pit submersible pumps** and **two new odor control tanks** were installed. In addition, the existing generator was rehabilitated, a **new roof was**

installed and site upgrades were completed. [Learn more and see photos...](#)

As a separate project, **work began recently** on a gravity-feed sewer line replacement **across Little Hunting Creek**. This project is expected to be **completed in August 2022**.

Fairfax Connector Will Participate in WMATA's Free Bus Transfer Program

Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) has joined the [Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority \(WMATA\)](#) in providing **free transfers to and from Metrorail and Fairfax Connector buses**. When transferring, bus rides will now be **free for all routes except Fairfax Connector Express Service**, which will be **discounted \$2 from the total fare** when using a SmarTrip card or the SmarTrip App. Through this new program, **beginning September 5**, WMATA and Fairfax Connector are making it easier for people to **return to transit** as they resume their commutes and travel. [Learn more...](#)

Supporting Our Seniors



Don't Fall for the Grandparent Scam!

You've probably received a scam call or two, but when you **hear a voice** that sounds like it might be **your grandchild in distress**, it's a game changer. **If you get a call** from someone claiming to be your grandchild **or someone who is speaking on their behalf**, like an attorney or doctor, and they are **demanding money**, slow down and don't make a rushed decision. Scammers will often try to **pressure you into making a quick payment** in the form of **pre-paid gift cards**

and wire transfers. We know you want to rush to help, but remember:

- **Slow down! Stay Calm.** Ask yourself, does this seem legitimate?
- Hang up! **Call your grandchild or another family member** to verify their whereabouts.
- **Never give out any personal identifying information** such as bank account or credit card numbers to anyone who calls you on the phone.
- If they're asking for **payment with gift cards** of any kind, it's **likely a scam!**
- If you believe you or a loved one have been scammed, **file a report with our Financial Crimes Online Reporting (FiCOR) system**.

If you have **grandparents in your life**, we encourage you to take the time to **discuss phone scams and share these basic prevention tips**.

Senior Centers & Adult Day Health Care have Reopened

Fairfax County's **Senior Centers** and **Adult Day Health Care** programs have reopened! Adult Day Health Care is available at these centers: Lewinsville, Herndon Harbor, Lincolnia and **Mount Vernon** locations. The service offers **daytime care to older adults with physical limitations or memory issues**. It has been suspended since March of 2020 due to the pandemic. [Learn more...](#)



Caregiver Health & Wellness Series

Join live demonstrations on **Dance Fitness, Yoga & Meditation for Stress Reduction, Memory Engagement with Arts & Crafts, and Art Therapy: Healing Through Art**. This new series runs through **Friday, September 24, 2-3:00 p.m.** [More information and online registration...](#)



Boomers and Beyond Academy

Join **AARP Virginia** and the **Osher Lifelong Learning Institute** at George Mason University (OLLI Mason) for the **Boomers and Beyond Academy!** A **special three-day virtual event (September 18, 21 & 23)** designed to help you make plans for better living. Learn about the **positive powers of**

lifelong learning, tips for determining if you are on track for a **secure financial retirement**, practical strategies to help you achieve retirement peace of mind, and more. You will get information about **important life matters** that you are faced with today or may face tomorrow. These tips and tools will help you **make your own decisions about how you want to live**. [Learn more...](#)

Pet Adoption Corner



Meet **Elsa the cat!** We are looking for a **special someone** to help Elsa with her unique needs. Elsa has **severe allergies** and when she arrived to us she was very uncomfortable. She is **receiving medication for her allergies** and thanks to the Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter, Elsa got a **consult with a specialist**, who is helping us get her on the right track! Here's what **Elsa's foster mom says** about her: I've had her for a while and she is **truly a very easy foster**. She takes her meds in her food and she actually likes her ZD food. Read more about [Elsa](#), [other available pets](#) and [steps to adoption](#).

COVID-19

[COVID-19 Vaccine Third Dose FAQs](#)

[Health Department Now Accepting Requests to Provide Vaccine Services](#)

[Facing Eviction? Owe Back Rent? Help is Available as CDC Extends Eviction Moratorium](#)

Vaccines Recommended when Pregnant, Breastfeeding and Trying to get Pregnant

COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for everyone 12 years and older, **including those who are pregnant, breastfeeding or would like to get pregnant**. The rise in COVID-19 cases, low vaccine uptake among pregnant people, and the increased risk of severe illness during pregnancy **make vaccination more urgent than ever**. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as well as the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) and Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM) have all recently **strengthened this COVID-19 vaccination recommendation** following additional safety data. [Learn more...](#)

FCPS

We have **heard from many of you** about your concerns regarding the amount of time **fully vaccinated students** are being **paused from in-person instruction** when identified as a **potential close contact** to a COVID-19 positive case.

FCPS collaborated with the **Fairfax County Health Department** to adjust this process and **speed up the return to the classroom for fully vaccinated, asymptomatic students**. We all share the goal of **ensuring our students** are in the classroom as much as possible, while also **keeping our schools safe and healthy** for everyone - staff, students, and visitors.

Following the Labor Day break, **fully vaccinated, asymptomatic students** will be able to **return to in-person learning and activities** following a **simple process** that will reduce the time needed to process potential close contacts. Our goal is to **streamline this process** so it takes the least amount of time possible to complete while **keeping our school community safe**. [Visit FCPS for more information...](#)

Rental Assistance

The Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority has issued the **first six Emergency Housing Vouchers** made available through the **American Rescue Plan Act**. The vouchers provide **tenant-based rental assistance to individuals and families** that

are **homeless, at risk of becoming homeless;** or who are **fleeing violent or dangerous circumstances** such as domestic or dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or human trafficking. [Learn more...](#)

Active & Thrive Community Grants

In July, the Board approved a **third grant program** since the pandemic began: the **Active and Thriving Community Grants Program**.

- Grant applications will be accepted between **August 31-September 14**.
- Funded through the Federal American Rescue Plan Act, the **total amount available** for the grant program is **\$10 million**.
- The grant will help the most negatively **impacted small businesses and nonprofit organizations** remain in business and retain employees. It will also help our **most vulnerable residents** by supporting **programs and services** that provide a social safety net and promote positive childhood environments. This effort will sustain business sectors which **employ disproportionately higher numbers of low-income and minority workers** and assist impacted small businesses and nonprofits by mitigating financial hardship, funding implementation of COVID-19 prevention or mitigation tactics, or both.

Hospitality Industry Assistance

Good news for Fairfax County **business owners in the hospitality industry**. Because this industry – such as **restaurants, hotels and gyms** -- were especially hard hit by the pandemic, the Board of Supervisors has authorized a **reduction in certain zoning and development fees**. To learn more about this reduction, determine if your business qualifies or to apply for the reduction, visit the [Hospitality Industry COVID-19 Assistance](#) web page.

**Need a COVID-19 vaccine
but no appointment?
We offer walk-in service**

#ffxcovid

Location/Hours:

Government Center 12000 Government Center Pkwy., Fairfax, VA M & Th: 11:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. T, W, F, Sat: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Mt. Vernon District Office 8350 Richmond Hwy., Alexandria, VA M & Th: 11:30 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. T, W, F: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
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**NOTE: This is the Mount Vernon District Health Department Office located at the Gerry Hyland Governmental Center.*

Important Safety Information

National Preparedness Month 2021

National Preparedness Month is an observance each September to **raise awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies** that could happen at any time. The 2021 theme is **"Prepare to Protect. Preparing for disasters is protecting everyone you love."** Each week in September, the campaign will focus on a different aspect of preparedness for individuals, families, and communities.

- **Week 1 September 1-4: Make A Plan** How you will communicate before, during, and after a disaster?
- **Week 2 September 5-11: Build A Kit** Gather supplies for everyone in your home, including those with unique needs and pets.
- **Week 3 September 12-18: Prepare for Disasters** Know what disaster affect your area. Have insurance (renters or homeowners) with an inventory of your personal belongings.
- **Week 4 September 19-25: Teach Youth About Preparedness** Talk to your kids about preparing for emergencies and what to do in case you are separated.



Keeping of Animals

The Zoning Ordinance **regulates the keeping of animals**, such as pets, as an accessory use to a dwelling. Certain types of animals are **limited in number** based on the size of the lot. There are also **regulations for the structures** that shelter animals. In some cases, property owners can seek Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) approval of a **special permit** to increase the number of animals or a modification to location regulations of the structure(s) sheltering animals.

Common complains to DCC on the **keeping of animals are for dogs and chickens**. All lots may have at least two dogs, with additional dogs permitted based on the size of the lot. **To keep chickens, at least two acres is required**, and the total number of chickens permitted will be based on the size of the lot. However, **roosters are not permitted** unless in association with an agricultural use.

For more information, visit the [DCC website](#) or see the [Department of Planning and Development's flyer](#).

Bird Mortality Event Update

As of mid-August, **reports of sick and dead birds have declined** in many jurisdictions, and the DWR is **lifting its previous recommendation to cease feeding birds** in affected areas. If residents **choose to feed birds or provide water** in bird baths they should **follow best practice guidelines** provided by the DWR. People should **remain vigilant and report** through the [online DWR Bird Morality Reporting Form](#) if they observe any additional bird mortalities in Virginia.

Team MVD



Mount Vernon District Staff (L to R): Camela Speer, Volunteer Shirley Short, Christine Morin, Carmen Alfaro-Morawski, Supervisor Dan Storck, Peyton Smith, Alex Kramer and Nick Rinehart.

August 2021 Activities:

- Phone calls: 1053
- Meetings: 197

Stay Connected:

Mount Vernon Governmental Center
2511 Parkers Lane
Mount Vernon, VA 22306
703-780-7518 (TTY 711) 703-780-1491 (fax)

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)
MV District Office: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Walk-ins and by appointment

Boards, Authorities and Commissions

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.

A. Heath Onthank Award Selection Committee

To grant recognition for accomplishment of outstanding worth in advancing and improving public service in County by merit system employees.

Advisory Social Services Board

To interest itself in all matters pertaining to the social welfare of the people served by the government; to monitor the formulation and implementation of social welfare programs; to meet with the Director of Social Services at least four times a year for the purpose of making recommendations on policy matters; to make an annual report to the governing body concerning the administration of the public welfare program; and to submit to the governing body other reports that the advisory body deems appropriate.

Community Action Advisory Board

Advises the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors on the needs, concerns and aspirations of limited-income persons; and recommends policies that promote meaningful change.

Commission for Women

To promote the full equality of women and girls in Fairfax County.

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. The objectives and procedures of the Fairfax County Wetlands Board (the Board or the Wetlands Board) are those set forth in Title 28.2, Chapter 13 of the Code of Virginia, (Virginia State Wetlands Act) and in Chapter 116 of the Code of Fairfax County (Wetlands Zoning Ordinance).

There are **several At-Large positions** available as of August 2021 on County BACs.

- Affordable Dwelling Unit Advisory Board (Lending Institution Rep)
- Alcohol Safety Action Program Local Policy Board
- Board of Building and Fire Prevention Code Appeals (Design Professional)
- Board of Equalization of Real Estate
- Celebrate Fairfax, Inc. Board of Directors
- Civil Service Commission
- Commission for Women
- Consumer Protection Commission (4 openings)
- Economic Development Authority (EDA)
- Engineering Standard Review Committee
- Health Systems Agency Board (Consumer)
- History Commission (Historian)
- Human Rights Commission
- Police Civilian Review Panel
- Road Viewer Board
- Tenant Landlord Commission (2 openings - Citizen Member & Landlord Member)
- Tysons Transportation Service District Advisory Board (Commercial or Retail Ownership)

[Learn more about any of 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 [Carmen Alfaro-Morawski](#). 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**.

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

STAY CONNECTED

