



Mount Vernon  
Council  
of Citizens  
Associations

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# Record

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Volume XXXVI, No.3, March 2004

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING**

Wednesday, March 24, 2004, 8:00 pm  
Walt Whitman Middle School Jack Knowles Lecture Hall

**AGENDA**

**CALL TO ORDER**

- Approval of Secretary's Minutes
- Approval of Treasurer's Report
- Committee Reports
- Co-Chairmen's Report on Board Actions

**PUBLISHED ITEMS and RESOLUTIONS**

**NEW BUSINESS**

- Member Association Representatives' Time
- MV Supervisor's Time
- Other Elected Reps and Public Time

**ADJOURNMENT**

|                    |                                    |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| <b>Co-Chairmen</b> | Errol Bergsagel .....703.780.9038  |
|                    | Al Bornmann .....703.360.5964      |
|                    | Mack Rhoades .....703.329.9120     |
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| <b>Editor</b>      | Dave Bolte .....703.765.0129       |
| <b>BUDG</b>        | George Bauer .....703.768.1774     |
| <b>COAF</b>        | Queenie Cox .....703.360.2414      |
| <b>EDUC</b>        | Judy Harbeck .....703.780.1883     |
| <b>ENVR</b>        | Jim Davis .....703.799.3278        |
| <b>H/HS</b>        | Louise Cleveland .....703.780.9151 |
| <b>PL/Z</b>        | Diane Donley .....703.780.2804     |
| <b>PSAF</b>        | Dallas Shawkey .....703.360.2185   |
| <b>TRANS</b>       | Frank Cohn .....703.780.5698       |
| <b>FCFCA</b>       | Pat Rea .....703.799.4799          |

**MINUTES**

*GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING - February 25, 2004*

**ASSOCIATIONS REPRESENTED:** BelleHaven Terrace, Collingwood Springs, Hollin Glen, Hollin Hall Village, Hollin Hills, Huntington, Hybla Valley Farms, Marlan Forest, Montebello, Mount Vernon Civic, Mount Vernon Manor, Mount Vernon on the Potomac, Mount Zephyr, New Gum Springs, Newington, Potomac Valley/Riverbend, Riverside Estates, Riverside Gardens, River Towers Condos, Sherwood Estates, Southwood, Spring Bank, Stratford/Potomac, Stratford/Potomac IV, Sulgrave Manor, Wellington, Wellington Heights, Wessynnton, Williamsburg Manor, Williamsburg Manor North.

**PRESIDING:** Mack Rhoades

**SECRETARY'S MINUTES:** Approved.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Associations that have not paid their dues cannot vote at the General Meeting or Committee Meetings.  
**VIRGINIA TAX COMMISSIONER TIME:** Ken Thorson, Virginia Tax Commissioner, outlined Governor Warner's tax proposals. They have been widely circulated in the press so they will not be repeated in *The Record*.

**SUPERVISOR'S TIME:** Gerry noted that the proposed budget does not include a cut in the real estate tax despite double digit increases in assessments. If the schools were to receive the funds they have requested there would be no reduction in the tax rate. Gerry said the Army has finally proposed an alternate route to Woodlawn Road. The Super suggested that the Transportation Committee look at how the re-development at King's Crossing will affect Route 1. Residents on Fordson, Schelhorn, and Frances among other neighborhoods want speed bumps. How does the general community feel? Cut through traffic and Police and Fire effectiveness are pertinent issues. On the issue of residents and businesses clearing their sidewalks of snow: an enforcement nightmare. Too much to expect, too many sidewalks.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** Judy Harbeck noted that higher enrollments and the need to increase teachers' salaries are two important factors in the school budget request. Jim Davis said the Tree Forum would be held March 31<sup>st</sup> at Walt Whitman. There will be a Mason Neck Shoreline Clean-up on April 3<sup>rd</sup>. Jim said streams need riparian buffers to clean storm water. Queenie Cox pleaded for Associations to send representatives to COAF. Her correct phone number is 703-360-2414. Pat Rea urged Associations to participate in the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations.

**CO-CHAIRS' TIME:** The MVCCA website has a calendar of events. May 22<sup>nd</sup> is the Mount Vernon Coalition Community Day. There is a Route 1 Clean-up in April.

**RESOLUTIONS:** P & Z's "Virginia Builders Gruppe" passed 28-0-3 and its "Tasos" passed 32-0-1. E & R's "Concerns for the Budget" was deferred and "The Lorton Arts Center" will go back to committee to consider low impact development for the site. The rules were waived so that George Bauer could read B & F's unpublished resolution on increasing taxes. It passed 31-2-0 and is published in this issue.

**ODE BUSINESS:** The Belleview flood plain issue: Can a homeowner rebuild or add on in this area? Gerry, the county attorney and staff say yes to rebuilding. Additions? Unresolved.

## CITIZEN OF THE YEAR!

The Mount Vernon Council is pleased to announce that **Sylvester "Sy" Berdux, Jr.** has been selected as its 2004 Citizen of the Year. After serving his country for many years, ultimately retiring as a Colonel, Sy has been actively involved in a wide variety of activities that meet the needs of the Mount Vernon District and Fairfax County. He is a former Co-Chair of the Council and former President of the Southwood Civic association. He was a great advocate for the construction of the South County Center, and an active member of the Richmond Highway Comprehensive Planning Committee. Still close to his military ties, Sy was a member of the Task Force that studied development options for the Engineer Proving Grounds, and is currently a member of the Fort Belvoir Retiree Council and actively involved in the efforts to bring the National Army Museum to Fort Belvoir. He was the volunteer President of the Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation (SFDC) for five years, and was involved in every facet of the work of the Corporation. He is a founding member of the Fairfax County community revitalization leaders roundtable, and was instrumental in creating this group and continues as a key participant in the group's discussions and accomplishments. He was also a member of the Board of Supervisors Revitalization Policy Committee for 5 years, a member of the 2002 Mount Vernon District Comprehensive Plan Task Force, and a recently appointed member of the Telecommunication Land Use Regulations Task Force. He is an extremely active member of the Washington Farm Methodist Church, and previously served as a Steering Committee Member of the Friends of Historic Mount Vernon. Sy Berdux is definitely deserving to be honored as our 2004 Citizen of the Year!

## TRANSPORTATION

The MVCCA Transportation Committee met on March 1, 2004, at 8 PM in the Media Center of the Walt Whitman Middle School. Attending were: Mr. Earl Flanagan, Transportation Commissioner; Mrs. Queeny Cox, Chair, Consumer Affairs Committee; representatives of 28 MVCCA member organizations (Belle Haven Terrace, Berkshire, Collingwood Springs, Hollin Hall, Huntington, Hybla Valley Farms, Milway Meadows, Montebello, Mount Vernon Farms, Mount Vernon Manor, Mount Vernon on the Potomac, Mount Zephyr, New Gum Springs, Potomac Valley-Riverbend, Riverside Estates, Riverside Gardens, Southwood, Stratford Landing, Stratford on the Potomac, Sulgrave Manor, Tauxemont, Wayneood, Wellington, Wellington Heights, Wessinton, Williamsburg Manor, Williamsburg Manor North, Woodland Park); 5 interested citizens; and two guest speakers..

The Committee was briefed by Mr. Andy Szakos and Tom Black of the Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) on the pending Fairfax County Bus Route Reorganization Plan. This briefing represented a continuation of a prior briefing which focused on limited stop express service, bus priority signal system, electronic fare payment, automatic vehicle locator system, pedestrian improvements - sidewalks and trails, and transit centers. A detailed handout covering all routes of the South County Bus Service Plan with maps and proposed schedules was distributed. The plan calls for an increase in bus service ranging from 20-25% with a concomitant fare increase plus increased revenues from bus advertising. The plan aims to reduce travel time on Richmond Highway, provide expanded hours and bi-directional routes, increase frequency to include off-peak and weekends, provides more bus to bus transfers, enhances service in high growth areas such as Lorton, eliminates duplicate service and one-way loops. Additional coordination with Fort Belvoir representatives is contemplated to determine if additional stops within the Fort, beyond the two existing ones can be arranged. Comments on specific aspects of the plan must be submitted by March 12. The Plan will be submitted to the Board of Supervisors in late April, early May and will be implemented later in the year. The Committee decided to submit comments opposing a switch of routing bus service to Old Mount Vernon Road from Mount Vernon Highway, as well as opposing the proposed routing along Old Mill Road.

A sub-committee was formed to consider the controversy arisen on the basis of a suggestion of Gum Springs residents to install traffic calming devices on side streets to discourage cut through from Sherwood Hall Lane to Richmond Highway northward. This matter will be considered at the next meeting.

A list of road maintenance requirements will be compiled on the basis of current and pending e-mail submissions to be submitted to VDOT by next week.

Earl Flanagan advised that the scope of the study for rail alignment for Richmond Highway needs to be extended into Prince William County up to Quantico; this will mandate an increase in funding

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

requirements. A proposal for a Light Rail Alignment was distributed and will be considered in detail at the next meeting, along with others for heavy rail and monorail.

The Committee was apprised that work has been initiated on the Van Dorn Connector which will connect Kingstown with Telegraph Road; work is suspended contingent on warmer weather conditions. If the Fort Belvoir cut-through along Old Mill Road and Mulligan Road is effected, there will be a more direct cut-through from Mount Vernon to Springfield from the Woodlawn area of the District.

The Chair was requested to see if the current construction at Telegraph, Richmond Highway and Old Colchester Road is in conformance with prior publicized plans. Also, the Park Authority should be requested to repair the rough pavement on northbound lanes in the vicinity of Bellhaven Road; and the need to install the yellow reflectors between opposing traffic lanes on the Parkway before installing the white reflectors on the edges, since at night the wrong sequence of installation can cause grave confusion.

The next meeting of the Transportation Committee will be held on Monday, April 5, 2004 in the Media Center, Walt Whitman Middle School. Agenda items as mentioned above and to be announced.

<sup>see</sup>  
(Resolution on pages 8-9)  
**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

The Committee met March 2 and 4, with 8 associations represented: Collingwood on Potomac, Belle Haven Terrace, Mt. Vernon Civic, Stratford Landing, Stratford on Potomac, Stratford on Potomac-Sec.4, Sulgrave Manor, and Wessynton. A Resolution, "Health and Human Services Planning for FY2005" was drafted, circulated March 8, and recommended unanimously to the March General Council. In addition to the 8 participating reps from member associations listed above, 10 more reviewed and recommended the Resolution: Hollindale, Hollin Hall Village, Hollin Glen, Hollin Hills, Mount Zephyr, Spring Bank, Wellington, Wm. H. Randall Estates, Williamsburg Manor, Williamsburg Manor North.

### FY2005 County Planning for Health and Human Services

Our February-March review of human service needs and resources in Mount Vernon/Region I focused on the County Executive's Advertised Budget Plan and also the much-debated "Summary of Options." (The "Options" are activities funded in the Advertised Plan, but identified to be cut—from every public service other than Schools—should the Supervisors "adjust" the Budget Plan by reducing estimated revenue (reducing, for example, the residential property "mil" rate) or by increasing proposed expenditure (by adding more dollars, for example, to the proposed School Transfer). Our two February guest guides returned March 4, to answer our questions about the "Options" that would reduce health and human services, with direct impact in our area: *Molly Lynch*, who (with Marion Barnwell) represents Mount Vernon on the countywide citizen advisory Human Services Council (HSC), and *Kenneth Ditselkoen*, Human Services Systems Manager for Region I.

Many of the 56 health and human services "Options" had been reviewed and ranked by the citizen advisory body as Difficult, Serious, Severe or Unacceptable reductions. (HHS Committee reviewed these, with alarm, in February.) The new "Summary" doubled the list of threatened items, to include more that are sure to be ranked Severe or Unacceptable when HSC reviews them. Potential damage to services for children and youth is plain, particularly in Region I, where struggling families and neighborhoods send children to Mount Vernon schools in which percentages eligible for free lunch are among the county's highest, a barometer of other intense needs. Reducing access to safe affordable childcare by reducing sliding scale subsidies for low-income working parents, eliminating all dental care for 3,754 "medically indigent" children countywide, eliminating effective "Early Prevention" programs that assist local schools and families in recognizing and treating substance abuse (in schools where 12 to 14 year-olds have reported they became dependent for a couple of years *before* adults "caught on"): these reductions are the pennywise "savings" Options that could cost Mount Vernon dearly.

The Resolution identifies growing, vulnerable groups "at risk" in our area, recommends "successful, cost-effective programs for crisis response through both prevention and treatment" that the Council should continue to support, and specifies the fiscal impact of cutting the much-debated "Options." Therefore, MVCCA urges the Supervisors to approve the Advertised Budget Plan without "adjustments" that would damage our network of essential services and add specific fiscal actions consistent with the Resolution forwarded by the Budget Committee.

March 29, 30, and 31 are scheduled public hearings before the Board of Supervisors, when citizens plead for particular priorities, services, and funding strategies. Our March 24 Council meeting will decide whether MVCCA can speak with a strong voice for a consensus on what our community wants in the Budget Plan.

### Mount Vernon Hospital—Task Force Reports its

**Recommendation, at last** [MVCCA's position is stated in the Resolution, "Public Support for Saving Mount Vernon Hospital," July 2003 MVCCA Record, on the web site: [www.MVCCA.org](http://www.MVCCA.org). Also in *The Record* are key developments in monthly HHS Reports: July 2003—Feb. 2004]

The 18-member citizen advisory Southeast Health Planning Task Force issued its succinct 4-point Recommendation on March 1, opening the doors at last for an extended press conference, as reported at length in the *Washington Post*, *Mount Vernon Gazette*, and *Mount Vernon Voice*. The Report is available at Supervisor Hyland's office now and will be available at the March 24 General Council meeting. The Recommendation outlines a strategy for delivering health care in all parts of southeastern Fairfax, with an enhanced Mount Vernon Hospital (at Parker's Lane) as the in-patient anchor of a triad of strategically located facilities, each with an Emergency Department and diagnostic and outpatient services. But Inova's Trustees bear the responsibility to develop and implement a long term plan, commit sufficient capital, defer decisions elsewhere in the system that could prevent development of successful services here, and "necessary to the first three...seek broad public support. To build

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greater community trust concerning its planning process, IHS must achieve a more open dialogue among all three vital participants: Inova planners and management, the medical professionals who deliver health care, and the community."

**H/HS Committee meets April 6, 7:30 p.m.,** at IMVH-Conference Room C, for Q and A with Chair Louise Cleveland, on the "Southeast Health Planning Task Force Report to the Community and the Trustees of the Inova Health System."

## EDUCATION

The Education Committee met in joint session with the Budget and Finance Committee on February 24, 2004, at 7:30 pm at Whitman Middle School. The Committee also met on March 3, 2004, in partial joint session with Budget and Finance. The Chair also attended Budget and Finance meetings and presentations on March 2, 5 and 9, 2004, reporting to the Committee by e-mail. The Committee also conferred by e-mail, adopting a Resolution effective March 5, and later reconsidering and withdrawing that Resolution and adopting a Resolution, effective March 10, 2004, which is printed herein.

The following associations were represented at one or more meetings: Wessynton, William H. Randall, Sulgrave Manor, Williamsburg Manor, Southwood, Stratford Landing, Riverside Estates, Mount Vernon Farms, Belle Haven Terrace, Mount Vernon Civic, Potomac Valley Riverbend, Stratford on the Potomac IV, and the full committee list was consulted by e-mail. Co-chair Mack Rhoades also attended.

All of these meetings concerned the School and County Budgets for FY2005 and included presentations by Deirdra McLaughlin, FCPS Chief Financial Officer (February 25), Supervisor Gerry Hyland (March 2) and County Executive Tony Griffin (March 3).

The committee's discussions, concerns and intentions and its eventual position are best expressed in the Resolution, adopted effective March 10, 2004, which is printed in this *Record*.

The committee also expressed an intention to work with the Budget and Finance Committee, particularly as the new School Board and new Superintendent take the helm, to look at how the needs (funded and unfunded), priorities and fiscal activities of FCPS can be better communicated in future public budget presentations. The committee was especially concerned that the manner of presentation of teacher compensation gave the erroneous impression it contemplated a major upward jump in both compensation and competitive status when in fact the increase was substantially the same as granted over the last 4-5 years and would not improve the competitive salary ranking but at best maintain it.

The committee would also like to express its gratitude to Howard Soroos, who retired this year after over 25 years of dedicated service as the Southwood representative to the committee. His presence will be missed.

Next meeting: April 7, 2004, at 8 pm in the Whitman MS library  
Subject: TBD

## PUBLIC SAFETY

Associations represented: Belle Haven Terrace, Collingwood on Potomac, Hollin Hall, Mount Vernon Manor, Riverside Estates, Riverside Gardens, Southwood, Stratford Landing, Waynewood, and Wellington. We were joined by Co-chair Al Bornmann.

The chair began by providing information concerning two initiatives of the committee. First, was an update on the resolutions concerning establishing a traffic court at the South County Center and, second, establishing a Animal Control Station/Animal Shelter at this end of the County. During the County Executive, Tony Griffin's, appearance before the MVCCA Budget Committee, the chair asked him the progress on these items. With regard to traffic court, he said that there remained two problem areas. Chief Judge Horan is still reluctant to support this since he is concerned about whether he has the authority to establish a court there. This may change since the General Assembly has not reappointed him and he will have to step down this summer. Further, the new Chief Judge of the Virginia Supreme Court is interested in establishing more satellite courts. The second is the Clerk of the Court who needs state funds to pay clerks of the court there and is unable to accept county funding for that. The County Executive is hoping to begin furnishing the space in the South County Center and have test traffic court dates there this summer.

With regard to the Animal Control Station/Animal Shelter, the facilities staff has looked at the old Groveton Police Station for conversion but found that it did not have enough land and would be impractical/expensive to convert. The chair advised him that the acting Police Chief, Col. Devlin, told him that she would investigate establishing a site with the Park Police stable in Lorton or Mason Neck.

The chair reported that the issue concerning the Sheriff's Department not manning the Mount Vernon Police Station Jail has been satisfactorily resolved. The sheriff's deputies have been manning the jail since February 9. Also, the review of establishing a requirement to shovel sidewalks after shows has been put on hold at the supervisor's request. Evidently, he tried to have the Fairfax County staff review this several years ago. They found too many problems to support it. He will try to provide the paperwork from that effort. Finally, due to the ongoing effort to review the proposed county budget, the chair has delayed working on the cell phone resolution.

The major item for the evening was a review of the public safety items in the FY 2005 Advertised Budget proposed by the County Executive. The major new items were \$1.7M for the new Fairfax Center Fire Station and \$4.3M for the new Public Safety Communications Center (PSCC). A new PSCC is needed to ensure safety of vital communications within the county. It provides call-taking and dispatch of police, fire, rescue, and animal control units. The current PSCC is a converted old elementary school that is inadequate for proper modification and updating. Further, it is exposed to possible attack. The chair noted that additional COPS funding grants will not be pursued in FY 2005.

The committee reviewed a document entitled 'Options for the FY 2005 Budget Discussion' provided by the County Executive to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) at the same time as the proposed budget. He believes that as a result of the significant increase in real estate

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assessments this year and the request for additional funding by the school board, the BOS will want to reduce the real estate tax rate and make some cuts in the proposed budget. The committee reviewed the list and essentially objected to implementing most of them. Items of particular objection included the reductions to the Community Services Board (Items 120 through 138) since these will reduce services that are needed to help keep people out of jails. With regard to the Police items (106 through 114) item 108 was acceptable if the General Assembly does not renew Fairfax County's authority to have photo red lights. Items 110 and 111 are acceptable. The committee strenuously objects to items 106, 107, 109, and 112. The Fire and Rescue item 115 should not be implemented. The Public Safety Committee's next meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 1 in Community Room #3, Mount Vernon Governmental Center.

## ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION

The Environment and Recreation Committee met at 7:30 PM, March 3, Room E-114 in Mt Vernon High School. Attending: Collingwood on the Potomac, Hollin Hall, Hollin Hills, Mt Vernon Civic, Mt. Vernon on the Potomac, Mt Zephyr, Riverside Estates, Riverside Gardens, Springbank (2), Stratford Landing, Stratford on the Potomac, Sulgrave Manor, Waynewood, Wellington, Williamsburg Manor, presenter of SE 03-MV-042, one interested citizen and Krystal Kearns, Potomac River Greenway Coalition.

**Krystal Kearns (Potomac River Greenways Coalition)** presented the committee a power point about the Watershed Master Stewardship Program. This program includes Outreach to Homeowners and Civic Associations, Master Watershed Stewardship Certification and Technical/ Organizational Assistance. Several of the representatives signed up for the Master Watershed Certification Program, eight 3-hr workshops. Confirmed speakers are from EPA, C-Bay Foundation, Northern VA Water and Soil Conservation District, Fairfax County Dept of Public Works and Environmental Services, VA Dept of Forestry and many others. For more information email or call: Krystal Kearns, prgc\_krystalkearns@yahoo.org - (703)324-1426.

**SE 2003-MV-042/ Glassman** was heard by the committee. The applicant of this Special Exception wants to add 1244 square feet of impervious surface to his lot in the New Alexandria area. A Resource Protection Area (RPA) exception (over 1000 sq' in RPA), C-Bay water quality waiver (can not meet water quality requirements), Storm Water Management waiver (no place to put displaced water) and a Special Exception for construction in the flood plain are required for the proposed development. The applicant is also requesting numerous variances for setbacks along adjacent properties and utilizing public right-of-ways to accommodate his current plan. The committee showed the application is co-joined by the Board of Supervisors, but Supervisor Hyland's resolution is to co-join when the proposed plan is the same or less footprint and is contrary to that resolution.

The committee showed that MVCCA Planning and Zoning approved of ONLY 1000 sq' of additional impervious surface. The applicant now wants 1244 sq' of hard surface. The committee strongly suggested employing a low impact development (LID) practice, placing a "green roof" on the existing garage. The applicant balked and expressed that it "would cost too much and look ugly". Installing a "green roof" would offset the impervious surface, so no RPA Exception would be necessary. The additional 244 square', beyond the allowed 1000 sq' of impervious surface, would also set legal precedent for others in the RPA to do the same. The committee offered support of this project provided it remain up to the additional 1000 Sq' cover and would remain consistent with the approved resolution from Planning and Zoning. The committee reluctantly voted to not take a position on March 3.

Next meeting: April 7, 7:30 PM, Mt Vernon High School, Room E-114.

## BUDGET AND FINANCE

### *MVCCA Budget & Finance Committee Minutes March 2nd, 2004*

The Budget & Finance Committee met on March 2nd at 7:30 p.m. in the Multi-Media Center (the Library) at Walt Whitman Middle School. In attendance were representatives from Collingwood on the Potomac, Hollin Glen, Hollin Hills, Huntington, Mt. Vernon, Mt. Vernon Civic Association, Southwood, Stratford Landing, Potomac Valley/Riverbend, Waynewood, Wessynton Homes and Williamsburg Manor. Additionally, Al Bornmann, Co-Chair also attended. Gerry Hyland, Mt. Vernon District Supervisor, was our guest speaker.

Gerry's discussion included the following items:

- 1 The County Executive, Anthony Griffin, has produced a \$30 million list of budget items that could be cut in the event that the Board of Supervisors (BOS) feel that a reduction in the real estate tax rate is required. This list is accompanied by a list of items that could generate \$9 million in revenue.
- 2 One third of these cuts falls into the Health and Human Services category.
- 3 The Fairfax County Public School System (FCPS) Proposed Budget is \$38 million over the BOS guidelines.
- 4 53% of the County Budget goes to the school transfer along with some 50 million in supplemental support staffing positions plus debt servicing for capital improvements.
- 5 Most of the County's bonding authorization goes to funding school capital projects.
- 6 The residential real estate equalization rate in Fairfax County increased an average of 11.29% while the average increase in the Mt. Vernon District is 14.1%.
- 7 One cent in real estate tax is the equivalent of \$14.5 million in the County Budget. <sup>mil</sup> <sub>rate</sub>
- 8 Fairfax County has experienced and continues to experience an increase in what is described as an immigrant population with the rationale being that this is where the jobs are.

- 9 FCPS schools have larger class sizes than other education districts in our area.
- 10 The Mt. Vernon District schools have a higher ratio of students that qualify for relief in the school lunch program.
- 11 FCPS schools have the lowest ratio of supervisory staff relative to the number of teachers when compared to other area jurisdictions.
- 12 Two percent of teacher payroll is the equivalent of 28 million in the County Budget.
- 13 The SACC program (after school program) costs almost as much on a per student basis as it does to have a student attend school during the day. (\$8K versus \$10K, respectively)
- 14 There is a proposal to cap real estate taxes at age 65.
- 15 Implementation of a real estate tax deferral program would require a change in the constitution.
- 16 Gerry's best guess is that there will be a 2 to 3 cent reduction in the real estate tax rate.

#### ***MVCCA Budget & Finance Committee Minutes March 3rd, 2004***

The Budget & Finance Committee met on March 3rd at 7:00 p.m. in the Jack Knowles Auditorium at Walt Whitman Middle School. In attendance were representatives from Collingwood on the Potomac, Hollin Glen, Hollin Hills, Huntington, Mt Vernon Civic Association, Mt. Vernon, Mt Zephyr Citizens Association, Southwood, Stratford Landing, Potomac Valley/Riverbend, Waynewood, Wessynton Homes and Williamsburg Manor. Additionally, Al Bornmann, Co-Chair also attended. Members of the Education Committee joined our meeting for almost the first three hours before moving into their session. Anthony Griffin, Fairfax County Executive, was our guest speaker.

Tony's discussion included the following items:

#### **Overview -**

- 1 Since 1991, the county has only added 91 new authorized employee positions.
- 2 One in three Fairfax County households speaks a primary language other than English.
- 3 The County Executive has implemented a strategic planning program that includes evaluating the things that they now do. "Are they doing them effectively and should they continue to do them?" The program provides for measurement of what they are now performing.
- 4 Years of nibbling at the edges of County services in order to provide reductions in the real estate tax rate is significantly degrading essential programs.
- 5 Tony has requested that departments prioritize all programs.
- 6 Only 2.8% of the County's budget comes from the State.
- 7 Last year, the BOS requested a list for cuts in order to provide a reduction in the real estate rate. This caused a problem as people felt that they were not provided the opportunity to object to the cuts in public forum. So this year Tony produced a list of potential cuts so that citizens could debate the potential cuts in advance. This list happens to be 39 million dollars and is no way meant to coincide with the 38 million that FCPS exceeds the BOS recommended budget guidelines.
- 8 Otherwise, the budget is essentially flat with no new programs.

#### **Schools -**

- 1 The School Board has recommended a 9.7% increase in the FCPS FY 2005 Budget while the guidance provided by the BOS is a 6.5% increase.
- 2 18% of the students in FCPS receive some level of meal assistance.
- 3 In terms of employees, the School system is twice the size of the county. There would be no economies of scale experienced if the FCPS and the County systems merged as they are both large systems.
- 4 The FCPS leases its buses and computers while the County sets up reserves (which are adjusted if too high) for the replacement of equipment.
- 5 Tony pointed out that school renovation costs just as much as new school construction. This is attributable in large part to working around the school calendar.
- 6 Tony believes that by investing in our schools and parks and other programs we reduce our need for police.

#### **Real Estate Taxes -**

- 1 There has been a 70% increase in residential real estate taxes over the past five years.
- 2 The County has a target for commercial real estate to represent 25% of the revenue for the County. This is currently at about 18% and Tony feels that it will probably fall to 17% before it actually bottoms out.
- 3 We have the authority to levy a meal tax that would be the equivalent of 4 cents in the real estate tax. This authority can only be utilized if authorized by a County referendum.

#### **Law Enforcement Services -**

- 1 Fairfax County has one of the lowest numbers of Police officers per capita in the country.
- 2 The "COPS" program allowed the County to add a significant number of police officers with the early years' salaries subsidized by the Federal government, but the County has elected to keep this to only 16 new positions as the program obligates the County to maintaining future payroll for the new officers.
- 3 Gangs continue to be a problem, but the County does not feel that the problem will expand. There are some 850 known gang members in the County.
- 4 Charging for false alarms has reduced the number of false alarms significantly.
- 5 Fairfax County has a reputation for catching criminal elements, so they tend to avoid this county.
- 6 Traffic Court in the South County Municipal Building has not been established, as the judges need to be for it. Apparently there is a judge that is a proponent of using the facility and the new Chief Justice is a proponent of split dockets. Funds have been set aside for completion of the courtroom at the facility.

#### **Other Issues -**

- 1 The county has had to make catch up contributions to the County employee retirement plans in order to make up for three years of poor stock market performance. Having said that, the County's retirement plan performance places it in the top ten in the country.

(This is not to be confused with top ten percent. Their performance is in the top ten of all municipal retirement plans.)

- Investing in technology has served to reduce the need for certain personnel. However, he believes that the technology benefit will not serve to reduce personnel in the future.

#### *MVCCA Budget & Finance Committee Minutes Friday March 5th and Tuesday March 11, 2004 2004*

The Budget & Finance Committee met on Friday March 5th at 7:30 p.m. in the Multi-Media Center (the Library) at Walt Whitman Middle School. In attendance were representatives from Collingwood on the Potomac, Hollin Glen, Hollin Hills, Huntington, Mt. Vernon Civic Association, Mt Zephyr Citizens Association, Southwood, Potomac Valley/Riverbend, Stratford on the Potomac, Wessynon Homes and Williamsburg Manor. Chairs of three committees also attended: Louise Cleveland, Chair of Health and Human Services, Judy Harbeck, Chair of Education, and Dallas Shawkey, Chair of Public Safety. Additionally, all three MVCCA Co-Chairs attended: Errol Bergsagel, Al Bornmann, and Mack Rhoades.

A motion was offered that MVCCA be resolved to support the Advertised Fairfax County Budget for FY 2005 exactly as submitted by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors. Members expressed disappointment at the need to keep real estate tax rate as it is as the tax rate is causing considerable burden for certain segments of the population; specifically persons in the lower income brackets that are not eligible for tax relief. The County has no other meaningful way to raise revenue other than from real estate taxes. The members strongly expressed the opinion that essential programs have been cut to the point that further cuts will render them ineffective. Also, by cutting named programs, other costs will immediately (and in the future) be increased. Further, if the County does not fund the development of a Watershed Master Plan, the Mt. Vernon District will not comply with the required storm water standards by the 2010 deadline. Additionally, if named cuts are implemented, the Little Hunting Creek Watershed Management Plan will not be implemented.

The motion passed on a 6-4 vote and the specific wording was worked out on Tuesday, March 11, 2004 when the Budget and Finance Committee met at 7:30 p.m. in the Conference Room at Walt Whitman Middle School. Attending the meeting were representatives from Collingwood on the Potomac, Hollin Glen, Hollin Hills, Huntington, Mt. Vernon Civic Association, Potomac Valley/Riverbend, Wessynon Homes and Williamsburg Manor. Chairs of two committees also attended: Louise Cleveland, Chair of Health and Human Services and Judy Harbeck, Chair of Education.

Because we desire this resolution to have an uncommon impact on the BOS, the resolution is short and to the point. The resolution is printed in this issue of the *Record*.

Our next meeting will be held on April 7th at 7:30 in the Conference Room at Walt Whitman Middle School. The agenda is currently scheduled to produce a resolution to the BOS to implement available County hotel taxing authority by including the item as a referendum in November, 2004.

## PLANNING & ZONING

The meeting was attended by twenty-five civic associations: Bellhaven Terrace, Collinwood Springs, Hollin Hills, Huntington, Marlin Forest/Marlan Heights, Mason Hill, Montebello Condominium Association, Mount Vernon Civic, Mount Zephyr, New Alexandria, New Gum Springs, Newington Forest, Potomac Valley/River Bend Estates, Riverside Gardens, Saratoga, Spring Bank, Stratford Landing, Stratford on the Potomac, Sec. 4, Sulgrave Manor, Wellington Heights, Wellington, Waynewood, Wessynon, Williamsburg Manor, Williamsburg Manor North.

The Committee voted on one resolution concerning RZ-2004-MV-... **Roubin Associates LLC**, no address, in between Newington Road and Cinder Bed Road. It listened to three proposals including: 1) **Handyman Concrete**, 9418 Gunston Cove Road, where the property is being subdivided into two parcels and Handyman Concrete proposes to develop a concrete batch mixing plant on the parcel that will be created from the southern portion of the property; 2) **RZ-2003-MV-060, D.R. Horton, Inc.**, a rezoning of 12.79164 acres from the R-1 District to the PDH-8 District, located on the east side of Telegraph Road near its intersection with Richmond Highway, for 45 single-family attached dwelling units and 37 single-family detached dwelling units; 3) **RZ 2003-MV-062, Eastwood Properties, Inc.** - **Nalls Road Property**, located along the south side of Nalls Road approximately 1000 ft. west of Old Mount Vernon Road (Pram Way is the public street directly north of the site), the property is currently zoned R-2 and theoretically could be developed with six lots by-right. This proposal, previously deferred to determine whether a private street was required rather than a public street, is now deferred so that the county staff can further evaluate the stream discovered by P&Z requesting more information about the nature of the street.

The Committee also heard a presentation concerning the **Laurel Hills Adaptive Reuse Area**. The discussion concerned an evaluation of using the site almost entirely for education versus using much of the site for town houses. A lively discussion ensued concerning whether either alternative adequately referenced the original concept for the area.

## CONSUMER AFFAIRS

The Consumer Affairs Committee met on Tuesday, March 2nd. The topic was the secrets of a Consumer Affairs committee. It was so secret that it can't be discussed in the *Record*. For more detailed information, plan to attend the next meeting—Tuesday, April 6th at the Mt. Vernon Governmental Center at 7:30 p.m. The topic will be the effects of a pending strike by Giant and Safeway employees and/or Identity Theft.

HHS Resolution:  
38-0-1 approval

# RESOLUTIONS

*This resolution is Environment and Recreation Committee approved, ONLY because of time constraints, the MVCCA Board allowed testimony to be given on this subject.*

## SE 2003-MV-042

**WHEREAS**, Bradford Glassman owns property at 6428 Potomac Avenue, in the New Alexandria area of the Mt Vernon District, and

**WHEREAS**, this single family detached dwelling, zoned R-3, was severely damaged by flooding during Hurricane Isabel, and

**WHEREAS**, the requirements for R-3 include a minimum lot size of 10,500 square feet and a minimum width of 80 feet, and

**WHEREAS**, the Glassman property provides only 7000 square feet and has a width of only 50 feet, having been created before the current R-3 requirements, and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed plan requests development to rebuild and expand the footprint of the existing home, requiring a Special Exception and a Resource Protection Area (RPA) Exception for construction and water quality, numerous setback variances and approval of a Chesapeake Bay Water Quality Impact Assessment (WQIA)

**WHEREAS**, as a result of the proposed development impervious surface will subtrnd over 30% of the area of said lot, adding 1244 square feet of impervious surface, and

**WHEREAS**, the Environment and Recreation Committee (E and R) of the Mt Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations has, in the past, expressed disapproval of the granting of special exceptions for development, especially when water quality or storm water waivers have been requested, and

**WHEREAS**, E and R understands that one component of the Special Exception would not be required when additional impervious cover is less than 1000 square feet, and

**WHEREAS**, E and R understands the additional impervious surface can be reduced to less than 1000 square feet through implementation of innovative storm water quantity and quality controls (i.e. green roof, reforestation, rain barrels) and

**WHEREAS**, reforestation, already accommodated on the proposed plan, is not a sufficient water quality control to prevent the applicant from requesting a Chesapeake Bay waiver, and

**WHEREAS**, green roof practices are a viable option for this development to reduce additional impervious cover, and

**WHEREAS**, E and R is respectful of reasonable opposition to such developments from neighbors in the New Alexandria area.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT**, the Environment and Recreation Committee of the Mt Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations supports the proposed development under the following conditions:

- (1) The net increase in impervious area does not exceed 1000 square feet
- (2) The proposed reforestation is conditional to approve this Special Exception
- (3) There is no significant reasonable opposition from the neighbors in the New Alexandria area.

Comended to omit this section?

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES PLANNING FOR FY2005

**WHEREAS**: Planning and public funding for community-based delivery of essential services are struggling to keep pace with complex demographic changes and critical needs among some particularly vulnerable groups;

**WHEREAS**: In the Mount Vernon/Human Services Region I area, these vulnerable, growing groups include:

- Children in low-income families with temporary emergency needs (food, shelter, health care)
- At-risk youth, as well as adults, affected by domestic violence, substance abuse, and/or gang recruitment
- Working families caught in a decline of full-time wages and job-related benefits
- Youth and adults with treatable mental illness who are severely disturbed
- Frail elderly, as well as persons of all ages with severe physical and/or mental disability
- Persons, in all age groups, with health care needs that are under-insured and postponed (resulting in increased unreimbursed acute care costs that strain the service network), and
- People too young, old, poor, or ill to drive private cars who need safe, affordable transportation to important services;

**WHEREAS**: A well-coordinated, cost-effective network of local, community-based health and human services is essential, to prevent and respond to diverse crises and emergencies, and also to extend our local professional and voluntary resources to include new dimensions of community emergency preparedness;

**WHEREAS**: Effective health and human services are also among our best means to control the growth of other, major public costs (for hospitalization, incarceration, and chronic dependency);

**WHEREAS**: Our community matches intense local needs with outstanding community contributions of volunteer time and financial resources, contributing to opportunities in Region I for sustaining—certainly not terminating—successful, cost-effective programs for crisis response through both prevention and treatment;

**WHEREAS**: Important improvements in quality and cost-effectiveness of services, especially for children and youth, have come about through careful planning and coordination at South County Center, and our county and nonprofit agency service providers work diligently to serve increasing numbers of persons among our at-risk, vulnerable residents;

**WHEREAS**: Reduction of cost-effective model programs for crisis prevention has been one unintended outcome of repeated, disproportionate reductions in human services funding (the result of combined federal, state, and county actions during the past 3 years);



**WHEREAS:** The County's Advertised Budget Plan for FY2005 sustains quality in our remaining essential services at minimal cost increase (3.6% in health and human services, with a 6.57% increase in revenue projected); **whereas** many of the 56 service reductions in the County Executive's "Summary of Options" for reducing expenditure would especially impact children and youth, and these services include those reviewed by the citizen advisory Human Services Council and ranked as Serious, Severe, and Unacceptable; **whereas** eliminating all health and human services "Options" (which use \$12.9 million in County funds, while recovering 2.8 million in revenue) would "adjust" county expenses by \$10.1 million at great hidden cost, because these services strengthen the entire network, either directly or by maintaining appropriate administrative control over costs as well as quality; and **whereas** a small rebate in individual residential property tax bills (a \$39 million cut to services yields about \$36 off an average tax bill) is a very poor exchange for a downward spiral in the community's network for crisis prevention and response;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations supports approval by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors of the Advertised Budget Plan for FY2005.**

MVCCA recognizes that the Plan represents a careful balance among multiple service needs and sustains essential county services in a year of low revenue growth. MVCCA supports cost-effective local delivery of essential services and rejects all short-sighted "cost-reduction" strategies, such as those that would eliminate programs for early intervention in substance abuse by youth, increase the long delay in treatment for severely mentally disturbed behavior, or move delivery of reduced services even farther from the people and communities served. MVCCA recommends therefore to the Board of Supervisors these steps:

(1) **Take no actions that reduce the County revenue projected in the FY2005 Budget Plan and available in the General Fund for essential services.** Narrow reliance on property tax is proving to be neither equitable nor sufficient to support quality schools and essential services, but the County must retain its revenues while working for state tax reform that includes much broader authority to localities.

(2) **Take no actions that trigger reductions in essential services to at-risk children and youth, families, and neighborhoods**—whether in health and human services or education or public safety or the safety of transportation and environmental quality. The "Summary of Options" to reduce all departments and services (other than Public Schools) is certain to undermine quality and cost-effectiveness of community-based service delivery for crisis prevention and response.

(3) **Target tax-relief to low-income homeowners**, to the extent that funding is available, by building on the existing program that rebates real property taxes in recognition of hardship to low-to-moderate income persons who are elderly or disabled.

(4) **Maintain the County "Reserve"** proposed for FY2005, in anticipation of further impact upon the county's services from state and federal actions and in readiness for response to unforeseen events (such as, in 2003, Hurricane Isabel).

**RZ-2004-MV-\_\_\_\_, Roubin Associates LLC,  
No Address, Tx Map 99 ((1))-0005-E.**

**WHEREAS**, this proposal is to rezone 6.39 acres (0.06 FAR) from R-1 residential zoning to I-6 industrial zoning which is the heaviest industrial use allowing use of the property for proffered industrial and office uses;

**WHEREAS**, the developer requests modification of standard transitional screening and barrier requirements to those shown on the GDP along the Newington Road frontage pursuant to Section 13-304(5) and (3);

**WHEREAS**, the vacant land across Newington Road is zoned R-1 but is planned for industrial uses. The proposed building has been moved to screen views into the site from Newington Road.

**WHEREAS**, to the North the land is vacant and planned for industrial but is zoned R-1; to the South the land is used for Heavy Industrial (concrete plant) and is zoned I-6; to the East the land is used for CSX railroad tracks and sidings and is zoned R-1; and to the west are two vacant parcels of which one is planned for C-8 for use as a fast food restaurant;

**WHEREAS**, the Community Planning Sector is I-95 Industrial Corridor, Land Unit K;

**WHEREAS**, the Property abuts Terminal Road and due to the significant grade difference between Terminal Road and the buildable area of the Property (34 ft.), the developer proposes no access to Terminal Road and instead intends to construct a right turn lane, an additional through lane, and a standard eight-foot wide asphalt trail along Newington Road;

**WHEREAS**, this change of conditions on Newington Road will adversely affect the character and nature of the residential homes of the Newington Homeowners Association by bringing in at least 200 trucks per day during the working day into their residential area and requiring the citizens to maneuver around these trucks;

**WHEREAS**, this additional daily traffic on Newington Road is likely to cause additional traffic backups because of the one-lane railroad bridge that Newington residents must already contend with;

**WHEREAS**, other developers of land have been readily willing to fill in land to accommodate the site constraints, here to permit access via Terminal Road, in order to work in Fairfax County and this developer is not willing;

**WHEREAS**, the developer is unwilling to consider enclosed storage and insists on outside storage for tanks and pipes and other construction materials where other developers have been willing to accommodate the interests of the adjoining neighborhoods;

**WHEREAS**, the developer is also unwilling to consider a lower industrial use of between I-1 and I-4 to accommodate the aesthetics of the adjoining neighborhood given that I-4 appears to be the highest industrial use requiring enclosed covered storage yards;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations opposes this rezoning request.

*This resolution was passed by a vote of the Mount Vernon Citizens' Council on February 25th, 2004 and is reprinted here for distribution purposes as it had not been printed in the February issue of The Record.*

## RESOLUTION ON TAXATION

**WHEREAS**, The Commonwealth of Virginia is not raising sufficient revenues to support the obligations, services, and programs of the State; and

**WHEREAS**, Required spending exceeds projected revenue through the end of the decade without creating any new programs or entitlements; and

**WHEREAS**, Revenues will not meet obligations and the Commonwealth's AAA Bond rating may be in jeopardy; and

**WHEREAS**, The current tax system is structured such as the lower income families pay a higher proportion of their income to the State; and

**WHEREAS**, Consumption of cigarettes is a known health hazard and this contributes to the cost of health care; and

**NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT THE MOUNT VERNON COUNCIL OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATIONS** requests that the Virginia General Assembly and the Governor of Virginia support taxation of cigarettes and the authority for the counties to assess these taxes, to provide additional revenues directly to the counties; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, to support a progressive tax code system to fairly tax the residents of the Commonwealth; and

**BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that these resolutions are subject to the redistribution of revenues that are equitable and maintain or increase the current appropriation of state funds for aid to localities distributed to Fairfax County, based on the acknowledgement that higher revenue is collected from areas with a higher cost of providing services.

## Resolution on the Fairfax County FY 2005 Budget 23-5-3 approved

**WHEREAS**, the Fairfax County Executive has presented the FY 2005 Advertised Budget Plan for Fairfax County, which complies with the Board of Supervisors (BOS) budget guidance; and

**WHEREAS**, the Fairfax County Executive and staff have worked to prepare strategic plans containing a vision, values, missions, goals and objectives in order to coherently guide their actions to identify necessary resources in the future; and the County's Core Purpose and Vision Elements are now codified in the Proposed FY 2005 Budget; and

**WHEREAS**, the Executive and Staff redesigned the budget process and displays to incorporate and strategically link initiatives as the first step in a process to build and strengthen the ties between strategic planning, resources and performance measurement; and

**WHEREAS**, the Advertised Budget Plan does not provide for a reduction in the residential real estate tax rate, which, when coupled

with the increase in assessments, will result in significantly higher real estate taxes for most taxpayers for the fifth consecutive year, and will particularly affect taxpayers with lower disposable income; although the budget does provide some targeted relief to low income elderly or disabled home owners; and

**WHEREAS**, essential public services, including schools, must be provided without a loss of quality that creates hardships; prior budgets have eroded essential public services to the point that further reductions, such as those proposed by County Executive in the "Summary of FY 2005 Options," or any reduction in the proposed school transfer, will serve to cause unacceptable deterioration of the quality of life as well as immediately increase economic costs.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations appreciates and commends the County Executive and all of the County Staff and Agencies for all of their hard work in our behalf and urges implementation of the FY 2005 Advertised Budget Plan as submitted.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that if higher than estimated revenues occur, from any source, they will be used to reduce the residential real estate tax rate.

## Education Resolution 27-2-2 approved

**WHEREAS** the Fairfax County School Board (School Board) has approved a School Budget for Fiscal Year 2005 (School Budget) which for full funding requires a 9.7% increase in fund transfer, and the Fairfax County FY 2005 Advertised Budget Plan (Advertised Budget), presented to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS) on February 23, 2005, proposes a fund transfer of 6.57% which would underfund the School Budget by approximately \$38, 000,000 (Budget Shortfall); and

**WHEREAS** the Budget Shortfall can be closed in only three ways: (1) increased funding from the Commonwealth of Virginia (Commonwealth), (2) cuts in the School Budget, and (3) increased fund transfer from the BOS in the final FY 2005 Budget (BOS Budget) to be adopted in April, 2004, or by some combination of the three; and

**WHEREAS** the Commonwealth is considering various tax and revenue plans which may in the future provide additional revenue to schools, either directly or indirectly (through additional local revenue authority), but in view of the Commonwealth's own budget issues and its history of failure to fund education adequately under its own Standards of Quality, both generally throughout the Commonwealth and specifically in Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS), where the amount of funding has actually dropped since FY 2001 despite an enrollment growth of about 9000 students, it may be unrealistic at this time to expect significant additional revenue from the Commonwealth; and

**WHEREAS** the School Budget includes no new programs and no significant expansion of existing programs, maintains the FCPS's per capita student cost in the mid-range of local jurisdictions despite significant increases in populations which have higher educational costs such as special education, economically disadvantaged and non-English speaking students, and continues to reduce the ratio of non-school-based to school-based personnel; and

**WHEREAS** the School Budget, in recognition of budgetary constraints, does not include funding for additional initiatives which are necessary to achieve full compliance with the under-funded mandates of the Virginia Standards Of Learning (SOL) accreditation process and the federal No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) including inter alia full day kindergarten, class size reduction in targeted areas and increased remediation, all of which particularly affect the Mount Vernon area because of the high concentration of minority, economically disadvantaged and non-English speaking students and the number of Mount Vernon schools which continue to struggle under the SOL program and the NCLB; and

**WHEREAS** FCPS has reduced spending internally on inter alia supplies, maintenance, textbook purchases, and computer replacement with the result that schools are, in some cases, experiencing shortages and using equipment which is outdated; and

**WHEREAS** part of the increase in the School Budget includes costs which are largely outside the control of FCPS including the cost of continued population growth, particularly in the increased percentage of students falling into groups, discussed above, where the cost to educate averages \$3000 to \$7000 more than other students, increased Virginia Retirement System contributions as mandated by the Commonwealth and increased general insurance and health insurance costs as are being experienced nation-wide by both public and private employers; and

**WHEREAS** operating costs in FCPS are extremely labor intensive, with compensation to employees (most of whom are classroom teachers) representing about 85% of the School Budget, with the result that even in a School Budget with no new or expanded initiatives the major portion of increased costs relates to employee (teacher) compensation; and

**WHEREAS** the compensation request in the School Budget includes: (1) continued funding of the step increases at the same 3.1 % average level which has been included for many years in the compensation package salary scales in FCPS (and which is comparable to the step system included in all competing local school systems' compensation package salary scales), (2) a 3% market scale adjustment (MSA), essentially a cost-of-living increase, which is the same average MSA applied since FY2001 and which compares favorably to the approximately 4% federal adjustment (increases in scale and locality pay) being considered and the 2.98%

MSA the County proposes to apply to those County employees eligible for MSA, and (3) a 1% benefit consisting of a one-day contract reduction (.5%) and continued phase-in of pick-up of employee retirement contribution to conform to the practice in every other Virginia school (.5%), and

**WHEREAS** the teacher cost increases proposed would at best retain the FCPS's mid-range salary ranking among local school systems (indeed, salary scales for FY2004 in Montgomery County, Arlington, Alexandria and Falls Church are higher than the proposed FY2005 scales for FCPS) since all other competing systems have similar step systems, are considering MSAs at least in the same 3% range and many already pick-up higher percentages of retirement contributions; and

**WHEREAS** a highly qualified, professional teaching staff is the single most important asset to a school system and in order to protect that asset and the quality of education in Fairfax County, it is necessary that FCPS offer competitive compensation packages in order to fairly compensate teachers as valued professionals, to attract the most qualified applicants in the face of a nation-wide teacher shortage, and to retain staff in a very competitive market where the demand for teachers is expected to rise due to rising projections for student population in the metropolitan area, and in the face of changing demographics and the high cost of living in the area; and

**WHEREAS** in a meeting with the School Board and the BOS, the FCPS Superintendent noted that if the current estimated Budget Shortfall remains at the \$38 million level, the only way to close a gap of that size might be to increase class size by one (FCPS already has larger class sizes than competitors) and reduce all MSA by 1% (which would be below average in the metropolitan area, below the federal and county COLA/MSA levels and result in slippage in competitive position particularly at the important entry level teacher position); and

**WHEREAS** in consideration of all of the above it appears that the Budget Shortfall cannot be closed solely by cuts in the School Budget without serious negative effect on existing programs (many of which have significant local impact including Project Excel, Focus 2004 and Special Needs), on class size, on continued progress toward full compliance with the SOL program and NCLB, and on the ability to offer compensation packages which are competitive and fair; and

**WHEREAS** the Supervisors, while weighing competing legitimate needs for funding in a climate of increasing pressure on limited revenue sources, and as the character of the County becomes more urban and more diverse, the impact on property taxes becomes more intense and the inequity in revenue authority and distribution from the Commonwealth becomes more obvious, must make difficult choices in order to preserve basic services and the quality of life in the County; and

**WHEREAS** the Supervisors have recognized in their historically strong support of the schools that the nationally recognized quality of FCPS is a critical asset and a major contributor to the County's economic growth and quality of life and to expectations for continued progress in the future; and

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations, in consideration of all of the above, urges the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in adopting a Budget for FY2005 to provide a transfer to Fairfax County Public Schools sufficient to protect its value as an asset to the County by permitting Fairfax County Public Schools to maintain class size, retain existing programs and maintain its market position by offering fair and competitive compensation packages to attract and retain highly qualified staff and, in the alternative

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations, in consideration of all of the above, and in recognition of serious legitimate competing demands in the County, urges the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in adopting a Budget for FY2005 to provide a transfer to Fairfax County Schools which is no less than that contained in the FY2005 Advertised Budget presented February 23, 2004.

**MOUNT VERNON COUNCIL OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATIONS**

**Treasurer's Report**

For period from January 1, 2004 through March 11, 2004

|                                       | Budget<br>2004 | Actual<br>to Date | Budget to Actual<br>(to date) |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------------------|
| Balance beginning period              |                | \$3,669.17        |                               |
| <b>RECEIPTS</b>                       |                |                   |                               |
| Dues*                                 | \$4,819        | \$3,798           | -\$1,021                      |
| Record Subscriptions                  | \$450          | \$420             | -\$30                         |
| Gala Income                           | \$3,972        | \$0               | -\$3,972                      |
| Knowles Plaque Donations <sup>1</sup> | N/A            | \$615             | \$615                         |
| <b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>                 | <b>\$9,241</b> | <b>\$4,833</b>    | <b>-\$4,408</b>               |
| <b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>                  |                |                   |                               |
| Record Expenses                       | \$4,700        | \$870             | -\$3,830                      |
| Administrative                        | \$696          | \$34              | -\$662                        |
| Gala                                  | \$2,750        | \$0               | -\$2,750                      |
| Web Site                              | \$540          | \$135             | -\$405                        |
| Knowles Plaque                        | \$0            | \$1,148           | \$1,148                       |
| Membership                            | \$75           | \$0               | -\$75                         |
| Postage                               | \$480          | \$100             | -\$380                        |
| <b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>            | <b>\$9,241</b> | <b>\$2,287</b>    | <b>-\$6,954</b>               |
| <b>Balance Ending Period</b>          |                | <b>\$5,078.72</b> |                               |

<sup>1</sup>Includes balance forward of \$440.00 \*Dues & Subscriptions paid for prior to 1/1/04 included in beginning balance

**COMMITTEE CALENDAR  
FOR APRIL 2004**

**MVCCA Board-WWMS-April 8 at 8:00 pm**

| Date/Day/Time | Comm. | Place     | Chair            | Phone        |
|---------------|-------|-----------|------------------|--------------|
| 4/6 T 7:30    | HHS   | MVH-BR    | Louise Cleveland | 703.780.9151 |
| 4/6 T 7:30    | COAF  | MVGC      | Queenie Cox      | 703.360.2419 |
| 4/7 W 7:30    | BUDG  | WWMS L    | George Bauer     | 703.768.1774 |
| 4/7 W 7:30    | ENVR  | MVHSE-114 | Jim Davis        | 703.799.3278 |
| 4/7 W 7:30    | EDUC  | WWMS L    | Judy Harbeck     | 703.780.1883 |
| 4/1 Th 7:30   | PSAF  | MVGC      | Dallas Shawkey   | 703.360.2185 |
| 4/5 M 8:00    | TRANS | WWMS MC   | Frank Cohn       | 703.780.5698 |
| 4/5 M 7:30    | PI/Z  | WWMS LH   | Diane Donley     | 703.780.2804 |

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