



Mount Vernon
Council
of Citizens'
Associations

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Record

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NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, December 21, 2005

Walt Whitman 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

Co-Chairmen	Errol Bergsagel	703.780.9038
	Al Bornmann	703.360.5964
	Mack Rhoades	703.329.9120
Treasurer	Phyllis Evans	703.960.2140
Secretary	Susie Ellicott	703.329.2934
Editor	Dave Bolte	703.765.0129
BUDG	George Bauer	703.768.1774
COAF	Queenie Cox	703.360.2414
EDUC	Judy Harbeck	703.780.1883
ENVR	Jim Davis	703.799.3278
H/HS	Louise Cleveland	703.780.9151
PL/Z	David Dale	703.765.8247
PSAF	Dallas Shawkey	703.360.2185
TRANS	Frank Cohn	703.780.5698
FCFCA	Judy Harbeck	703.780.1883
SAHC	Jerry Ireland	703.768.6923

PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, November 22, 8 PM

Walt Whitman Middle School Jack Knowles Lecture Hall

MINUTES

Associations Represented: Collingwood on the Potomac, Collingwood Springs, Hollin Glen, Hollin Hall Village, Hollin Hills, Huntington, Mount Vernon, Mount Vernon Manor, Mount Zephyr, Newington Forest, Potomac Valley - Riverbend, Riverside Gardens, Spring Bank, Stratford Landing, Stratford on the Potomac IV, Villamay, Wellington Heights, Wessynnton, Williamsburg Manor North, William H. Randall

Opening Remarks: The meeting was called to order at 8:02 p.m., Co-Chair Al Bornmann presiding. The agenda printed in the last issue of the *Record* (hereinafter, the *Record*) was modified to allow Supervisor Gerry Hyland to speak first.

ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE'S TIME

Supervisor Hyland touched briefly on several topics.

Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) at Fort Belvoir. A \$60-million RFP has been issued for transportation and construction planning over six years to accommodate the 21,000 people expected to move a Fort Belvoir as a result of BRAC. Planning for the realignment must be completed by September 15, 2011, to construct 6 million square feet of space, a transportation system, and support infrastructure. The plan will encompass the orderly migration of personnel, planning, and program integration. The contract is to be let in March. The County's estimate

As a matter of interest, at the January Council meeting, Dr. Jerry Gordon, President and CEO, Fairfax County Economic Development Authority, will speak to the Council, discussing economic development in the Mount Vernon District.

As associations prepare and submit MVCCA 2006 registrations, it is not too early to anticipate the MVCCA Gala, in April, and nomination and selection of the MVCCA 2006 Citizen of the Year. Nomination forms will be included in January's RECORD.

THE DECEMBER COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, TO AVOID CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

THE COUNCIL minutes

of minimum transportation improvements at Fort Belvoir is \$1.1 billion. The joint Council/Fairfax Federation meeting on BRAC was held November 17th.

County Comprehensive Plan. Some 30 nominations have been made to the current Comprehensive Plan. Supervisor Hyland wants the plan to include a window to allow changes to the Plan to permit development in support of the BRAC proposals, especially office space.

Area Plan Review (APR) Committee. There are 37 people on this Committee.

Inova Mount Vernon Hospital. The new Inova representative for the eastern part of Fairfax County is from Loudoun County. He has pledged to receive all opinions fairly.

New County Communications Center. Ground has been broken for this facility in the western part of the County.

Commendation. Supervisor Hyland has given an award to Gil McCutcheon, who at age 88 is still running the Mount Vernon Farmer's Market that he started 20 years ago.

Westgrove Site. This former sewage treatment site may be kept as is or ballparks added. An exchange with the Park Authority is possible.

Waterfowl Regulations. These rules have elicited much comment.

Belle Haven County Club Trail. The striping for this paved trail along Fort Hunt Road is too narrow and is unsafe.

Supervisor Hyland responded to several questions from Council members.

Transportation Representatives. Seven nominees were rejected, in violation of State law; then the nominees were split into two groups. The Supervisor would like citizens' input on this matter.

Crew Team Venue. Two large crew teams want to row from Dogue Creek Marina, which was damaged by hurricanes. The marina area needs dredging and other repairs. The teams otherwise will not have a place to go. Supervisor Hyland has a commitment to allow the teams use of the site once repairs are complete; the issue is what happens until then.

Vehicle Tamperings. Theft and damage have occurred to vehicles in Collingwood Springs, Villamay, Mount Vernon, Wellington Heights, Hollin Hall, Sulgrave, and Stratford. Most vehicles that were tampered with were parked on the street. Supervisor Hyland said the Mount Vernon Police Captain Kline and crime prevention officers are aware of these incidents and are working to eliminate the problem. It is essential to report any tamperings, no matter how minor-seeming, in order for police assistance to increase. It is also essential to lock one's vehicles! Captain Kline will be asked to attend the next Council meeting.

Opening Remarks (resumed). The minutes of the last meeting as printed in the *Record* will be corrected to reflect the statement that the Hollin Hall Association will appeal the County attorney's decision on the zoning issue in the community. The minutes were approved as amended, and the Treasurer's Report was accepted as printed in the *Record*.

Annual Meeting/Election of Officers. Pat Rea of the Nominating Committee presented the Committee's slate of officers. The proposed nominees were Mack Rhoades, Al Bornmann, and Robert Reynolds as Co-Chairs; Bill Wolf as Treasurer, and Susie Ellicott as Secretary. The slate was approved 21-0-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Budget & Finance. Co-Chair Al Bornmann, speaking for Committee Chair George Bauer, referenced the minutes printed in the *Record*. He called attention to the summary of the last meeting, when Marcia Wilds and Barbara Emerson of County staff reviewed the upcoming County budget.

Consumer Affairs. Co-Chair Al Bornmann, speaking for Committee Chair Queenie Cox, referenced the minutes as printed in the *Record*.

Education. Chair Judy Harbeck referenced the minutes as printed in the *Record*. The resolution to be presented tonight was based on meetings with association Presidents.

Environment. Chair Jim Davis said the minutes printed in the *Record* need to be amended. At the end of the second and third paragraphs (see top left, page 6), the two comments, "(See resolution)," should be deleted.

Health and Human Services. Chair Louise Cleveland referenced the published minutes, which focus on the last Committee meeting, with representatives from the Community Services Board. She received with interest a comment, relating to BRAC and Inova planning, that the military has had no in-patient mental health facilities in our area for the last 15 years or so; the Veterans' Administration now provides such care.

Planning & Zoning. Chair David Dale referenced the minutes published in the *Record*. He called attention in particular to the second paragraph, concerning proposed changes to the Zoning Ordinance changes. These are posted on the Committee's website.

Public Safety. Chair Dallas Shawkey referenced the minutes published in the *Record*.

Transportation. Chair Frank Cohn referenced the minutes published in the *Record*. A representative from VDOT will speak at the next meeting.

Special Committee on Affordable Housing. Co-Chair Al Bornmann, speaking for Committee Chair Jerry Ireland, referenced the Committee minutes published in the *Record*.

Fairfax Federation. Representative Judy Harbeck discussed the Council/Federation's meeting on BRAC recommendations on November 17th. It was suggested that the Council purchase a banner to be displayed on similar occasions in the future.

The Record Newsletter. The December Council meeting will be held December 21st.

RESOLUTIONS

Parking Restrictions. This Transportation Committee resolution passed 21-3-0.

School Resources. This Education Committee resolution passed 22-0-0.

Metro Restroom Access. This Consumer Affairs Committee resolution passed 22-0-0.

NEW BUSINESS

Three new Association Presidents were introduced.

Transportation Commissioner Earl Flanagan noted that no interchange is planned for the Fairfax County Parkway and I-95. VDOT is relying on public/private partnerships for this. VDOT is also familiar with the southeastern rail corridor. He would like the Transportation Committee and the APR Task Force to review these issues.

CO-CHAIRS' TIME

Co-Chair Mack Rhoades said the APR kickoff will be this Tuesday.

Co-Chair Bornmann said the minutes of the BRAC Committee meeting will be posted on the Council website.

It was again noted that the next Council meeting will take place on the third Wednesday of the month (December 21st), not the fourth Wednesday.

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

**MOUNT VERNON COUNCIL OF CITIZENS' ASSOCIATIONS
Treasurer's Proposed 2006 Budget**

	2005 Actual 12/8	Budget 2006
Anticipated Balance 12/31/05		\$2,363.68**
RECEIPTS		
Dues	\$4,467.00	\$4,500.00
Record Subscriptions	\$345.00	\$345.00
Gala Income	\$2,645.00	\$2,645.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$7,457.00	\$7,490.00
DISBURSEMENTS		
Record Production	\$4,419.45	\$4,800.00
Administrative	\$598.93	\$625.00
Gala\$	1,516.28	\$2,500.00
Web Site	\$675.00	\$690.00
Record Postage	\$300.00	\$400.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$7,509.66	\$9,015.00
2006 Anticipated Ending Balance		\$838.68
**Balance includes estimated charges for December 2005 Record Preparation and Printing that has not been billed for as of 12/8/05		

BUDGET AND FINANCE

The Budget & Finance Committee met on Wednesday, November 7th at 7:30 p.m. in the Conference Room at Walt Whitman Middle School. Attending were representatives from Hollin Hall, Hollin Hills, Stratford Landing, Stratford on the Potomac Section IV, Waynewood, Williamsburg Manor, and Wessynton Homes. Janet Coldsmith, CAE, Division Director, Department Tax Administration (DTA), Fairfax County, was our guest.

DTA attempts to produce an assessment that accurately reflects the true market value of each property on January 1st of each year. However, because residential assessments are determined by using sales produced throughout the year, residential assessments typically lag behind the true market and come in around the low 90's. This year, assessments are estimated to be at 92.7% of the true market value. Commercial properties are more difficult to assess as commercial properties trade based primarily on their capitalization rates. Also, commercial properties do not trade as frequently as residential properties.

By code, apartment properties cannot be assessed at the same rate that condos are assessed. It has been pointed out that if condo rates were applied to apartment rental units, the improvements could end up with a negative value. Occasionally developers enter into construction of apartments, but as construction nears completion, the units are sometimes offered as condos. DTA keeps track of such changes and immediately applies the appropriate condo tax rate. There are approximately 200 apartment complexes in Fairfax County.

Vacant land is difficult to assess for two reasons. There are not many vacant properties and they do not trade frequently. An adjustment for location is applied in determining land value. For example, water front property is determined to have significantly higher valuation than non-water front property. Properties changing hands in a development are taken into consideration when assessing the properties in that development and the adjoining, similar developments. "In-fills" may initially not be priced to reflect their construction costs. However, if in-fills persist in an area, they will be priced up.

Real estate property exemptions fall into three categories: charity, public use and government. Until two years ago, organizations wishing to be exempt from property tax that did not fall into one of the existing classifications could apply to the State Legislature for an exemption. However, two years ago, the Legislature assigned this duty to local governments. Fairfax County does not currently have a process for this procedure. However, the Board of Supervisors has recently shown some interest in establishing procedures for real estate exceptions and organizations that do not fit the existing categories may soon be able to apply. Use of the property that is consistent with the exemption must be maintained, or the exemption will not be continued.

There are approximately 340,000 properties in the county of which 5,000 properties qualify to be exempt from real estate taxes. A list of properties exempt from real estate taxes is available upon request. The exempt properties are estimated to be worth \$10.5 billion and represent about 6% of the total \$189 billion in assessed real estate property in Fairfax County. The County spends most of their time working on the non-exempt properties, so the valuation of the exempt properties is probably on the low side. For assessment purposes, the County is committed to walk by one-sixth of the properties per year.

Janet Coldsmith encourages residents that feel their property assessment is incorrect to file an appeal and she requests residents to report any assessment that they feel is inconsistent. Also, when it comes to the process of assessing real estate properties, she very much welcomes input from any Fairfax County resident.

Our next meeting will be a joint meeting with the Education Committee in the Library at Walt Whitman Middle School at 8:00 p.m. on Tuesday February 21st.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Consumer Affairs had a "stay-at-home" meeting on December 6th. Committee members provided a list of consumer tips and helpful hints for MVCCA members. We hope that you will find at least one tip or helpful hint useful. Here's our list of tips and helpful hints...

Tips for Being Water "Wise"

Be wise when it comes to the safety of your water supply. Make sure your family is doing the right thing when it comes to water usage, conservation and watershed protection.

Don't wait a week to fix a leak.

Don't assume that a small leak will waste only a little water. A leaking toilet can waste up to 200 gallons per day. During the same period of time, a leaking faucet can drip over 600,000 drops.

Don't dump used motor oil into a storm sewer or try burying it in the trash.

Oil can leak into lakes, rivers and wells. Just one pint can expand over an acre of water! Take your used oil to a recycling center and dispose of it properly. The same is true of paints, cleaning chemicals and other toxic products you no longer need.

Don't use water from the hot water tap when cooking.

Since hot water increases the risk of lead leaching from plumbing, use only cold water for drinking and cooking purposes. If you need hot water for cooking or making baby formula, fill up a pan with cold water and heat it on the stove.

Don't toss toxics in the trash.

Don't try to dispose of products such as car batteries in the trash. Even some ordinary household cleaners can also contain ingredients that could contaminate water. Make sure to take toxic materials to a recycling center or designated drop-off location for proper disposal.

Limit use of garbage disposals.

The average garbage disposal uses about one gallon of water per minute. Instead, a better idea is to compost. Many foods scraps can be composted instead of thrown out or disposed of via garbage disposals, including vegetable trimmings, eggshells, coffee grounds and tea bags.

Water your lawn in the morning.

High noon is the worst time of the day to water lawns, plants and gardens, because the sun and wind will evaporate the water before it can be fully absorbed. The best time to water is in the early in the morning. Remember to check with your local city to see if there are restrictions on water usage.

Lowering the amount of junk mail you receive

Prescreened offers from credit card companies:

You can opt out of receiving them for 5 years or opt out of receiving them permanently. Call 1-888-5-OPTOUT (1-888-567-8688) or visit www.optoutprescreen.com for details. The telephone number and website are operated by the major consumer reporting companies. When you call or visit the website, you'll be asked to provide certain personal information, including your home telephone number, name, Social Security number, and date of birth. The information you provide is confidential and will be used only to process your request to opt out. Remember that if you have joint credit relationships, like a mortgage or

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a car loan with a spouse, partner, or other adult, you may continue to receive some prescreened solicitations until both of you exercise your opt-out right.

Additional Opt Out Resources:

The Direct Marketing Association (DMA), a trade association for businesses in direct, database, and interactive global marketing, maintains a Mail Preference Service that lets you opt out of receiving direct mail marketing from many national companies for five years. When you register with this service, your name will be put on a "delete" file and made available to direct-mail marketers. However, your registration will not stop mailings from any organizations that are not registered with the DMA's Mail Preference Service. To register with DMA, send a letter to:

Direct Marketing Association
Mail Preference Service
PO Box 643
Carmel, NY 10512

Or register online at www.the-dma.org/consumers/offmailinglist.html. The DMA also has an EMail Preference Service to help you reduce unsolicited commercial emails. To "opt-out" of receiving unsolicited commercial email from DMA members, visit www.dmaconsumers.org/offemaillist.html. Your online request will be effective for one year.

The federal government has created the **National Do Not Call Registry** — a free, easy way to reduce the telemarketing calls you get at home. To register your phone number or to get information about the registry, visit www.donotcall.gov, or call 1-888-382-1222 from the phone number you want to register. You will get fewer telemarketing calls within 31 days of registering your number. Your number will stay on the registry for five years, until it is disconnected, or until you take it off the registry. After five years, you will be able to renew your registration.

Other Helpful Websites

To find out about waittimes at security checkpoints around the country, check out <http://waittime.tsa.dhs.gov>

To track unadvertised fares check out <http://airfarewatchdog.com>

A fun way to understand the world of investing: <http://fool.com>

Mortgage calculations: <http://mortgage-calc.com>

Local, international and college newspapers and news: <http://newsvoyager.com>

Crossword puzzle help: <http://oneacross.com>

Recipes: <http://allrecipes.com>

Nutrition information: <http://nal.usda.gov/fnic/foodcomp/search>

Biographical information on public figures: <http://biography.com>

Better Business Bureau: <http://bbb.org>

National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators official website for determining whether or not you have unclaimed cash/property anywhere in any state: <http://unclaimed.org>

Multiple use for an old age item

Use empty toilet paper rolls to store appliance cords. It keeps them neat and you can write on the roll what appliance it belongs to.

For icy door steps in freezing temperatures: get warm water and put Dawn dishwashing liquid in it. Pour it all over the steps. They won't refreeze.

To remove old wax from a glass candleholder, put it in the freezer for a few hours. Then take the candleholder out and turn it up side down. The wax will fall out.

Crayon marks on walls? This worked wonderfully! A damp rag, dipped in baking soda. Comes off with a little effort (elbow grease that is!).

To remove permanent marker on appliances/counter tops (like store receipt BLUE!) apply rubbing alcohol on paper towel.

Blood stains on clothes? Not to worry! Just pour a little hydrogen peroxide on a cloth and proceed to wipe off every drop of blood.

Spray a bit of perfume on the light bulb in any room to create a lovely light scent in each room when the light is turned on.

Place fabric softener sheets in dresser drawers and your clothes will smell freshly washed for weeks to come. You can also do this with towels and linen.

Candles will last a lot longer if placed in the freezer for at least 3 hours prior to burning.

Spray your TUPPERWARE with nonstick cooking spray before pouring in tomato based sauces and there won't be any stains.

Wrap celery in aluminum foil when putting in the refrigerator and it will keep for weeks.

To get rid of itch from mosquito bites, try applying soap on the area and you will experience instant relief.

When you get a splinter, reach for the scotch tape before resorting to tweezers or a needle. Simply put the scotch tape over the splinter, and then pull it off. Scotch tape removes most splinters painlessly and easily.

Special uses for Alka Seltzer

Clean a toilet. Drop in two Alka Seltzer tablets, wait twenty minutes, brush and flush. The citric acid and effervescent action clean vitreous China.

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Clean a vase. To remove a stain from the bottom of a glass vase or cruet, fill with water and drop in two Alka Seltzer tablets.

Polish jewelry. Drop two Alka Seltzer tablets into a glass of water and immerse the jewelry for two minutes.

Clean a thermos bottle. Fill the bottle with water, drop in four Alka Seltzer tablets, and let soak for an hour (or longer, if necessary).

Unclog a drain. Clear the sink drain by dropping three Alka Seltzer tablets down the drain followed by a cup of Heinz White Vinegar. Wait a few minutes, and then run the hot water.

More uses for old items

To polish silver and get that black stuff off your favorite silver dish, use baking soda. Wash tarnished items, then place on aluminum foil in the bottom of a pot. Add the baking-soda solution (1/4 cup soda, a few teaspoons salt, 1 quart boiling water) to cover for a few seconds.

To fill in nicks and gouges on wooden chairs and tables, apply a pea-size dot of wax shoe polish, then use a soft cotton cloth to buff it in, as you would on shoes.

Use a lint roller to dust a lampshade. Run the roller up and down the outside to get rid of dust and stuff.

To clean crusted casseroles and roasting pans sprinkle baking soda on the pot/dish and let sit for five minutes. Lightly scrub and rinse.

To unstuck sticky surfaces such as adhesive from old stickers apply a generous helping of mayonnaise to persistent adhesives and coax off with a flexible putty knife.

To remove tar from bare feet after a day at the beach use baby oil.

There will not be a Consumer Affairs meeting during January 2006. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 7, 2006 at 7:30 p.m. at Walt Whitman Middle School in the Principal's Conference Room.

EDUCATION

The MVCCA Education Committee met on Wednesday, December 7, 2005, at 8 pm in the library of Whitman Middle School. Associations represented were: Hollin Hills, Stratford Landing, Riverside Estates, William H. Randall Estates and Mount Vernon Farms.

Andrea Powell, Director, Information Technology Support Services, FCPS Office of Information Technology, (collectively "IT") presented an overview of technology available to students, recent initiatives to improve delivery of technology services and retrieval of data for use by parents, staff and students, and assessment of future needs.

Ms Powell emphasized that the vision of IT is essentially two-fold: (1) to develop technology programs that enable students to be

motivated, self-directed, lifelong learners and technology literate citizens, and (2) to create a seamless, totally connected community where appropriate technology is available when and where it is needed, anytime and anywhere ("FCPS 24/7"). Thus, systems must deliver instruction, provide communication with staff, parents and community, provide professional development for staff, and promote efficient operation of administrative services.

Some of the statistics are truly astonishing: FCPS operates 90,000 workstations (90% PCs, 10% Apples), 25,000 printers, and 1100 servers. All schools have at least one T1 (high speed internet access line), have had internet access since 1996 and have integrated internet use into the curriculum [a typical high school generates 250,000 internet (http) requests each day]. Using funds from prior bond issues, FCPS projects it will complete installation of wireless networks at every school in 2006; currently there are 6000 access points.

All teachers and students have "Blackboard" accounts which enable teachers to post assignments and other information and communicate with parents, who have access through student ID numbers and passwords; 80,000 students actively use Blackboard each day and it is an integral part of FCPS 24/7. More than 1000 middle and high school students take advantage of the 33 courses (SOL and AP) offered as part of the FCPS Online Campus. FCPS also expects to expand its ability to give SOL tests on-line (80,000 will be so given this year) which allows for immediate feedback.

FCPS IT will pilot next year a program with Special Services to allow Individual Education Plans (special education IEPs) to be developed, tracked and reported on-line which will streamline administration and better deliver and track services.

One very important and successful recent initiative was the development of the Education Decision Support Library (EDSL) which provides "one-stop shopping" so that instructional leaders can access a central data warehouse in order to make informed instructional decisions and monitor progress on a day to day basis. The system essentially pulls data from across the system and working in conjunction with the information delivery systems of "Blackboard", organizes data and provides teacher support such as curriculum resources, assessment tools, and date-driven assessment of benchmark progress. EDSL also is responsible for the School Profiles which can be accessed by the public via the FCPS website.

In addition to receiving awards from CIO magazine and the Governor's Office, FCPS was awarded a Patent for EDSL this summer and hopes to market the program to other school systems.

Behind the scenes, IT is also working to improve integration of all its various applications, which grew over time to an inefficient "spaghetti" configuration, so that all applications and workstations can be streamlined and better controlled from a central location. IT also notes that, administratively, it runs a tight ship: IT costs per employee are less than half that of government and industry, and the IT department is 2.63% of total employees, compared with over 5%

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averages for both government and all industries. Employee increases in the recent past (and continuing presumably in the FY2007 Budget) have been required by State mandates on numbers of school-based and itinerant technology support personnel and were needed to assure existing technology is available for maximum use, to improve teacher training and provide assistance in implementation and integration of technology into the curriculum.

Despite these many successes a perennial problem is inconsistent and inadequate funding for technology replacement and upgrade. Currently 25% of FCPS' 90000 computers are over 5 years old; last year the figure was over 45% but year end funding from state, county and school surpluses helped (but didn't cure) the age problem. IT would like to replace desktop and major systems on a 5-year cycle to keep current and reduce maintenance costs (government and most businesses replace on a much shorter schedule) but that would cost \$30 Million each year. From FY1999 through FY2006, funding has averaged only \$3.7 Million and been provided mostly through year end surpluses or new resources received. Absent consistent funding and a coherent refresh cycle, replacement "triage" is done based on instructional needs as identified by FCPS Instructional Services and on evaluation of the existing inventory, replacing "legacy" computers (10+years old) first and continuing to move toward an all PC stock.

Lack of adequate, consistent funding was clearly of concern to the committee. The committee also noted that while inconsistencies in numbers of computers available at schools is due in part to school-specific funds provided by PTAs and other organizations, special consideration should be given to high poverty schools where many children have little or no ability to access technology and become computer-literate except at school. As is often the case when statistical averages are used, county-wide or FCPS-wide figures on percentages of families with home computers and internet capability do not reflect the real situation in high poverty schools. Also, while increased reliance on mobile labs (rather than dedicated lab space) improves ability to deliver classroom instruction and frees up much-needed physical space for classrooms, high poverty schools need more computers permanently in classrooms to better deliver differentiated instruction and make use of remedial and enrichment materials.

Other concerns were expressed as to whether students are receiving adequate technology instruction (including keyboarding) in elementary and middle school so they are ready to meet the demands and take advantage of opportunities in high school.

Next meeting: Wednesday, January 4, 2006, 8 pm, Whitman MS library

Tentative subject: Trends and Developments in Special Education

ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION

The Environment and Recreation Committee met December 6 at 7:30 PM, Room E-114, Mt Vernon High School. In attendance were: Collingwood on the Potomac, Hollin Hills, Hollin Hall

Village, Mt Vernon the Potomac, Potomac View / River Bend, Spring Bank, Sulgrave Manor, Wellington, Williamsburg Manor, Mr Scott Crabtree (applicant) and Mr George O'Quinn (Potomac Surveyors).

The Committee discussed proposed SEA- 2002-MV-048 (Crabtree). (see unanimously approved E and R resolution)

Next meeting: Jan 4, Wed, 7:30 PM, Room E-114, Mt Vernon High School

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

The Committee met Dec. 6, to focus on "Prevention as countywide strategy." Participating were 12 MVCCA representatives—from Belle Haven Terrace, Collingwood on Potomac, Hollindale, Hollin Hills, Mount Vernon C.A., Mount Vernon Manor, Mount Zephyr, Stratford Landing, Stratford on Potomac-Sec. 4, Sulgrave Manor, Wessynton, and Williamsburg Manor. We were joined by 8 invited panelists who represent agencies and programs that play essential roles in the growing countywide attention to effective prevention. Sarah Allen and Region I Manager Ken Disselkoe, from Human Services Systems Management, also participated.

In March 2005, MVCCA adopted a resolution on "Health and Human Services Planning for FY2006" that characterized "effective health and human services" as "among our best means to control the growth of other, major public costs (for hospitalization, incarceration, and chronic dependency)" and called attention to the *reduction* of cost-effective model programs for crisis prevention as an unintended outcome of combined federal, state, and county budget actions. Therefore, MVCCA recommended that Supervisors act "to restore, preserve, expand, or initiate cost-effective preventive programs, especially in human services, in time to avert costly emergent crises—such as substance abuse or gang recruitment among at-risk youth, prolonged delays in treating severe mental illness, displacement of working families from affordable housing, and service disruption from federal de-funding of community development block grants. (That "such as" list could be extended.) Today, we see evidence that the County is responding, starting with appointment of a Fairfax County Prevention Coordinator.

Prevention as strategy, system, solution

Prevention Coordinator *Denise Raybon* presented a "timeline" of how public perception of prevention as a strategy has evolved since the 1970s. Measuring program outcomes and learning which strategies work leads to better understanding of risk and protective factors and efforts to reach at-risk individuals at earlier ages, to strengthen knowledge and skills that build resilience. The county has more than 100 prevention programs or services, spanning many agencies, without counting all activities that include a prevention component. We heard from a human services sampler.

Effective programs, countywide and in Mount Vernon

UCM Executive Director *Cheri Zeman* described activities at Sacramento Community Center that build community resilience and capacity for seeing and making good choices among at-risk youth and

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working families. As a private nonprofit agency, UCM manages programs sustained through a variety of sources, including county contracts.

From the Department of Family Services (DFS), *Jo Rutledge* (Regional Manager for Children, Youth and Families), *Tsehay Elias* (Good Touch/Bad Touch), and *Kristin Whiting* (Healthy Families) explained programs available in our area aimed at preventing child abuse and neglect and teaching nurturing skills to parents. Neighborhood Networks, Nurturing Parent, and Community Resource Centers are especially active in South County and seek additional community groups to sponsor a program.

From Community and Recreation Services (CRS), *S.K. Welch* (Regional Manager for Teen Services) explained strategies that encourage participation and strengthen resilience among peer groups in senior centers, community centers, after-school programs, and attractive teen centers like the Hideaway at South County Center.

From the Community Services Board, *Jamie MacDonald* (CBS Prevention Coordinator) and *Clara Marshall* (Girl Power) emphasized attention to evidence-based programs and better measurement of outcomes. State-chartered, local CSBs seek state-level approvals for their program planning. In addition to nationally recognized chapters of Girl Power and Leadership and Resiliency, staff offer Overtime and Get Real about Violence. Huge demand countywide, with staff of 12, means that CSB capacity-building depends on seeking more community participation and providing free leader training, materials, in some cases a cash grant, and other back-up to sponsoring community groups: contact *Ken Barter*, 703-968-4018.

How neighbors and neighborhoods participate

Critical as it is to recognize, support, and sustain effective programs, we also need to see prevention as a strategy that goes beyond a collection of programs and reaches across agencies. In Fairfax County, multi-agency planning is increasing, as health and human services interact with public schools and public safety. We also need to see beyond individuals to build community resilience. In neighborhoods, first steps—participating in a civic association, reporting emerging issues, learning about opportunities to sponsor good programs nearby—may encourage more people to recognize effective strategies: find “your place on the spectrum” of actions that build community awareness and resilience.

Community Meetings, open to the public—note revised scheduling
Thursday, Jan. 5, MVCCA Health and Human Services Committee, 7:30 p.m., IMV Hospital Conf. Room C, 2nd floor: “Inova Mount Vernon Hospital Update—present and planning,” Interim Administrator Arlen Reynolds meets with MVCCA H/HS representatives. Louise Cleveland, 703 780-9151.

Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2006, Southeast Health Planning Task Force, 7 p.m., MV Government Center. For scheduling updates, contact Chair Anne Andrews, 703 780-1773.

Tuesdays, Feb. 7, Feb. 28, and March 7, MVCCA Health and Human Services Committee, 7:30 p.m., H/HS representatives review area needs and resources, consider potential impact of the Advertised (proposed) Fairfax County Budget Plan on essential services, and recommend public policies and actions to the Council.

PLANNING AND ZONING

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM. In attendance were representatives from the following associations: Hollin Hills, Montebello, Mt Zephyr, Riverside Estates, Riverside Gardens, Spring Bank, Sulgrave Manor, Williamsburg Manor and Williamsburg Manor North. The Committee heard three land use cases and passed two resolutions.

First, the Committee heard from John LoGrande. He tried to obtain a permit to build a garage, and in the process found that his house in New Alexandria is 7 inches too low. He is requesting a variance to allow his house to remain, and a permit to build the garage. The Committee voted to not oppose.

Second, the Committee heard from Mr. Ahmed who wishes to build a mixed use three story building on Preston Avenue, just off Richmond Highway. He has not yet filed plans with the County. It was not clear exactly what permits will be needed, nor the scope of the project. Mr. Ahmed was asked to return after he has filed and has conceptual drawings.

Lastly, the Committee heard from Verizon Wireless who wishes to install 12 flush-mounted antennas on the exterior surface of the mechanic’s penthouse of the office building at 5845 Richmond Highway (next to the Hampton Inn and the Beltway). The antennas will not extend out from the penthouse either horizontally or vertically. From the ground the antennas would be nearly invisible. They will provide coverage for southern City of Alexandria and the Huntington area. The Committee voted to not oppose.

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm. The next Planning and Zoning meeting is Tuesday, January 3, 2006, 7:30 PM. The location will either be the Jack Knowles Lecture Hall of Whitman Middle School or the community rooms of the government center across the street from the school. Check the web site at the end of December for details.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Associations represented: Collingwood on the Potomac, Hollin Hall, Hollin Hills, Mount Vernon, Mount Zephyr, Potomac Valley River Bend, Riverside Estates, Riverside Gardens, Stratford on Potomac Sect IV, Sulgrave Manor, and Waynewood.

Our speaker was LT Urpst, the leader of a section of the Hazardous Materials (HazMat) Response Team from the Penn Daw Fire and Rescue Station, Co.11. With him were his team members: Master Technicians Cuffee and Black. There are three sections rotating duties at the station. They brought their HazMat truck for our inspection.

There are nine HazMat Response Teams spread around Fairfax County. The Command unit, consisting of two specially designed and loaded trucks, is currently based at the Oakton Fire and Rescue Station. They will move to a station under construction near the

THE COMMITTEE reports

Fairfax County Governmental Center when it is finished. The Penn Daw Team responds to incidents from the Alexandria line to Fort Belvoir and from Franconia to the Potomac River. It is a heavy rescue squad. All members of the team have had regular firefighting training, emergency medical treatment training, and hazardous materials containment training. The truck has special suits and equipment for each of them for fighting tear gas, chlorine gas and other gases. They are prepared to clean up nuclear and biological incidents. They have equipment to treat and clean persons who have been exposed to these substances.

Since 9/11, they have received additional specialized training to address the new threats to our country. The training costs have largely been picked up by the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security. They receive new and refresher training at regular intervals.

There are agreements with Alexandria, Arlington, Prince William County, and Maryland to come to the assistance of one another if there is a major incident involving hazardous material. The Alexandria Fire and Rescue Department has regional coordination responsibility in Northern Virginia.

There have not been many hazardous material spills on Richmond Hwy. Recently, there was a suspicious white powdery material found on the highway. It was carefully sampled and taken to the lab where it was found to be Gold Bond powder.

The team goes to traffic accidents when needed to rescue persons that are trapped in vehicles. They have equipment that can lift loaded trailers as well as cars. Additional cutting equipment enables them to cut a car in half in under five minutes to rescue trapped persons.

The team opened their truck for use to look at all the equipment. It is like one large tool box. All of the equipment is carefully stored and inspected frequently. It is very impressive.

The Public Safety Committee's next meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, January 5 in Community Room #3, Mount Vernon Governmental Center. Our speaker will be Debra Olson, Director of the Police Department False Alarm Reduction Unit (FARU). She will give a presentation on the requirements concerning residential and commercial security alarm systems. Also, she will show the impact of the FARU on reducing the number of false alarm responses by the police and improving the overall quality of responses to security alarms.

TRANSPORTATION

The MVCCA Transportation Committee met on a rescheduled date due to weather, on December 12, 2005 in the Walt Whitman Intermediate School Library. Attending were representatives of 14 member organizations (Belle Haven Terrace, Berkshire, Collingwood Springs, Huntington, Mount Vernon Manor, Mount Zephyr, Newington Forest, Potomac Valley-Riverbend, Southwood, Stratford on the Potomac-Section IV, Tauxemont, Williamsburg Manor, Williamsburg Manor North, Woodland Park).

Mr. Jaak Pedak, Planner and Mr. Doug MacTavish, Engineer of the Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) briefed the Committee on the ongoing Transportation Analysis of Laurel Hill. The problem is to meld roadway requirements with Park Authority concepts and in coordination with multiple County agencies and developers. Fairfax County is the planner for this development. Planning is projected for traffic volume in the year 2030. Existing roadways will require realignments. The current study has already made recommendation for changes in the Comprehensive Plan. Lorton Road should be reduced from 6 lanes to 4 lanes and Furnace Road should be reduced from 4 lanes to 2 lanes, while Silverbrook Road west of Hoos Road to Route #123 should be increased from 2 to 4 lanes. Speeds should be engineered for 40 – 45 MPH, with postings at 35 MPH on park-like roads. Design work should be completed by the end of 2006 along with cost estimates. Funding for these improvements has not yet been finalized and will require negotiations between developers and the County.

The need for additional Monitors internal to the Committee was discussed. Mr. Bill Dean has volunteered for the position of Vice Chair. Monitors need to focus on their respective areas of interest and pose appropriate questions to guest speakers and presenters. Liaison Monitors should be alert for subjects to be coordinated with other Council Committees and to suggest topics for consideration by the chair.

The Committee was updated on various items of interest. (1) Mr. Earl Flanagan is pursuing items selected by the Committee for changes in the Comprehensive Plan, to assure they are all integrated in spite of County resistance. (2) The need for planning transportation improvements due to the projected BRAC expansions on Fort Belvoir has been recognized by the County. Results of a Fort Belvoir survey are awaited but may not be as useful as hoped since the Fort is unable to require responses due to legal considerations. There is a need to await the placement of new facilities on Fort Belvoir, planning for this should be visible within the next 6 months. (3) The Parking Restriction resolution passed by the Committee last month and approved by the MVCCA Council failed to get immediate support from the Federation when brought before that body. It has been referred for consideration to its Transportation Committee. (4) There has been some difficulty in scheduling the VDOT Maintenance Chief to address the Committee; the Chair will follow up.

Representative time surfaced various concerns with traffic in the Route #1/Fort Hunt Road/Huntington Road corridor. Questions regarding new traffic lights should be asked during a projected meeting on the Telegraph Road flyover next month. The problem of making a left turn into Huntington when exiting from the outer loop of the Beltway was highlighted; up to 4 lanes need to be traversed in little space and there is inadequate ability to stack in the turning lanes. The problem of pedestrians trying to cross Route #1 at Huntington will require follow-up. Decisions on speed tables on Schellhorn/Boswell as well as the 3-way stop at Old Mill/Lukens need to await some staff changes in the Supervisor's office. Questions on aircraft noise and the Richmond/DC rail line should be brought

up in the January meeting. It was agreed that time will be taken at the next meeting to allow each representative to introduce him/herself.

The next meeting of the Transportation Committee has been rescheduled to January 9, at 8 PM, to be held in the Walt Whitman Middle School Library. Agenda to be announced.

SPECIAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMITTEE

December meeting: On Tuesday December 13th the SAHC Committee met at 7:00pm. The following guests and committee members were in attendance. Jerry Ireland – United Voice at Kings Crossing; Evelyn Lincourt – Hunting Creek Club Apts; Louise Cleveland – Collingwood on Potomac; Shirley Kappa – Mt. Zephyr Citizens Assn.; Joan McLellan – Stratford Landing; Robert Aramony – Villa May Comm. Assn; Mattie Palmore – NGSCA; Gerrard Elie – Belle Haven Terrace Civic Assn.; John McCormick; Michelle Krockner – Northern Virginia Task Force on Affordable Housing; Elisabeth Lardner – Rt.1 Task Force on Affordable Housing; Guest Speakers included: Paula Sampson - RHA Director; Jim Edmondson – Unidev Development Corp. which builds primarily Workforce Housing 30% - 40% below market costs.

Paula Sampson, RHA – Paula's presentation took about 50 min and had very good information for our members to digest. Much of the information was Fairfax County wide, and now we need to compare this information with the Mt. Vernon District as well as the Mt. Vernon Planning District. This comparison will help us all understand not only the County area but also the needs directly related to our own district. There was not much time left for questions so we are compiling questions this week from all members for Paula via e-mail and will send all questions forward for Paula to get answers to them. Overall this was a very helpful guest and there will be information coming to the council next month on the results of this meeting.

Jim Edmondson, Unidev Development Corp. – Jim was a guest from our Community and Development Team to present another approach to the workforce housing issue. Unidev has been very successful across the country in building affordable housing for what many communities have chosen to call workforce housing. They are currently building units in Bethesda and are very interested in doing a project somewhere in Fairfax County. This guest was very informative and Jim definitely met our goal of bringing a new idea of development to the table.

North Hill – As some of you may know North Hill has been identified by Ventures in Community (VIC) to ask for an out of turn change to the Comp plan to change this siph from a Park area to Affordable Housing. The committee has been asked to have a workshop with the community interests in the next few weeks to see if there would be

support to act on North Hill and what the community would like to see on this site. This would need to be done by late February. Our committee is looking into this task and we will be putting something together as soon as we possible can to make this happen.

Membership: Approximately 15 people are currently participating in monthly meetings and/or additional subgroup information gathering. MVCCA members may name a VOTING member to this Committee. Those intending to participate in current sub-group information gathering should phone/e-mail chair Jerry Ireland, and request information.

Right now, to be recorded as a representative eligible to vote on a committee, you may wish ask your association president to file a (corrected) 2006 form and pay dues ASAP. If your association is a 2005 member, the president can update the current list of named representatives at any time (including right now) by sending an e-mail to (1) the MVCCA Treasurer, (2) MVCCA co-chair Mack Rhoades (who maintains the data base), and (3) the chair of the committee(s) you are named to as a representative. (This last point isn't required, but it helps the chairs to update their list of voting members immediately!) If the president is not ready to complete the 2006 form and pay dues, they may want to write a quick updated e-mail (with cc's) to name any new or current representatives not already registered with MVCCA.

The annual dues form (just corrected for 2006) has a place to list all your association's representatives named to the eight MVCCA standing committees and to the new Special Committee for Affordable Housing.

Correction: Contrary to a report in the Mount Vernon Voice (Dec. 6, 2005, p. 5, "North Hill Site Eyed for Affordable Housing"), the AH Committee has made no formal request concerning the "North Hill site" for affordable housing use. (Independently, a citizen who is a member of the interfaith group Ventures in Community and also a member of the AH Committee filed an APR nomination, described by the Voice, that will come up for public review during the January through March period.) Committee members are actively seeking all relevant current public information that will assist the Council in considering any solutions available to help ease the Affordable Housing problem. The Committee was not interviewed for this story and made no comments on this site directly.

January meeting: The next monthly meeting will be held Tuesday, Jan. 10, 7 p.m., in Supervisor Hyland's Conference Room at the Mount Vernon Government Center.

Information Team Meeting: Saturday Dec. 17th at 2:30 pm. Location – Panara Bread in the Beacon Hill Shopping Center.

Community and Development Team Meeting: Not available at this time.

Resolution on the John LoGrande Variance – VC 2005-MV-006

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. LoGrande wish to add a garage to their home at 1212 “I” street in New Alexandria, and

WHEREAS, in seeking a building permit for the garage it was determined that their home is seven inches below the height required for houses within a flood plain, and

WHEREAS, during the hurricane Isabelle flood their home was not flooded, and

WHEREAS, if they don't receive a variance they may be required to either jack up their home, which is considered unfeasible, or destroy the house and build it again at the proper height, and

WHEREAS, they are not to blame for the elevation discrepancy, which may be attributed to error by the county, the original builder, or settling, and

WHEREAS, the garage they wish to construct will reduce the impervious surfaces since they will be removing the concrete driveway, and

WHEREAS, their neighbors support their plan to construct the garage,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations does not oppose this variance application, as presented, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations does not oppose the construction of the garage, as presented.

Resolution on Verizon Wireless “Feature Shown” application

WHEREAS, Verizon Wireless wishes to install 12 flush-mounted antennas on the rooftop mechanic's penthouse on the top of the office building located at 5845 Richmond Highway, and

WHEREAS, the Verizon Wireless application is a “Feature Shown” application and not a 2232 application that requires a public hearing, and

WHEREAS, the antennas will not extend outwards from the wall of the mechanics penthouse more than a few inches, and

WHEREAS, Verizon Wireless will proffer that the antennas will not extend above the wall of the mechanics penthouse, and

WHEREAS, the antennas will be colored to match the exterior of the penthouse, making them essentially invisible from the ground, and

WHEREAS, the equipment shed built to hold the related equipment for the antennas will be made to look like the existing mechanic's penthouse, and

WHEREAS, the antennas will provide much needed cell phone coverage for the City of Alexandria and the Huntington area, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations does not oppose this “Feature Shown” application, as presented, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations does not oppose having Verizon Wireless proceed with a “Feature Shown” application rather than a 2232 application with public hearing.

SEA-2002-MV-048 (Crabtree Property)

WHEREAS, a previously approved Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations resolution (October 2002) for a single-family home off East Boulevard requests an amendment, and

WHEREAS, the requested Special Exception Amendment was triggered by technical non-compliance with County Ordinance, and

WHEREAS, the requested amendment does not significantly change the project's conformance with SE 2002-MV-048, as originally approved by the Board of Supervisors, and

WHEREAS, the applicant acknowledges the advice of the Environment and Recreation Committee, MVCCA, that he extend structure's vegetation buffer from five feet to seven feet, offsetting the additional impervious surface, and maintain requested lawn/beach area in compliance with the guidelines of the Virginia Water Quality Improvement Program, and

WHEREAS, all other issues regarding environmental compliance and Zoning Ordinance requirements have been thoroughly discussed and resolved to the satisfaction of the Environment and Recreation Committee, MVCCA;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations does not object to granting SEA-2002-MV-048 (Crabtree Property)

**MOUNT VERNON COUNCIL OF CITIZENS' ASSOCIATIONS
Treasurer's Report**

For period from January 1, 2005 through December 8, 2005

	Budget 2005	Actual to Date	Budget to Actual (to date)
Balance Beginning Period		\$2,868.84	
RECEIPTS			
Dues	\$4,653.00	\$4,467.00	-\$186.00
Record Subscriptions	\$480.00	\$345.00	-\$135.00
Gala Income	\$3,475.00	\$2,645.00	-\$830.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$8,608.00	\$7,457.00	-\$1,151.00
DISBURSEMENTS			
Record Expenses	\$4,508.00	\$4,419.45	\$88.55
Administrative	\$389.00	\$598.93	-\$209.93
Gala	\$2,743.00	\$1,516.28	\$1,226.72
Web Site	\$690.00	\$675.00	\$15.00
Membership	\$75.00	\$0.00	\$75.00
Record Postage	\$400.00	\$300.00	\$100.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$8,805.00	\$7,509.66	\$1,295.34
Balance Ending Period 12/8/05		** \$2,816.18	

**Balance does not include charges for December Record Preparation and Printing

**COMMITTEE CALENDAR
FOR JANUARY 2006**

MVCCA Board-MVGC-SUPV Thursday, Jan 12th, 7:30pm

Date/Day/Time	Comm.	Place	Chair	Phone
1/5 Th 7:30	H/HS	IMVH-C	Louise Cleveland	703.780.9151
2/7 T 7:30	COAF	WWMS-PCR	Queenie Cox	703.360.2414
2/21 T 7:30	BUDG	WWMS MC	George Bauer	703.768.1774
1/4 W 7:30	ENVR	MVHSE114	Jim Davis	703.799.3278
1/4 W 8:00	EDUC	WWMS L	Judy Harbeck	703.780.1883
1/5 Th 7:30	PSAF	MVGC	Dallas Shawkey	703.360.2185
1/9 M 8:00	TRANS	MVGC	Frank Cohn	703.780.5698
1/3 T 7:30	PL/Z	MVGC	David Dale	703.765.8247
1/10 T 7:00	SAHC	MVGC-S	Jerry Ireland	703.768.6923

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