

December 2019



As 2019 winds down, I am **grateful for many things**, and especially for all that the Fairfax County **Board of Supervisors and County leadership have accomplished this year**. Through our collaborative efforts, we have **advanced many of my priorities** to improve the lives of all who **live, learn, work and play** in Fairfax County and the Mount Vernon District. These accomplishments were detailed in the [November Advisor](#).

I am even more **encouraged about what we can accomplish** in the Mount Vernon District as we move into 2020 and start the FY 2021 budget process. In a recent presentation, **County Executive Bryan Hill** stated that three of his **budget priorities** for FY 2021 are **affordable housing, energy and sustainability, and early childhood education**. As these are also **high priorities for me and our District**, I look forward to them making a **difference in our neighborhoods and communities** around the County.

This week we had a **bittersweet Board of Supervisor's meeting** as we said goodbye to outgoing Board members **Supervisor John Cook, Linda Smyth, Cathy Hudgins and Chairman Sharon Bulova**. Their **enthusiasm, public engagement and strong Board guidance** will be missed! I wish them the very best in their next life adventures. Over the last four years, this Board has accomplished much, from the **Embark Comprehensive Plan Amendment to One Fairfax**, tackling affordable housing, growing our workforce and improving public safety, to name a few!

As we roll into this **holiday season**, I encourage you to look for opportunities to **help your friends and neighbors**. There are a multitude of **local giving opportunities** and some are detailed later in this newsletter. **An act of kindness** could be as simple as having an elderly neighbor over for a cup of tea or helping a transit reliant friend get out for a shopping trip.

**Thank you to everyone who attended the Mount Vernon District Holiday Open House last night!** It was a great opportunity to celebrate the holiday season with our friends and neighbors, to reflect on the community over the past year and to rejoice in all the potential of the new year. Thanks to you, we collected **over 50 new and gently used coats and blankets** for the annual Syrian Coat/Blanket Drive. Your District office and Team MVD are **here to serve you** all throughout the year!

**Whatever holiday you may celebrate this season, I wish you a merry one!**

Respectfully yours in public service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Storck".

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

## Annual Holiday Open House

**Thank you to everyone** who visited the Mount Vernon Governmental last night to help us kick off the **holiday season!** The spirit was shining brightly last night as we talked about **community, engagement and how our office can help you.** Thanks to your generosity, we collected **more than 50 coats and blankets** for the Syrian Refugee Coat/Blanket Drive! We are still **collecting until December 12,** if anyone wants to stop by, see the awesome **Woodlawn ES artwork on display** in the MVD office and drop off **new or gently used coats and blankets!**

**Happy Holidays!**



## Meet Our BACs



Meet **Storme Gray**, the Mount Vernon District appointee to the [Advisory Social Services Board](#). Currently the **Interim Executive Director of Emerging Practitioners in Philanthropy**, a National network of changemakers who strive for excellence and **equity in philanthropy**, she considers herself a visionary and an insightful leader. Storme uses her experience in the non-profit and philanthropic sectors, with a particular focus on **youth development, racial equity, gender equity, and inclusive philanthropic practice**, to inform her decisions on the Board. She notes that she joined the Board to **support women, youth, and families** in Fairfax County and to help bring **equity to our community.**

When asked what she would say to others thinking about **volunteering in their community**, Storme states, *"The experience you bring, the perspective you possess, are*

important and **can make a difference**. Often, too often, we are lead to believe that because we don't have the proper resume, pedigree, or know the "right people" that our contributions are less valid or less valuable. I disagree. I would **encourage anyone** is thinking of volunteering to do just that. **Your voice and input are needed!**"

In her spare time, Storme powerlifts and **serves on two non-profit boards**. She is a **proud Mount Vernon resident**, where she lives with her amazing partner and two lovely doggies.

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## TEAM MVD

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I just celebrated my **10th anniversary** with the County and it has been an unexpected and welcome surprise. Over the last 10 years, I've had the privilege of working with two Supervisors, hundreds of residents, and an amazing staff team, both at our office and within the County. Last week, I had the opportunity to present to the current Leadership Fairfax cohort about how what our staff does and what happens during a Supervisor transition. This provided an opportunity for me to reflect on what we do and I'd like to take a moment and share with you some information about our amazing **Mount Vernon District Team**.

Our nickname for **Donna Slaymaker** is MVD (Mount Vernon Donna) because she has lived in 22309 zip code for her entire life. Forget about the six degrees of Kevin Bacon, and welcome to the six degrees of Donna. If you've called our office, tried to schedule a room, or meet with the Supervisor, Donna is the person you've spoken to. As the Office Manager, Donna is the first smile you'll see visiting our office, she makes sure that we're all where we're supposed to be, that the office is up to date, and that all our Boards, Authorities and Commissions volunteers are in order. She also coordinates our special office events and is the ombudswoman for the County libraries and public safety issues. In her spare time, she is an avid Mount Vernon High School football fan and she has a heart of gold, including spreading her Christmas cheer around the District for those in need.

If you're reading this, it's thanks to our Communications Director, **Camela Speer**. P-A-M-E-L-A, but with a C. Camela has been a community activist since helping start her son's lacrosse league in Lorton; she was the first marketing director at the Workhouse Arts Center and a special assistant at the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority. Camela's first task with our office was to design and create all the content for the website within a few days, and she hasn't stopped since. To keep up with Supervisor Storck, she has created an aggressive communications plan that includes an annual mailer, monthly electronic newsletters and weekly updates, and daily social media updates. She is also passionate about the environment and is the environmental ombudswoman in our office and the driver behind the Environment Expo. In her spare time, she is part of Leadership Fairfax and loves to garden and do anything outdoors.

If you've participated in any of Supervisor Storck's 20+ annual events, you've met **Abdul Shaban**, who is usually walking around with a clipboard and a warm smile. Abdul coordinates most of our large events, including the exhibit hall for the town meeting, Ides of Bark, Tour de Mount Vernon, Teen Job Fairs and Increase the Peace. He is also the person to call if you have health and human service or Park Authority questions. Abdul is currently attending Virginia Tech to get his Masters in Public Administration and is a DC Sports fan, especially DC United.

**Sally Kidalov** just celebrated her one-year anniversary in our office and has become a transportation expert. If you're interested in trails and connectivity, starting a residential transportation program, have questions about code compliance, or want to know more about the Tourism Task Force, Sally is the person to go to. Many of you have let us know that you enjoy working with Sally because she's very patient, kind and thorough. While originally from California, Sally has been a regular visitor at Gunston Hall, Mount Vernon Estate, and many of our local parks. She is also an excellent baker.

**Shirley Short**, our volunteer extraordinaire, first started volunteering with our office after the flood in Huntington over a decade ago. She is extremely organized and helps us prepare before, during and after big events; she helps keep our office organized and is always willing to share her hugs when needed. We're blessed with her commitment to service and our community.

I am thankful for the entire **MVD team** and their countless hours of service to the community. Our office receives thousands of emails, phone calls, and visits per year. We are here to listen to you and help you navigate the County. It is a privilege for all of us to serve you.

## Upcoming Events

- Community Farmers Markets
  - December Arts Events
  - Saturdays: English Conversation Group - 12:30 p.m.
  - Dec 7: Lorton Holiday Extravaganza & Craft Show - 9 a.m.
  - Dec 7: Child Safety Seat Inspections - 9:30 a.m.
  - Dec 7: Mount Vernon High School Holiday Market - 10 a.m.
  - Dec 9: Citizen Information Meeting: Mount Vernon Memorial Trail- 6:30 p.m.
  - Dec 10: South County Federation Meeting - 7:30 p.m.
  - Dec 14: Kingstowne Library 2nd Saturday Book Sale - 10 a.m.
  - Dec 16: 2020 Board of Supervisors Swearing-In Ceremony - 5 p.m.
  - Dec 18: DMV2GO at Sherwood Library - 10 a.m.
  - Dec 18: Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations Meeting -7 p.m.
  - Dec 24: Holiday Hours - County Offices & Libraries Closed at noon
  - Dec 25: Holiday Hours - County Offices & Libraries Closed
  - Dec 30: DMV2GO at Hollin Hall Senior Center - 9 a.m.
  - Jan 1: New Year's Day - County Offices & Libraries Closed
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## In the News

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### 'Act on climate change': Community turns out for Environment Expo 2019

**Hundreds of people and dozens of exhibitors** attended the 2nd Annual Environment Expo on Saturday, Nov. 16, **hosted by Supervisor Dan Storck**. The event returned to Walt Whitman Middle School for its second year, drawing many, many more attendees over four hours compared to the 150 people who came

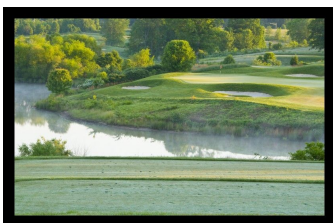
along the first time. [Read more and see photos in the Fort Hunt Herald...](#)

### Woodlawn Cultural Center Moves Forward

The area planned is a **129-acre parcel of land** that borders the northern boundary of Fort Belvoir, and it includes the **Sharpe Barn complex** that formerly had horses and riding lessons for area equestrians. The **new cultural center** will include an area for **agricultural learning**, as well as an **outdoor dining facility, a brewery, and amphitheater**. A section of road that was formerly Richmond Highway before it was shifted, will be used and a series of **pedestrian trails** will be included for cultural center access. [Read more in the Mount Vernon Gazette...](#)

### Richmond Highway Bonchon Opens

"The wait is finally over: **Bonchon on Richmond Highway has opened**", franchise owner Ryan Ham confirmed. Bonchon, which is located in the ground-level retail space at the **Beacon of Groveton apartment complex** at 6852 Richmond Highway. Ham said, "This location will be the **first Bonchon in the Alexandria/Richmond Highway area**, and just the fifth in Fairfax County." [Read more on Covering the Corridor...](#)



### Give Locally This Holiday Season

For **tens of thousands of families** in our area, uncertainty and need are distant from the **celebrations and plenty** that so many of us associate with this holiday period. The holidays are about **giving, and giving thanks**. The holidays are about **children and family**. The holidays are about **sharing**, about **joy**. The holidays are about being thankful and about faith and appreciation. The holidays are about **alleviating suffering** for others. [Read more about](#)

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## West Springfield Police Station in the Community

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Through the **Lunch Buddy program**, officers visit students during lunch periods at elementary schools throughout the County, including the **West Springfield Police District**. It's an opportunity to introduce for officers themselves in a friendly environment and talk to the kids about the **role police officers play in helping the community**. The West Springfield officers are looking forward to **meeting more students** at their schools in the upcoming year!

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## Important Safety Messages

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## Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department

**FOCUS ON FIRE SAFETY & 9-1-1 EMT RESPONSE**  
for the Mt. Vernon, Alexandria Community:

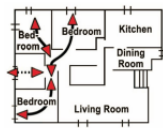
**FREE Invitation ... an educator from the Life Safety Dept. will be discussing fire safety, providing FREE File of Life magnetic pockets, current dept. safety initiatives & info. for FREE Smoke Detectors!**

**Location: Sherwood Regional Library**  
in 1st Floor Conference Room

**Date: Mon., December 9, 2019**

**Time: 1:00 PM** (light refreshments)

**RSVP: 703-303-4060** or Email: [Info@MountVernonAtHome.org](mailto:Info@MountVernonAtHome.org)



### Emergency Preparedness Newsletter

This month the newsletter includes: **porch pirates**, fire safety, pets in the cold, **winter preparedness** and more. [Read and subscribe...](#)

## Community Information

### Congratulations to the South County Stallions Football Team!

The **South County Stallions** are undefeated heading into the 6A **state semi-final game** against Westfield this **Saturday, December 7 at 3:30 p.m.** at Westfield. The Stallions are capping an **outstanding season** and everyone is encouraged to attend the game to cheer on **our own MVD team!** You can also **vote for them** as **WTOP DMV Game of the Week!**



### Looking for Volunteer Opportunities?

Are you **friendly, caring**, comfortable with user-friendly computer programs, clear speaker and **want to help local seniors**? Consider becoming an **office volunteer for the Shepherd's Center!** Office Volunteers **match volunteer drivers with local seniors** needing transportation to medical appointments. Volunteers **answer and make calls**, enter data into a computer. [Learn more...](#)

The **Ventures in Community Hypothermia Program** (VIC HOP) provides dinner, overnight chaperones, and breakfast bags daily for **35 guests who overnight** at Rising Hope Methodist Mission Church from **December through March**. An **annual training** for volunteers is scheduled for **Saturday December 7, at 9 a.m.** at Rising Hope, 8220 Russell Rd, Alexandria. The **huge volunteer effort** is overseen by New Hope Housing. [Questions and more info...](#)

### Voices of Women in America Survey

**Women of Fairfax County, your voice is important!** The National Association of Commissions for Women wants to include the voices of **ALL women in America** in their collection of nationwide data, so please take some time to participate in the **Voices of Women in America Survey** online. The **survey is anonymous** and is organized by zip codes, so the more women that participate, the better it will reflect the concerns of **women in the Mount Vernon District**. [Take the survey...](#)



**We want to know what is important to you.** So be sure to **make your voice heard by Dec. 31, 2019**. Results will be available at your **Fairfax County Commission for Women** next summer. For questions or more information, please contact your **Mount Vernon District Commissioner, Chair Lisa Sales** at (703) 624-0387.

## Fire Safety for the Disabled

If you have a disability, consider how it could **affect your ability to escape a fire in your home**. Call your local fire station and **ask for guidance** from personnel at the station. **Talk to the other members of your household** about your special needs. You can also **call the non-emergency number 703-691-2131** at any time and **tell the dispatcher** that your residence has a disabled person, what **part of the residence that person is typically in** and that they may be of **need during an emergency**. In an emergency, the **911 operator will automatically get this information**, be able to confirm if the invalid is in the house and where, then **relay that information to the responding rescue units**. [Read more...](#)



## Library Collects Donations in December

A [recent Fairfax County study](#) revealed **8.4 percent of students reported going hungry** in the past month due to a lack of food in the home, [a factor which impacts a child's ability to learn](#).

With the **library's commitment to literacy and learning**, it made perfect sense to partner with [Food for Others](#), a not-for-profit food pantry and food rescue operation, **during the month of December** to serve County families **living with food insecurity**. [Read more...](#)

## Provide Your Input on Dog Parks

**The Fairfax County Park Authority** is accepting **community input on dog parks** (off-leash dog areas) **through Dec. 15** as part of a study to **assess current and future needs** and adopt strategies for planning and management. [Read more and take the survey...](#)



## Ring in the Holidays

### Mount Vernon High School Holiday Market

Looking for that special holiday gift? Join Mount Vernon HS PTSA for its 2019 Annual Holiday Market on **Saturday, December 7, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.** Support wonderful **local vendors**, many of whom are **makers of the products they'll be showcasing!** Lots of great gift ideas! Don't miss the opportunity to support local **#SmallBusinesses #ShopLocal** and make a difference!" [Read more...](#)



## Lorton Holiday Extravaganza & Craft Show

The **Lorton Holiday Extravaganza & Craft Show** at **South County High School** kicks off the holiday season for families in **Lorton and surrounding areas**. Join the South County HS PTSO and **get into the spirit of the holidays** by finding those perfect gifts! [Read more...](#)

## Looking for a Unique Gift for Animal Lovers?

Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter is constructing a **tribute garden** at the **Fairfax County Animal Shelter**. Now is your chance to give that **special gift** and support the Friends with a donation that will last a lifetime. You can be a part of this **special and limited opportunity** by purchasing a **personalized, engraved brick** and a 'keepsake', mini replica brick. [Learn more...](#)



## Simplify your Holiday Shopping with Park Authority Gift Cards

This holiday season give the **gift that's always a perfect fit**. Treat everyone on your list to a **Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) Gift Card** they can customize to suit their own style. FCPA gift cards can be used for **camp, classes, workouts or a day at the water park**. The cards can help

keep kids busy or help adults with their **New Year's fitness resolutions**. Gifts cards make a **great stocking stuffer** or present for that person who seems to have everything. [Read more...](#)

## Saving Our Environment

### What are Invasive Plants? And How Do I Get Rid of Them?

A plant is a plant, right? Unfortunately, **not all plants are universally beneficial**. You may have heard of **kudzu**, an invasive known as the "**vine that ate the south**." When plants are **imported from other parts of the world**, either accidentally or on purpose, they have the chance to escape into the natural environment. When they are able to take root, these newcomers have the potential to **overwhelm the existing environment**. They especially thrive where the existing natural forest has been altered or disturbed, which is **common in urban and suburban areas**. [Read more...](#)



## Team MVD



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



### November 2019 Activities:

- Phone calls: 1150
- Meetings: 79

### 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!

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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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Visit our website

Mount Vernon District Office | 703-780-7518  
[MTVernon@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:MTVernon@fairfaxcounty.gov) | [FairfaxCounty.gov/MountVernon](http://FairfaxCounty.gov/MountVernon)

STAY CONNECTED

