



Mount Vernon
Council
of Citizens'
Associations

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Record

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NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, September 22nd, 8 PM,
at the 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

Co-Chairmen	Errol Bergsagel703.780.9038
	Al Bornmann703.360.5964
	Mack Rhoades703.329.9120
Treasurer	Phyllis Evans703.960.2140
Secretary	Chris Granger703.768.1936
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BUDG	George Bauer703.768.1774
COAF	Queenie Cox703.360.2414
EDUC	Judy Harbeck703.780.1883
ENVR	Jim Davis703.799.3278
H/HS	Louise Cleveland703.780.9151
PL/Z	Diane Donley703.780.2804
PSAF	Dallas Shawkey703.360.2185
TRANS	Frank Cohn703.780.5698
FCFCA	Pat Rea703.799.4799

MINUTES

GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING - July 28, 2004

ASSOCIATIONS REPRESENTED: Belle View Condo, Collingwood/Potomac, Fairfax Residents, Hollin Glen, Hollin Hall Village, Huntington, Marlan Forest, Montebello, Mount Vernon Manor, Mount Vernon/Potomac, New Gum Springs, Newington, Olde Mill Condos, Potomac Valley/Riverbend, Riverside Estates, Riverside Gardens, River Towers, Sherwood Estates, Stratford Landing, Stratford/Potomac IV, Villages at Gum Springs, Wellington, William H. Randall, Williamsburg Manor, Williamsburg Manor North, William H. Randall.

PRESIDING: Errol Bergsagel

SECRETARY'S MINUTES: Approved.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: Louise Cleveland reported that INOVA, overall, had a net income of \$38,000,000+. INOVA can attribute gains or losses to any of its branches whether or not the facilities are located on site. Frank Cohn noted that Audrey Calhoun, G. W. Parkway Superintendent, would study the Belleview Blvd and G. W. Parkway Intersection. There will not be a "NO LEFT TURN" on Belleview Blvd. The Hybla Valley Task Force organizational meeting was held on 9/15/04. Cut through traffic in that area is its focus.

CO-CHAIRS' TIME: Frank Cohn and Diane Donley will work with the Mt. Vernon Country Club on the golf tournament agreed to as part of the approval of their projects.

RESOLUTIONS: Transportation's "Traffic Congestion" passed 23-1-1. P & Z's "Bellepais" "providing for an R E District" (i.e. no development) passed 24-0-1. P & Z's "Omnipoint", "Citgo", "Sun Trust" and "Milestone" passed 25-0-1, 25-1-0, 25-0-0 and 25-0-0 respectively. HHS's "Southeast Health" passed 25-0-0. P. S.'s "Distracted Drivers" was tabled. It was not actually opposed. The main question to be studied was whether "Hands Free" phones, etc. are really safer.

GROVETON SCHOOL SITE: The developer of the site now wants to put 300 condos in a 7 story building with commercial development on the first floor. It was sold with the understanding that the site would be solely for commercial office space. The consensus of opinion was that if the site was not developed that way it should revert to the county.

SUPERVISOR'S TIME: An Arts Foundation has been approved for Laurel Hill. Gerry said he supported letting Mr. Kinder keep his erosion control structures rather than have them removed and incur worse erosion. On airplane noise: Part 150 is working for 5 to 10 mile dispersion. Planes from the West would come down the center of the river rather than over us. No one part of the district would get all the flights. The Army will do a four-lane road for Woodlawn Road. Gerry discussed the "Cochran Case" in which the Virginia Supremes virtually shut down the BZA from granting variances. He said the Supers would try to give the BZA some latitude. Gerry would like the Co-Chairs to work with the South County Federation (SCF) to resolve our differences. He will step in but would like cooperation. Should he give more weight to an area or association or neighborhood most affected by an issue or to us up here who are supposedly not so affected. What

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about traffic, schools, public safety, environmental issues? SCF's president was present and said she is open to talks.

PUBLIC TIME: The Tasos development issue: Gerry has arranged a meeting between the applicant and the site's neighbors. Twenty-five letters went out to the locals but there was no citizens' association.

BUDGET AND FINANCE

The Budget & Finance Committee met on September 1st at 7:30 p.m. in the conference room at Walt Whitman Middle School. In attendance were representatives from Hollin Hills, Mt Vernon Civic Association, Potomac Valley/Riverbend and Wessington Homes. Additionally, Judy Sharbeck, Education Chair also attended.

2004 Fall Bond Referendum:

The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved a ballot referendum this fall for authorization to issue \$325 million in new bonds. These will be offered as four items on the ballot this November. \$32.5 million is proposed for **Human Services Facilities** to provide \$20 million to renovate and update the Mount Vernon and Woodburn Community Health Centers. The centers provide an array of mental health programs and services, many mandated by state code, which are available to county residents. Included in this funding group is the renovation of a 12-bed facility for the Girls' Probation House. This facility is described by Leonard Wales, Fairfax County Debt Manager, as being "basically an old hotel and no place to keep kids." A new 12-bed facility is also to be built with these funds. Additionally, \$2.5 million is included for Capital Renewal Projects. Repair projects are now so large in scope that it is necessary to upgrade the repair status to "capital improvements" in order to have the project completed to an appropriate standard. This makes sense since the repairs will extend the life of the particular facilities to which the funds are applied.

Capital Renewal Projects is a new feature of our bond referendum appearing twice in this offering. Voters can expect to see this feature in most if not all, future bond offerings.

The Library Construction allocation will provide for the construction of two new branches: the Burke Center Library and the Oakton Library. The latter is being built on land donated by a developer. This allocation also included \$2.5 million for capital renewal and \$1.7 million to fund studies for future renewal projects. It is worth pointing out that this phase of construction and renewal is the product of "seed" money provided by prior bond offerings.

Parks and Park Facilities will authorize \$75 million. \$10 million will be provided to the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority and \$52.24 million will be allocated to athletic fields, building and renovation, new building construction, improvements to community parks and courts, trails and stream crossings, natural and cultural resources and infrastructure renovation. \$12.76 million is to authorize acquisition of new parkland of parcels of 25 acres or less.

Transportation Improvements and Facilities Bonds would provide \$165 million. \$110 million represents our contribution to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA), \$5 million will provide pedestrian enhancements and \$50 million will provide funding of the Board of Supervisor's Four-Year Transportation Plan. Leonard Wales explains that "funds are either

given to Metro or Metro will fail." Our WMATA contribution was reduced to \$110 million by a receipt of \$35 million in aid from the State of Virginia. Some of this money will be used to increase the number of metro "cars" to eight for each train with each car consisting of two units (or what looks like two cars). Future Metro trains will look like they are sixteen cars in length. This is important because stations like Vienna are already beyond capacity utilization. Looking forward, we are expecting to contribute another \$90 million to WMATA within the next four years. This amount can also be reduced by any state aid received.

All allocations are fungible within their category, meaning that the funds can be used for similar projects within the particular category, but not for other categories. Monies approved for Library uses could be used for other Library projects, but not for another category like Parks and Park Facilities or Transportation Improvements.

School bond referendums are on a two-year cycle so we can expect a school bond referendum next year. According to the county, approval of these four bond items will not alter the percentage (8.7%) the County pays from the general fund disbursements in FY 2003 for debt servicing.

The Committee is in favor of recommending that the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Association (MVCCA) support the bond referendum and we have drafted a resolution for the MVCCA Board to submit to the Council.

FY 2004 Surplus Revenue:

Our Committee also took up the subject of the "Surplus Revenue" from FY 2004 – some \$48.66 million. The BOS has decided to spend this money on a number of projects: \$5 million to replace computers and vehicles in the public schools; \$5.4 million to hire 32 new emergency medical service workers; \$4 million to build a 60 bed assisted living facility for low or moderate income residents; \$2.5 million for projects such as storm drainage; \$2 million for increased workers' compensation and other insurance costs; \$400,000 to fund a transportation study in the Lorton area; \$400,000 for a transportation and land use study in Tysons Corner; \$207,900 to expand the Metrocheck program and \$200,000 to hire a resource coordinator.

The Committee is concerned that some of these expenditures commit the County to on-going funding in future fiscal years and that the spending of these funds is in direct conflict with the MVCCA FY 2004 Budget Resolution which states our desire to apply any surplus funds to a reduction of real estate taxes. We request that MVCCA resubmit our resolution to the BOS to remind the BOS of our stated desire.

Education on the School Budget:

Judy Sharbeck, Education Chair, shared a number of concerns with us about the School Budget. Most notably, Judy points out that the school system is increasingly being used to provide programs for children of 18 years of age and under. While this makes logistical sense, the taxpayer needs to be aware that these programs do and will increase expenses incurred by the school system. The school system will need increased funding to pay for the increased maintenance both for facility maintenance and janitorial staffing. Increased busing

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levels will also need to be provided. The proposed anti-gang Safe Kids Program is an example of a program that will be added to the School Budget and will require additional funding. We are extremely appreciative of the effort that Judy expended to explain some of the School Budget problems to us and the Budget Committee will continue to work closely with Education to monitor these new programs and their impact on the school budget.

The Budget and Finance Committee will next meet on Wednesday, October 6th, at 7:30 p.m. in the conference room at Walt Whitman Middle School.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

The Consumer Affairs Committee met on Tuesday, September 7th at the Mount Vernon Government Center. A video on Long Distance Caregiving was shown followed by a discussion on caring for a loved one. The video has been added to the MVCCA's library. Any member association who would like to borrow the video should contact the Consumer Affairs Committee Chair.

There will not be a meeting in October.

EDUCATION

The MVCCA Education Committee met on September 8, 2004, at 8 pm in the library of Whitman Middle School. The following associations were represented in person: Potomac Valley-Riverbend, Williamsburg Manor North, Stratford on the Potomac IV, Belle Haven Terrace, Mount Vernon Farms, Hollin Hills and by e-mail: Riverside Estates and Williamsburg Manor.

The meeting was primarily organizational and members discussed possible upcoming speakers as well as issues, both old and new, which may arise and require action.

In that regard, the Chair reported on the activities of the Fairfax Federation's education committee and on the Chair's summer meeting with Dean Tisdadt, FCPS Transportation director, on the continuing issue of inadequate afterschool buses, especially late buses to serve high and middle schools' existing afterschool programs and in light of the various anti-gang/safe kids programs in development which will require transportation. Tisdadt made a compelling case that the transportation system is already fully occupied and will not be able to respond to any increased demand for after school transportation nor improve response to current programs. Driver recruitment remains a significant problem despite several creative efforts by the system to entice new drivers. In his view, without a very expensive expansion of the fleet and particularly of driver compensation, and/or drastic changes in bell schedules to flip elementary and secondary start times, additional responsibilities will not be possible.

While it is unclear at this time what after school activities will be generated as part of the Anti-gang/safe kids initiatives, members expressed concern about the "creep" of responsibilities being added to the schools' primary mission of education (afterschool recreation programs, possible transfer of some County health and human services functions, etc) and its impact on increasing the school budget, increasing per pupil costs, increasing the ratio of non-classroom employees to teachers—and probably increasing taxpayer resistance to the budget as a whole.

The committee also expressed concern that new Superintendent Dale has not yet been particularly visible in our area and urged the Council to invite him to speak as soon as possible.

The committee discussed and unanimously approved the Resolution which is printed elsewhere in the RECORD and speaks for itself regarding possible sale of excess school property.

Next meeting: Wednesday, October 6, 2004, 8 pm in Whitman MS library.

ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION

The Environment and Recreation Committee met on Sept 1, 7:30PM Room E-114 Mt Vernon High School. Attending were: Hollin Hall, Hollin Hills, Kirk, Mt Vernon on the Potomac, Spring Bank, Sulgrave Manor, Wellington, Williamsburg Manor, Mickie Sullivan and Joe Chudzik.

Ms Sullivan and Mr Chudzik presented the Committee with information and contacts for conducting Park and Stream Clean ups and monitoring, tree plantings, graffiti removal, Adopt a highway and Storm Drain Stenciling. The chief contact for stream activities and tree plantings are coordinated through the **Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District (phone number 703 324-1460)**, the Adopt a Highway Program is administered through **VDOT (Va Dept of Trans)**.

The Mason Neck Lions Club secured a grant for Stenciling the Storm Drains in the Newington Forest subdivision, just off Pohick Road. After many discussions with this Civic Association, the Soil and Water Conservation District offered an acceptable Storm Drain Decal for the area. This project will be executed in the Fall, but is still in need of volunteers to help do the stenciling. Sullivan and Chudzik said involved local youth groups and clubs have proven a good source of labor. There is noticeably lower recurrence of graffiti when they are involved, too. **Please contact Mr. Joe Chudzik at (703) 541-3123 or yuccaa@starpower.com for more information on participating.**

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Mt Vernon is planning a capital expansion of their facilities. One member from the "Green Sanctuary Committee" at the Church attended to gain information on the most environmentally friendly ways to develop their property. **The St Louis Catholic Church and School** on Popkins Lane is currently working with an environmental consultant to also execute the *most environmentally friendly development techniques*. St Louis has applied for a grant to execute the most innovative ideas available.

The chair distributed to the Committee the recent newspaper articles about the **illegal bulldozing of private properties and the Resource Protection Area (RPA)** behind Michaels' Craft Store in Penn Daw. The Committee's concerns were only with the destruction of the RPA and the mitigation needed immediately. After much discussion the committee voted (8-0-0) to forward a resolution to MVCCA for Supervisor Hyland. The resolution requests that the County Attorney's Office investigate the feasibility of invoking Chapter 118 (Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance) of the Fairfax County Code for civil penalties until compliance with pertinent County Code and Zoning Ordinance of this illegal activity are met. The committee wants clear deadlines for complete installation of silt

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fences and the execution of an approved landscape plan on all properties involved.

This resolution will be forwarded to MVCCA for approval ONLY if the perpetrators (JPI, Inc.) explanation and presentation proves fruitless or inane on. The committee agreed that this illegal act by a supposedly “knowledgeable” developer is extremely insulting to the other groups requesting environmentally friendly development techniques.

Next Meeting: October 6, 7:30 PM Room E-114 Mt Vernon High School.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

H/HS Committee met Sept. 7 with 9 member associations represented: Belle Haven Terrace, Collingwood on Potomac, Hollindale, Mount Vernon, Mount Zephyr, Randall Estates, Stratford Landing, Sulgrave Manor, and Wessington. MVCCA Budget Committee Chair George Bauer, who is Mount Vernon District representative to the county's 2004 Fall Bond Referendum Citizen Committee, participated as a resource on the bond referendum.

Fall update on mental health and human services in Mount Vernon/Region I

The committee appreciated this opportunity to throw out wide-ranging questions—on service delivery, patterns of funding needs, wait lists, and the like—and hear responses from two deeply experienced professionals and managers of services delivered in our area: Kenneth Disselkoe, (Fairfax County) Region I Manager for Human Services, and Gary Lupton, Site Director, Mount Vernon Center for Community Mental Health (as well as the Community Services Board Director of Utilization Management and Quality Assurance for mental health services countywide.)

Q. What “CSB” services are delivered in our area?

The Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board bears responsibility for planning, organizing, and providing services to persons who have mental illness, mental retardation, or a substance use disorder. It operates some programs directly and oversees others operated by private organizations and licensed by the state. The Board's area includes the cities of Fairfax and Falls Church, while it operates as part of the Fairfax County Human Services System. *Two informational brochures—one listing the countywide array of services, with phone numbers, and another for those services delivered nearby (at 3 locations, including the Mount Vernon Center on Holland Road)—are available upon request.* Lupton reports that although current wait lists for adult day services remain long (45-60 days to start), the wait for youth is now much less (5-15 days). Waits for residential treatment are much worse, with some kinds measured in years. The county's huge growth in sheer numbers and in multi-cultural complexity (30% of households now speak a language other than English at home) have especially impacted mental health services. Clients who find a shortage of private practitioners add to “overflow” at the MV Center, which has sliding-scale fees and makes some medications available. Though new medications have allowed large numbers of institutionalized persons to be released from state hospitals, and return to communities, many have long-lasting deficits from their earlier years (before treatment) and so need help to acquire basic social and life management skills. Although the State saved money by closing hospitals, it has *not* “reinvested” sufficiently at the local community level to serve this group. (Instead, the state cut taxes.) So,

localities, despite limited taxing authority, now struggle to pick up the pieces, and fulfill needs and mandates, especially among the “medically indigent.” Meanwhile, the latest surveys on low “redicivism” among youth treated in CSB programs are offering impressive evidence of the community benefits and public cost-effectiveness of early intervention and treatment.

Q. What are other stress points in Human Services programs?

Though the state has now budgeted more than anticipated during the spring impasse, continuing pressures on the local service network include vast numbers of *employed* county residents with no health insurance (now 82,000) and escalating housing costs, putting many families one paycheck away from an emergency. (Roughly 1 county resident in 4 lives below the federal “200% of poverty” income level, and 1 in 7 seeks emergency aid in some form during the year.) The county's “Human Services” coordination embraces far more than the public may associate with this term: roughly 450,000 meals-on-wheels for the aging, 3000 food establishments inspected, 60,000 immunizations for children and travellers, 31,000 sick kids treated by nurses in schools, and more.

Q. How will our November vote on the County Bond Referendum affect H/HS facilities?

H/HS Committee calls attention, among the 4 bond questions to appear on the November election ballot, to the “*Human Services Facilities Bonds*” question, which asks for \$32.5 million for renovation of mental health facilities and for Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court service facilities. Mount Vernon voters should understand that a “yes” vote is essential for renovation of our Mount Vernon Community Mental Health Center at 8119 Holland Road, built in 1974 (and planned in conjunction with Mount Vernon Hospital and other supporting facilities). Today, MV Center and Woodburn Center together serve 70 percent of the county's clients for emergency and outpatient mental health services. As population more than doubled, and demands on these centers intensified, rising maintenance costs and need for renovation became more apparent year by year. Bond funding now for an addition and renovation will enable consolidation and coordination of staff and clients from programs served in (expensive) rental space elsewhere, and so provide better and more cost-effective facilities for all. We recommend MVCCA support for these bonds.

Mount Vernon Hospital's future: *[MVCCA has stated its position in two Resolutions, “Public Support for Saving Mount Vernon Hospital,” July 2003, and “Public Support for the Southeast Health Planning Task Force Recommendation,” July 2004, MVCCA Record, on web site: www.MVCCA.org. Also in The Record are key developments, in monthly H/HS Reports, July 2003—present. Supervisor Hyland's Mount Vernon web page provides Hospital news that links to the full text of the “Report of the Southeast Health Planning Task Force to the Community and the Trustees of the Inova Health System, March 1, 2004.”]*

Inova's Board of Trustees and Board of Health Care Services have received MVCCA's Resolution expressing full support for the SEHP Task Force's four-point Recommendation. Trustees are expected to consider major capital planning in Oct.-Dec. 2004. MVCCA has long supported the position now incorporated in the Task Force Recommendation: “To build 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 reps and Chair Louise Cleveland (also a Task Force member) continue to welcome your ideas on next steps.

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Community meetings, open to the public:

Tuesday, September 29, Route One Task Force for Human Services, "Health Care for the Medically Indigent," 7 p.m., South County Center 2nd flr Conference Room, 8350 Richmond Hwy. Anne Andrews, Convener, 703/780-1773.

Tuesday, October 5, MVCCA Health and Human Services Committee, "Emergency Assistance: Food, Shelter, Affordable Health Care," 7:30 p.m., IMVH Conf. Room C. H/HS Chair Louise Cleveland, 703/780-9151.

PLANNING & ZONING

The Planning and Zoning Committee meeting on September 8, 2004, was attended by 16 associations: Bellehaven Terrace, Engleside, Huntington, Marlin Forest/ Marlan Heights, Mason Hill, Montebello, Mt. Zephyr, Newington, Potomac Valley/River Bend Estates, Riverside Estates, Riverside Gardens, Spring Bank, Stratford Landing, Wellington, Wessington, and Williamsburg Manor. The next meeting will be held on Monday, October 4, 2004, at 7:30 pm at Walt Whitman Intermediate School.

The committee heard seven land use cases, passed four resolutions, heard two cases for information only, Ivy Development and GBI Corporation's development on Sydenstricker Road, and tabled one case, Handyman Concrete. Handyman Concrete is going to consider whether it is willing to instruct its truck drivers not to use a winding, hilly unsafe section of Lorton Road.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Associations represented: Belle Have Terrace, Collingwood on the Potomac, Mount Vernon, Mount Vernon Manor, Potomac Valley River Bend, Riverside Gardens, Southwood, Waynewood, and Williamsburg Manor North.

The Chair began the meeting with a review of the action of the MVCCA Council concerning the resolution entitled 'Distracted Motor Vehicle Drivers.' That resolution had been prepared by the Public Safety Committee and passed unanimously for presentation to the Council. It was also considered at two meetings of the Transportation Committee and also passed. At the Council meeting, an issue was raised concerning the use of hands free cell phones. It was stated that recent studies indicated that the use of hands free devices did not significantly improve safety and, rather, may actually be more unsafe than using hand held cell phones. A request was made that the Chair accept a friendly amendment to strike the information about the use of hands free devices. Since this would significantly change the resolution, the Chair could not agree to it without review by the Public Safety Committee. Before a motion to insert the change could be considered, a motion was made to table the resolution. That passed 13 to 12. The chair was informed later by two voters that they voted to table because they did not want to see the resolution pass because they preferred to have no restrictions on the use of cell phones by drivers.

The Chair provided copies of the resolution as passed by the Public Safety Committee and slightly modified by the Transportation Committee. He also provided copies of studies that indicated that the use of hands free devices may not provide improved safety as thought. The chair asked that the members review the materials and

be prepared at the next meeting to make a decision concerning any change. A member moved that there be no change to the resolution as the studies referred were seriously flawed since they were either done with a small group of students in driver simulators with only hands free devices or, in another study, the information was extrapolated without any supporting data. The committee voted unanimously, with the Chair abstaining, to keep the resolution as submitted. The Chair asked that the members review this with their community presidents and come to the next meeting prepared for a final vote. In the interim, the Chair will present the materials to the Transportation Committee for its consideration. The speaker for the evening was Assistant Fire Marshal, David Lauler from the Fairfax County Office of the Fire Marshal, Fire and Rescue Department. The Fire Marshal's office has 102 people who enforce the Fire Code that is established in Virginia. They inspect all commercial establishments in the County at least once a year. These are largely unannounced inspections. The standard fire code accepted by Virginia since last October is the 'International Code 2000.' There are five codes that can be used, including a later version entitled 'International Code 2003.' The Fire Marshal's office is in the process of proposing some changes to the current Code to make it more current. These are expected to be presented to the Board of Supervisors late in September. The changes are a direct result of the fire in a night club in Warwick, R.I., last year in which many patrons were killed.

Fire Marshals have the right to enter any commercial establishment in Fairfax County at any time. This is part of the licensing agreement to operate the establishment in the County. Fire Marshals see their job as education about fire prevention, inspection, and enforcement. They like to conduct inspections in the evening when many places, such as restaurants, have most of their customers.

They can see what the patronage is like and whether limits on the number of people allowed in the space are being exceeded. They talk to owners about deficiencies and ways to make their establishments more safe. One of the most common deficiencies in commercial establishments is locked or blocked exits. Recent checks have found that 56% have deficiencies in this area. They provide a report of violations with a deadline for correcting them. In some cases, they close the establishment if the conditions are too unsafe for staff or patrons without immediate correction.

Fire Marshals also notify other authorities of any deficiencies noted that are not directly related to fire safety, such as rat infestation or criminal activity. One of the current challenges is the language barrier resulting from the number of ethnic groups of immigrants. This makes it difficult to educate and effect needed changes in establishments where the owners are immigrants. The Public Safety Committee's next meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, October 7 in Community Room #3, Mount Vernon Governmental Center.

TRANSPORTATION

The MVCCA Transportation Committee met on September 7, 2004 in the Multi-purpose Room of the Mount Vernon Government Center. Attending were representatives of 25 member organizations (Belle Haven Terrace, Belle View Condo, Berkshire, Collingwood Springs, Fair Haven, Hollin Hall, Hollin Hills, Huntington, Montebello, Mount Vernon, Mount Vernon Lakes, Mount Vernon Manor, Mount Vernon on the Potomac, Mount Zephyr, Potomac Valley-Riverbend, Riverwood, Sulgrave Manor, Riverside Gardens, Tauxemont, Waynewood, Wellington, Wellington Heights,

Wessynton, Westgrove, Williamsburg Manor North) and two interested citizens.

The Committee received a briefing from Mr. Mark Hagen, VDOT Signal System Manager on the Smart Traffic Signal System which is the first in the country. It is a comprehensive system which integrates traffic flow involving 1300 traffic signals in Fairfax, Prince William and Loudoun Counties and is still in the process of being finalized. On Route #1 the system is currently operational and capable of preempting to a green light for emergency vehicles and providing a delay on green for busses which are running late from 5 to 25 seconds at 26 intersections. Some of the congestion problem are not solvable within the current road system. Specifically, a traffic lane is able to handle 1300-1800 cars per hour. At the intersection of Old Bridge Road and Rolling Brook Drive, for example, the volume is 3300 cars per hour. There is a prevalence of sensors and video cameras at intersection to support the integrated traffic system. These cameras are dedicated to measure traffic flow and volume (nothing else) and thereby provide the ability to update system efficiency every 2 seconds. Traffic surveillance with video cameras is deemed cost effective. While the installation may cost up to \$40,000 per intersection, versus a cost of only \$10,000 for magnetic detectors, The video cameras can remain untouched for years while road implanted detectors need to be replaced whenever road intervention destroys those detectors. Emergency power to assure uninterrupted operation of signal lights are also in the process of being provided. Three intersection currently have 12 hour emergency back-up power. Special accommodations are made for pedestrians. The count-down signals have been found to be less confusing and therefore all intersections with pedestrian operated buttons will eventually receive these signals. On a long-range basis, a Public Safety Transportation Operations Center will be built in the Lorton area which will house multiple agency representation and will remain self-sufficient for up to 21 days. It will be designed to handle any type of emergency situation ranging from storms to terrorist acts.

Mr. Doug Palo, President of the Hollin Hall Village Citizen Association distributed a draft resolution on curbing aircraft noise by means of prescribing turns no closer than 15 miles up river. Time precluded a more detailed discussion of the proposal and the resolution was tabled, to be discussed further in the October meeting of the Committee

Mr. Dallas Shawkey, Chair of the MVCCA Public Safety Committee, advised the committee of the resistance by the Council to pass his resolution on the use of cell phones by vehicle drivers. Committee members were urged to discuss the original version with constituents before the October meeting when the resolution will again be presented for a vote.

Due to time constraints the following items will be considered in the October meeting: Wilson Bridge closing (the current road closing announced to last a couple of weeks has been extended considerably beyond announced time limits); Hot lanes on Beltway (a proposed privately funded expansion of the Beltway involving toll payments); and conversion of Bus Route 9A to Route REX (announced for implementation on Sep 26 - note web site at: www.fairfaxconnector.com).

The next meeting of the Committee has been scheduled for 8 PM on Monday, October 4, 2004 to be held in the Media Center of the Walt Whitman Middle School. Agenda to include items indicated above; presentation of video on Walkable Communities Workshop.

ILLEGAL BULLDOZING OF RESOURCE PROTECTION AREA

WHEREAS, non permitted destruction of private property has occurred along Fairview Drive in the Penn Daw area around July 30, 2004, and

WHEREAS, non-permitted excavation has occurred on parcels known as the Fairchild Property and Michael's around July 31, 2004, and

WHEREAS, a swath approximately 30 feet wide and 600 feet long has been cut through above said properties , and

WHEREAS, no permit was granted for this excavation, and

WHEREAS, no grading plan was submitted for Fairfax County review for this excavation, and

WHEREAS, no reviews or permits of any kind were obtained from Fairfax County by the contractor, and

WHEREAS, all activity was done in violation of Fairfax County Code, and

WHEREAS, all activity was done in violation of Fairfax County Zoning Ordinance, and

WHEREAS, some clearing activity encroaches upon the County mapped Resource Protection Area (RPA) surrounding Quander Brook, and,

WHEREAS, no plan for mitigation or restoration of the RPA has yet been submitted to Fairfax County for review, and,

WHEREAS, no erosion and sediment controls have yet been installed, and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations asks the Mt. Vernon District Supervisor to direct the County Attorney's Office to invoke violations and penalties outlined in Chapter 118- 9- 1,2 and 3 of the Fairfax County Code and of Chapter 4-1-2.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, Fairfax County Dept of Public Works and Environmental Services require immediate restoration of the affected Resource Protection Areas with an expedited approved landscaping plan.

2004 BOND REFERENDUM RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Fairfax County needs \$52.5 million to build two new library branches and renovate existing facilities, and \$32.5 million for construction and renovation of mental health and juvenile court facilities, and;

WHEREAS, Fairfax County needs \$75 million for use by the Fairfax County Park Authority and the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority to acquire land, renovate existing facilities and develop new facilities, and:

WHEREAS, Fairfax County needs \$165 million to fund the county's share of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's capital program and the county's four-year transportation plan which includes pedestrian, highway and transit improvements, and:

WHEREAS, Fairfax County enjoys a AAA bond rating enabling the county to issue bonds at very low interest rates, and;

WHEREAS, issuing bonds enables the cost of major projects to be spread over future years and ensures that both current users and future citizens share in the payment for these facilities, and;

WHEREAS, the debt servicing of Fairfax County cost the County 8.7% of the combined general fund disbursements in Fiscal Year 2003 and is expected to be approximately the same in future including funding of these listed bond issues, and;

WHEREAS, the issuance of these bonds by Fairfax County is not expected to adversely impact the County's AAA bond rating;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations supports the 2004 Bond Referendum as proposed in the four-question ballot referendum proposed by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors.

THE COMMITTEE resolutions

PCA 89-V-062-2, RZ 2004-MV-011, and SE 2004-MV-011, Gunston Commerce Center, Colchester Land Company LLC.

WHEREAS, this property is located by the general boundaries of the southwest corner of Richmond Highway and Furnace Road, with other parcels not a part of the application being between the subject parcel and I-95;

WHEREAS, the County recently approved a Comprehensive Plan Revision for this Center to permit an increase in office and to permit the quick service food store and retail uses and these PCA, RZ and SE applications are necessary to implement the approved Plan text;

WHEREAS, the Proffered Condition Amendment (PCA) is primarily to amend proffers to allow an increase in the percentage of office uses permitted;

WHEREAS, the rezoning is to permit one parcel, Tax Map 113-3 ((5)) H1, at the southwest corner of Richmond Highway and Furnace Road, to be rezoned from the I-4 District to the I-5 District to permit office/quick service food store and retail;

WHEREAS, the Special Exception will to permit those uses on that one Parcel only and no other zoning classification will permit this increased office space in combination with a fast food restaurant;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations does not oppose the PCA, the rezoning or the special exception for this property.

RZ 2004-MV-020 and VC 2004-MV-089, Gunston Center LLC

WHEREAS, this property, approximately 4.19 acres, is located east of Richmond Highway, west of the Richmond Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad line, south of Furnace Road, and north of the Occoquan River, across the street from Bill Lynch's Gunston Commerce Center and is on Tax Map 113-3 ((1)) 40;

WHEREAS, the rezoning from R-1 to the I-4 is to permit a septic system, an Individual Sewage Disposal System, so that the septic system will be located within the same zoning district as the use it serves, and will be used for Rich Minchik's industrial/condo project that is located on the abutting parcel to the north;

WHEREAS, the County has now required the applicant to combine its request to construct a "by-right" office/industrial building on the parcel located immediately to the north, Tax Map 113-3 ((1)) 41, with its request for a rezoning and variance on the adjacent lot for a septic field;

WHEREAS, the variance is required to permit a septic system on a parcel that is separate from the parcel containing the primary use;

WHEREAS, no sewer is available on the east side of Richmond Highway and the community of Mason Neck opposes the extension of a sewer from Prince William County (about 100 feet away) because of Mason Neck's concern that a sewer line on the east side of Richmond Highway may lead to further residential development in Mason Neck;

WHEREAS, the proffers binding on the developer should also be inserted in any sale or lease agreements so that no tenant could change the approved sewage capability without further review by the County and the MVCCA;

WHEREAS, the County Health Department has assured the residents of Mason Neck that this septic system on Parcel 40 will not cause any pollution of their residential wells;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations does not oppose the rezoning and variance requests of Gunston Center LLC.

Out-of-Turn Plan Amendment (OTPA) SO4-IV-LP1, Lorton Valley Subdivision

WHEREAS, clarifications were necessary to the proposed and concurrent processing of a rezoning application previously authorized by the Board of Supervisors for the Lorton Valley Subdivision located at Tax Map 113-2 ((2)) lots 1-15;

WHEREAS, on April 26, 2004, the County Board authorized staff to process an Out-of-Turn Plan Amendment to consider changing the Plan language for Sub-Unit E11 of the Lorton-South Route 1 Community Planning Sector of the Lower Potomac Planning District (Area IV);

WHEREAS, the County Board further authorized simultaneous processing of a rezoning application with the Plan Amendment;

WHEREAS, two minor issues require County Board action to facilitate the consideration of the Plan Amendment and rezoning request;

WHEREAS, the first item is to make clear which parcels are the subject of the Plan Amendment and rezoning because the previous County Board action specified the land area for the Plan Amendment as Tax Map 113-2 ((2)) lots 1-15, but subsequent analysis revealed that certain parcels should be re-identified and that the subject land area contains lots which, due to their small size, were not included in the Board's original authorization;

WHEREAS, second, two roadways located within the community, Cranford Street and Marion Place, will need to be vacated by the County Board;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations does not oppose these clarifications to the Out-of-Turn Plan Amendment.

RZ-2004-MV-0272, Potomac Custom Homes, LLC.

WHEREAS, this property is located west of Rolling Road and between Virginia Drive and Edinburgh Drive in the Pohick Planning District on Tax Maps 098-2-04-0001 and 098-2-04-0002;

WHEREAS, this request is to rezone approximately 3.59 acres of land from R-1 to R-3 including 0.6746 acres of right-of-way from vacating Lenore Drive and a portion of Virginia Drive and 2.91 acres of land from Mitchell Heights Lots No 1 and 2;

WHEREAS, the developer plans to construct 10 single family detached residential dwelling units served by a single access that would be existing Virginia Drive;

WHEREAS, the subject roads were originally parts of Mitchell Heights Subdivision along with Lots No. 1 and 2 and the rest of Mitchell Heights was joined with a new subdivision to the west called "Pohick Run;"

WHEREAS, the church currently using Virginia Drive for access will be able to continue to do so;

WHEREAS, the applicant and the former owners of Lots 1 and 2 believe that the road rights of way are owned by the current owners of Lots 1 and 2;

WHEREAS, the calculated density for the proposed rezoning is 2.78 dwelling units per acre, which is within the Plan recommendation of 2 to 3 dwelling units per acre and the surrounding Properties are zoned R-3, R-8, and R-20.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations does not oppose the rezoning request of Potomac Custom Homes, LLC.

MOUNT VERNON COUNCIL OF CITIZENS ASSOCIATIONS Treasurer's Report

For period from January 1, 2004 through September 9, 2004

	Budget 2004	Actual to Date	Budget to Actual (to date)
Balance Beginning Period		\$3,669.17	
RECEIPTS			
Dues*	\$4,819	\$4,671	-\$148
Record Subscriptions	\$450	\$480	\$30
Gala Income	\$3,972	\$4,265	\$293
Knowles Plaque Donations ¹	N/A	\$615	\$615
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$9,241	\$10,031	\$790
DISBURSEMENTS			
Record Expenses	\$4,700	\$2,872	-\$1,828
Administrative	\$696	\$397	-\$299
Gala	\$2,750	\$2,702	-\$48
Web Site	\$540	\$420	-\$120
Knowles Plaque	\$0	\$1,148	\$1,148
Membership	\$75	\$0	-\$75
Postage	\$480	\$200	-\$280
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$9,241	\$7,739	-\$1,502
Balance Ending Period		\$4,809.89	

¹Includes balance forward of \$440.00

*Dues & Subscriptions paid for prior to 1/1/04 included in beginning balance

COMMITTEE CALENDAR FOR OCTOBER 2004

MVCCA Board-WWMS-October 14 at 8:00 pm

Date/Day/Time	Comm.	Place	Chair	Phone
10/5 T 7:30	H/HS	IMVH-C	Louise Cleveland	703.780.9151
10/5 T 7:30	COAF	MVGC	Queenie Cox	703.360.2414
10/6 W 7:30	BUDG	WWMS CR	George Bauer	703.768.1774
10/6 W 7:30	ENVR	MVHSE-114	Jim Davis	703.799.3278
10/6 W 7:30	EDUC	WWMS L	Judy Harbeck	703.780.1883
10/7 Th 7:30	PSAF	MVGC	Dallas Shawkey	703.360.2185
10/4 M 8:00	TRANS	MVGC	Frank Cohn	703.780.5698
10/4 M 7:30	PL/Z	WWMS LH	Diane Donley	703.780.2804

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