



Mount Vernon
Council
of Citizens'
Associations

www.mvcca.org

Record

By Subscription \$15.00 Per Year

Volume XXXVII, No.3, MAR 2005

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday March 23, 8 PM, Walt Whitman Middle School Jack
Knowles Lecture Hall

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER

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

PUBLISHED ITEMS and RESOLUTIONS

NEW BUSINESS

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

ADJOURNMENT

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	Pat Rea	703.799.4799

MINUTES

Minutes of the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations,
General Council, Feb. 23, 2005

In Attendance:

The Council was called to order at 8:00 p.m., Co-Chair Errol Bergsagel presiding. The minutes of the previous Council meeting were reviewed and a change was made. The Environment Committee Resolution on Ourisman Dodge was withdrawn rather than tabled. Minutes were then accepted into the record. The Treasurer's report was accepted, as it appears in the February 2005 *Record* (hereafter, *Record*).

Co-Chair Bergsagel stated that the planned agenda would change in order to allow Supervisor Gerry Hyland to make his presentation.

Supervisor's Time

Topics discussed by Supervisor Hyland included:

MVCCA CITIZEN OF YEAR: The selection of Mr. Neal F. McBride of Newington Forest is announced as the selectee for MVCCA Citizen of the Year. A twenty-five year resident of Mount Vernon District, he for two decades has involved himself voluntarily in a wide range of activities of interest and benefit to the Mount Vernon District' communities, Fairfax County, and Virginia and the Washington Area. His persistent vigor in supporting many of Districts' interests, as an officer of citizens groups, member of numerous task forces working on single issues, land use planning, and cultural development are a few of his many involvements over more than two decades of residency. His calm, reasoned, and intelligent application to such a wide variety projects justified his selection. He will be recognized at the MVCCA GALA at the Fort Belvoir Golf Club, Saturday, April 23, at 6:00 PM.

Invitations to the MVCCA Gala, April 23d, will soon be mailed but attendance is not only by invitation but by any person wishing to attend in honor of the Citizen of the Year, the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations, and the Mount Vernon District. For additional information, visit the MVCCA website or phone a member of the Board of Governors whose numbers are listed on Page 1 of the *RECORD*.

Citizens Associations which had not registered for the current year by March 1st, 2005, have had their voting rights and delivery of the RECORD suspended until reinstatement by completing appropriate application on-line at MVCCA-org or by mail. Contact the Treasurer or a Co-chair for any further assistance needed.

THE COUNCIL minutes

- The Mount Vernon Town meeting and the surveys the members of the community completed. Sup. Hyland noted that this gathering had the largest turnout thus far.
- Information meeting at Washington Farms United Methodist Church on March 2 concerning a proposed Montessori School at the church. The proposed student volume would be a maximum of 99 students phased in over a 3- year period.
- A meeting was held with the Federal Highway Administration for input for the replacement road through Ft. Belvoir. New alignments discussed were the preferred Old Mill Road but Woodlawn Road is also being considered. A citizen task force may be convened to address the issue.
- The issue of industrial owned property next to residential property, especially in the Lorton area, needs to be addressed. It is a concern that homeowners could purchase new homes unaware that an industrial type business can be built next to them without any buffers.
- The Supervisor has met with the residents of the mobile home park that is currently being considered for inclusion in the Kings Crossing development. It should be noted that loss of this mobile home park to the Kings Crossing development would result in loss of more affordable housing in the County.
- The Board of Supervisors will be receiving the county budget from County Executive Tony Griffith on Monday, February 28, 2005.
- Openings on various Boards and Commissions are available. Let the Supervisor's office know of any interests.

COMMITTEE CHAIR REPORTS

Budget & Finance Co-Chair Al Bornmann presented the Budget Committee report for Committee. Chair George Bauer, who was absent. He noted that a joint meeting was held with the Education Committee to review the school budget. Upcoming meetings scheduled with Supervisor Hyland and the County Executive are to be held in March along with several other Budget meetings. Consult the *Record* for dates, times, and locations.

Consumer Affairs Chair Queenie Cox presented the Consumer Affairs minutes as recorded in the *Record*. The next meeting will be March 1.

Education Chair Judy Harbeck reported on the joint meeting with the Budget and Finance Committee meeting with Mario Savio of the School Budget Department. She noted that the School Board and the School Superintendent have been very active in the budget process. There currently is a little less than a \$30 million gap between the proposed 6.8-percent transfer and the 9.2-percent transfer the School system anticipates needing. Information can be found at the web site www.FCPS.edu. The next meeting will be March 3rd after the Budget and Finance Committee meeting with Tony Griffith.

Environment Chair Jim Davis reported that the Ourisman project is in limbo as VDOT's opinion has not been made clear. The Little Hunting Creek Watershed Plan was approved.

Health and Human Services Chair Louise Cleveland reported that the rapid loss of affordable housing is impacting all human services needs. She explained that two proposals were under consideration by H/HS Committee, to dedicate either one penny or two of the residential property tax rate to a county Trust Fund for affordable housing. H/HS will bring a resolution in March, for the Council's consideration. Members who have not named a representative to this very active committee are urged to do so.

Planning & Zoning Representative David Dale referred to Committee minutes as published in the *Record*.

Public Safety Chair Dallas Shawkey reported that his committee had a presentation on gangs. The next meeting will be on March 3, and the new Director of the Public Defenders office will speak.

Transportation Co-Chair Bergsagel presented the committee minutes for Chair Frank Cohn.

Fairfax Federation. Pat Rea, encouraged Council members to join the Federation. The police presented the same gang presentation to the Federation as was presented to the Public Safety Committee. Members were invited to the Federation Citizen of the Year banquet honoring Dr. Worley. Also receiving honors are Jennifer Cooper and Meutee Pierce.

Co-Chair Al Bornmann encouraged Members to submit Citizen of the Year nominations. Information on the annual Gala, scheduled for April 23. Invitations will be going out shortly. Although costs have increased the ticket price will remain the same with hopes that continued donations will offset any increases.

Queenie Cox, Chair Consumer Affairs, brought up the confusion on the ambulance transport charges and stated her understanding is no charge would be made to the uninsured, and only what insurance pays will be charged to all others. Associations are encouraged to pass this on to any concerned residents.

The County Public Affairs Department needs an updated list of Association Presidents so current information can be sent. Ensure your information is accurate with the County.

RESOLUTIONS

Planning & Zoning. Resolution on RZ 2004-MV-031 (Ivy Development at 8511 Alban Road) resolution passed 24-1-1 after amendments to the original wording of the resolution were agreed upon by P&Z chair Dale and Environment Chair Davis. The final Whereas was amended to read, "*The development will not violate storm water limits for quantity or quality that would be in effect if no waivers have been issued.*"

Resolution on RZ 2004-MV-030 (Luken Company at 8800 Lukens Lane) resolution passed 19-0-6 after friendly amendments.

Transportation. Resolution on changing the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan, was presented by Earl Flanagan, Mt. Vernon Transportation Commissioner, for Frank Cohen. The resolution passed 23-0-0.

Resolution on Sidewalks for Old Mill Road was presented by Earl Flanagan for Frank Cohen. The resolution with friendly amendment was passed 26-0-0.

NEW BUSINESS/ASSOCIATION TIME

The President of New Gum Springs announced that this was her last meeting as President and invited members to the Gum Springs Black History Celebration at the Gum Springs Community Center.

David Dale introduced Jerry Ireland from the newly joined association of the United Voice of Kings Crossing.

Cathy McLaughlin from Southwood voiced concern about a developer's sign in her neighborhood. Gerry Hyland promised to look into the matter.

Visitor Gerry Masara from the Ft. Belvoir Retiree Council was introduced by Al Bornmann.

Earl Flanagan encouraged members to attend the Transportation Summit on March 14.

The meeting **adjourned** at 9:50 p.m.

BUDGET AND FINANCE

From February 22nd through March 8th, the Budget & Finance Committee met five times to hear from county officials and other MVCCA chairs about the FY 2006 Fairfax County budget and to draft our resolution. The following MVCCA member associations were represented at least once by a representative to these meetings: Huntington, Hollin Hills, Stratford Landing, Stratford on the Potomac (Section IV), Mt. Vernon Civic Association, Williamsburg Manor, Potomac Valley / Riverbend and Wessington Homes. Col. Mike Coughlan continues to generously contribute his time to our efforts. Judy Harbeck, Education Chair attended all of our meetings. Mack Rhoads, Jr., MVCCA Co-Chair, attend our meeting with Gerry Hyland. Additionally, Louise Cleveland, Health and Humans Service Chair and Dallas Shawkey, Public Safety Chair attended our meeting on Friday, March 4th when we look to the Chairs to provide us with input on matters of importance in their areas of interest.

Notes from meeting with Gerry Hyland, Mt. Vernon District Supervisor, 1 March 2005:

- The Mt. Vernon District experienced a greater percentage real estate assessment increase than any other district (26% versus the county average increase of 23.49%). The county has proposed to cut the real estate tax rate \$.010 per \$100 assessed value bringing the rate for FY 06 to \$1.03.
- Cost to run the County government increased 2.6%.
- We will have more police and EMS staffing.
- Schools have been able to change class size by moving staff on a school-by-school basis (smaller class sizes are a goal of the No Child Left Behind statute but adding a significant number of additional staff would be costly).
- Most of the increase in the school budget is due to a 3% COLA for teacher salary
- Unfunded Federal and State mandates require increased expenses within the school system.
- The construction of the PSTOC facility will allow the 911center to relocate from being near the Pentagon to its new location and to modernize its equipment in order to keep up with the volume of calls it receives.

- Most of this meeting was spent discussing the school budget. Gerry said that the real difference between what the county recommended (8.2% increase) and what the schools wanted (9.2%) amounted to \$6 million after the State education transfer of \$6.5 million this year. He felt that the BOS and the School board are satisfied with this relatively small difference.

Notes from meeting with Tony Griffin, County Executive, 2 March 2005:

- The PSTOC facility will include a forensics lab. The State Police and VDOT will move to this facility and share in the expense of its building and maintenance.
- Part of the reason equipment must be purchased is that as a result of the Hewlett Packard and Compaq merger, continuing support for Compaq equipment is being discontinued as part of the company's planned obsolescence program. Therefore, a substantial portion of the budget for PSTOC will go to systems upgrading as the County has no choice but to upgrade.
- Tony points out that Fairfax County tends to extend the useful life of electronic equipment by 200%.
- PSTOC building will be paid out of annual budget revenue, as the County cannot issue more than \$200 million in bonds per year.
- In contrasting the taxes experienced in Fairfax County with Prince William County, Tony points out that Prince William County levies a 7-cent fire tax. He also points out that Prince William County receives significantly more State support than Fairfax County does and that Prince William County only pays for 50% of their school budget, which compares with Fairfax County's payment of 75% of the school budget.
- Tony believes that in the future the real estate tax rate will drop below \$1.00. He points out that this is an important benchmark as once crossed, it will be difficult to increase the tax back again over \$1.00 due to the psychological/political barrier that \$1.00 represents. Having said that, he also stated that he could probably find money to reduce the real estate tax rate further if the BOS directed him to.
- The County performs area salary surveys for the Police, Fire and Sheriff's departments on an annual basis. This year the Sheriff's department did not fall below the area comparable wage range. Therefore, the Sheriff's department did not receive the 4% salary increase that the Police and Fire departments did. The County policy is that salary increases will be provided if the salary received falls below 5% of the area average for that particular department when compared with area jurisdictions.
- When looking at teacher salaries, Tony points out that for every open elementary school teaching position, the Fairfax County Public School System (FCPS) receives 13 applications. Similarly, FCPS receives 3 for every open math position and 1.5 for every open special education position.
- The cost to provide a take-home car for every police officer would be \$25 million.
- One in five Fairfax County households have a student in the FCPS.
- Tony points out that Community Services budget items have grown at 10% on average in good times and bad.
- Unfunded Federal and State mandates continue to put pressure on the County budget.
- Community Block grants will be cut 25% in the near future and the County will be required to pick these up.
- The State tends to leave prisoners under the custody of the County. Tony points out that it costs the County \$125 per day to

THE COMMITTEE reports

house a prisoner, but the County only receives \$14 from the State for each day that a prisoner is housed by the County.

- The State's Supreme Court Administration Office decided that the magistrates were not a part of the Judicial System and therefore not entitled to the 3% salary increase that the judges received. The State funded a 2% increase in salary for the magistrates leaving 1% for the County to provide as salary supplementation for the magistrates. The State permits a salary supplementation for the magistrates by up to 50%.
- An interesting note: on average, the Federal debt is \$120,000 per person. Similarly, the State provides another \$10,000 and the County \$6,000.

The results of our three other meetings are summarized in our resolution printed in this edition of *The Record*. As of the printing of *The Record*, we cannot provide an opinion on providing real estate tax relief for the elderly and disabled to the fullest extent allowed by the State, as we do not know how much this would cost the County. All of our County sources for numbers like these are unusually quiet this year on this subject. Our traditional sources of information indicate that the cost of this program is currently being calculated and will be released on March 18th. Therefore, inclusion of text on this matter will need to be introduced at the Council meeting on March 23rd.

Special note of recognition: The MVCCA Budget and Finance Committee has a dedicated core of thoughtful volunteers who contribute their time to studying and making recommendations on the production of our resolution on the budget. Needless to say, a variety of opinions are expressed but we somehow manage to work together to provide the best possible representation of our constituencies. We are fortunate to have these responsible citizens in our community. Rachel Carter of the Mount Vernon Civic Association played a major roll in helping with the editing in addition to representing her community to the association.

Our next meeting will be April 6th and 7:30 p.m. in the Principal's conference room at Walt Whitman Middle School.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

The Consumer Affairs committee met on Tuesday, March 1st in the Principal's Conference Room at Walt Whitman Middle School. Shhhh....the topic was Identity Theft; we can't tell you who attended because you may want to assume their identity!

Correction to February's Minutes: One attendee's identity must be revealed to make a necessary correction in the Record...A representative from Mount Zephyr Citizens Association attended the February COAF meeting and also attended this month's (March) meeting.

We viewed a short video on identity theft provided by the U.S. Postal Inspectors and then discussed recent events pertaining to the bulk sale and lost personal data by ChoicePoint and Bank of America. We also reviewed and discussed certain language approved in S 241 (CHAPTER 676) "to amend and reenact §§ 2.2-3808.2 and 17.1-279 of the Code of Virginia, relating to Technology Trust Fund Fee," specifically the following language:

§ 17.1-279. Additional fee to be assessed by circuit court clerks for information technology.

A. In addition to the fees otherwise authorized by this chapter, the clerk of each circuit court shall assess a \$5 fee, known as the "Technology Trust Fund Fee," in each law and chancery action, upon each instrument to be recorded in the deed books, and upon each judgment to be docketed in the judgment lien docket book. Such fee shall be deposited by the State Treasurer into a trust fund. The State Treasurer shall maintain a record of such deposits.

B. Four dollars of every \$3 \$5 fee shall be allocated by the Compensation Board from the trust fund for the purposes of: (i) developing and updating individual land records automation plans for individual circuit court clerks' offices; (ii) implementing automation plans to modernize land records in individual circuit court clerks' offices and provide secure remote access to land records throughout the Commonwealth; (iii) obtaining and updating office automation and information technology equipment, including software and conversion services; (iv) preserving, maintaining and enhancing court records, including, but not limited to, the costs of repairs, maintenance, service contracts and system upgrades; and (v) improving public access to court records. The Compensation Board in consultation with the circuit court clerks and other users of court records shall develop and update policies governing the allocation of funds for these purposes. *However, such funds shall not be used for personnel costs within the circuit court clerks' offices. The Compensation Board policies governing the allocation of funds shall require that a clerk submit to the Compensation Board a written certification that the clerk's proposed technology improvements of his land records will accommodate secure remote access to those land records on a statewide basis.*

I. It is the intent of the General Assembly that all circuit court clerks provide secure remote access to land records on or before July 1, 2006.

The Committee intends to finalize its review of the bill and present a resolution during May because the following types of personal records that are recorded in the Circuit Court Clerk's Offices are referred to as "land records" and may be accessed over the internet under S. 241: final divorce decrees and name change documents; all types of deeds; wills; tax liens; judgments, including traffic fines; and powers of attorney. Comments from the general membership are solicited and welcomed because this bill affects you too!

Note: COAF will be providing a guest speaker on identity theft during the MVCCA general membership meeting on April 27th in lieu of holding its regularly scheduled meeting on April 5th.

EDUCATION

The MVCCA Education Committee had its regular meeting at 8:10 pm, March 2, 2005, in the library at Whitman MS. The committee also met in joint session with the Budget & Finance Committee (B/F) on February 22, 2005, and members also attended budget briefing sessions, sponsored by B/F, with Supervisor Hyland on March 1 and County Executive Griffin on March 2, 2005. Associations represented at one or more of these meetings included: Hollin Hills, Randall Estates, Stratford on Potomac IV, Sulgrave Manor, Mount Vernon Civic, Riverside Estates, Waynewood, Potomac Valley Riverbend, Williamsburg Manor North, Williamsburg Manor, Stratford Landing, Mt. Vernon Farms, and Saratoga. Co-chairs Mack Rhodes and Al Bornmann also attended one or more of the above-referenced meetings. The chair also attended B/F meetings on March 4 and 8, 2005.

THE COMMITTEE reports

All of the above referenced presentations and meetings primarily concerned the FY2006 school and county budgets.

Committee discussions and conclusions are reflected in the Resolution, adopted unanimously by the Committee, and printed elsewhere in this RECORD.

Additionally, the Chair reported that she will attend a meeting on March 24, 2005, concerning proposed plans of Northern Virginia Community College [(NVCC) aka NOVA] to establish a location on the Route One corridor. The Committee considers this a very positive step for recent high school graduates and for other adults who would like to improve jobs skills or pursue an interest. It may also dovetail with FCPS Superintendent Dale's plans to expand the availability of college credit for high school students and Governor Warner's somewhat parallel plan to make high school a better steppingstone to higher education and the workforce.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, April 6, 2005, 8 pm Whitman MS library. Subject: TBD

ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION

The Environment and Recreation Committee met Wed, Mar 2, 7:30 PM, Room E -114 Mt Vernon High School.

Attending were: Collingwood on the Potomac, Hollin Hills, Hollin Hall, Huntington, Mt Vernon Civic, Potomac View/ River Bend, Spring Bank, Stratford Landing, Stratford on the Potomac SecIV, Sulgrave Manor, Williamsburg Manor, Woodlawn Manor and the presenter from Madison Homes, Mr. Russ Rosenberger.

Mr Russ Rosenberger, from Madison Homes, presented the Huntington Mews project to the Committee. Waivers for Storm Water quality, quantity and a Special Exception for filling the 100 year flood plain are being requested for this project.

The Committee peppered the presenter with specific questions about capacities, design and unintended consequences resulting from their plan. For example: Will filling the flood plain affect neighboring lower lying properties? How much impervious surface gain is being purposed?

The presenter said that the Corps of Engineers had accepted their redrawing of the 100 year flood plain on the subject property, but the Corps of Engineers letter stated that their opinion was not yet complete and this letter was not included on the site plan, as required.

Low Impact Development (LID) techniques were discussed. The developer said that most techniques, with the exception of sand filters and bio-retention swale, would not be possible with the current plan. Some members felt that the presented plan is far too dense for environmental constraints and that some proposed units should be removed to accommodate these constraints.

The Committee's questions were not specifically answered, but Madison Homes maintained that they were within the legal allowable limits. The Committee agreed to not yet render a resolution until this information is available.

The Committee discussed the fact that waivers must be issued to allow for LID installation. No value of quality/ quantity water improvement has been assigned to these practices, nor are these techniques included

in the Public Facilities Manual (PFM), thus the reason for issuing a waiver. The Committee agreed that all environmental waivers should be assessed on an individual basis as presented.

Next meeting: April 3, 7:30 PM, Room E-114, Mt Vernon High School. Air Quality at Mt Vernon Estate is on the agenda.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

H/HS Committee met March 1 with 12 member associations represented: Collingwood on Potomac, Hollindale, Hollin Glen, Hollin Hall Village, Randall Estates, Spring Bank, Stratford Landing, Stratford on Potomac, Stratford on Potomac-Sec.4, Sulgrave Manor, Wessynton, and Williamsburg Manor. Two guest resources, Mount Vernon residents with long and valuable experience in human services here, contributed to our discussion of emerging issues and the Fairfax County Advertised Budget Plan for FY2006: Molly Lynch, who (with Col. Marion Barnwell) is one of Mount Vernon's two representatives to the countywide citizen advisory Human Services Council (HSC), and Kenneth Disselkoe, Region I Manager for Human Services. In addition to the 12 representatives present on March 1, H/HS representatives from the following member associations have approved the two resolutions submitted this month for consideration of the General Council: **Belle Haven Terrace, Hollin Hills, and Mount Zephyr.**

In February and March this committee focuses, annually, on emerging health and human services needs in our area, in order to consider how the county's Advertised Budget Plan will meet these needs in the coming fiscal year (which begins July 1). This year, we began in January with a panel discussion on the "elephant in the room"—the rapid loss of affordable housing. In February, we reviewed recent recommendations, to the Board of Supervisors and the public, from two county citizen advisory bodies—the Human Services Council (HRC) and the Affordable Housing Preservation Action (AFPA) Committee. Two lengthy H/HS Committee Reports in the *MVCCA Record* for January and February, available at www.mvcca.org, provide context for the two proposed MVCCA Resolutions. Publication of the Advertised Budget Plan on Feb. 28 has provoked these additional comments.

Concerning "Public Support for a Fairfax County Affordable Housing Trust Fund"

Public awareness that "affordable housing" is an important and vanishing resource, essential to a healthy housing mix, is growing throughout the 9 jurisdictions of the metro region; Fairfax County, though late to pay attention, is waking up fast. For several years, H/HS Committee has reported on the impact of affordable housing losses, evident to our human service providers. Now, a regional report claims Fairfax County will need 15,000 *additional* units by 2010. The AFPA Committee recommends a dozen strategies, most aimed at stimulating public-private partnerships, with dedicated funding to a county Trust Fund as the essential first step. "One penny" (of the residential property mil rate, their cautious recommendation) is estimated to preserve 1000 affordable homes by 2007. Meanwhile, the market is driving remaining rental units into luxury condos, and our longtime Mount Vernon neighbors leasing places in a small well-groomed mobile home park face the "development" tsunami with no alternative refuge in sight.

Two pennies or one? A Northern Virginia coalition of 40+ nonprofit agencies and businesses calls for "two pennies" as a more realistic

THE COMMITTEE reports

start—one for preservation and to stimulate new designs for a variety of needs. The H/HS Committee is unanimous in recommending this approach to the citizens of MVCCA and the County. “Two pennies” will open more doors to public-private partnerships now than three years hence: call it common cents.

Reality check: Though neither penny is included in the Advertised Plan, many believe current revenue projections allow room for “one cent” while retaining the proposed 10-cent reduction in mil rate. Investing a second penny, were it to cause mil rate reduction to fall back to 9 cents, would add nearly \$45 to the average homeowner’s bill.

Concerning “Health and Human Services Planning for FY2006” Fairfax County’s Advertised Budget Plan seeks to fully fund current staffing and contracting of health and human services, with some adjustments to boost the effectiveness of particular programs (and these are largely “revenue neutral”). Our review, and that of the countywide Human Services Council, concludes—with great relief—that the proposed Plan does accomplish this vital objective, and in doing so it breaks a four-year pattern of reducing or eliminating funding to many effective and needed programs.

We do see evidence, locally, of great strain on the “safety net” of services that respond to crises in our communities. The Planning Resolution identifies “vulnerable, growing groups” in Mount Vernon/Region I who must be our priority for delivery of health and human services—among them at-risk children and youth, frail elders and others with disabilities, and persons awaiting treatment for severe mental illness. County planning must recognize that these immediate needs are growing and must seek and invest in better strategies of response.

Among our most effective and least costly program strategies are crisis prevention and early intervention, from which funding has been too often cut and seldom restored. Such programs are crucial when we seek to control the growth of other, much greater public costs (for hospitalization, incarceration, or chronic dependency).

We recommend therefore that Supervisors make more room in this Budget Plan—perhaps through increasing the funding “reserve”—for modest investments in proposals for prevention as well as treatment that can work at the neighborhood level. We strongly support dedication of two cents in the mil rate to conserving and expanding affordable housing, for those who work and provide services in the county and also for residents with special needs that are best met through cost-effective supportive services. We support attention to targeting tax relief more equitably toward lower-income households. We recognize that the proposed “balance” is a delicate one: Our communities cannot “afford” mil rate reduction so deep that it triggers reductions in services essential to at-risk children and youth, families, and neighborhoods.

Planning Mount Vernon Hospital’s future

[MVCCA’s position is stated in two Resolutions published in the MVCCA Record and available on our web site: www.MVCCA.org: “Public Support for Saving Mount Vernon Hospital,” July 2003, and “Public Support for the Southeast Health Planning Task Force Recommendation,” July 2004. In October 2004, Inova Health System announced their management staff’s recommendation to the Board of Trustees that Mount Vernon Hospital remain at its present campus and a new healthplex be located near the Lorton Road exit of I-95.]

Public meetings of the Southeast Health Planning Task Force, held quarterly, update the community on Inova’s plans to enhance services and facilities in our area. A detailed strategic plan is anticipated by the end of June. Meanwhile, at the March 3 meeting, as reported in the *Mount Vernon Voice*, IMVH Administrator and Inova Vice President Susan Herbert announced she will retire in June. Supervisor Hyland and Task Force Chair Anne Andrews expressed appreciation for her dedication, throughout all difficulties, to providing support to the community and Task Force in the search for ways to improve the quality and fiscal health of the hospital and assure its future.

Community meetings—all open to the public

Tuesday, March 29, Route One Task Force for Human Services focuses on “Conserving Affordable Housing,” with Board of Supervisors Chair Gerry Connolly presenting initiatives recommended by the Affordable Housing Preservation Action Committee, 7 p.m., South County Center, Anne Andrews, Convener, 703/780-1773.

Tuesday, April 5, MVCCA Health and Human Services Committee meets, topic t/b/a, 7:30 p.m., IMVH Conf. Room C. H/HS. Chair Louise Cleveland, 703/780-9151.

Wednesday, April 6, Budget Hearings before Board of Supervisors begin, 7 p.m., Fairfax County Government Center. Citizens advocating funding for human services in Mount Vernon and Region I are among the first speakers scheduled for the 3-day hearings.

Wednesday, April 13, League of Women Voters (Mount Vernon chapters) host a panel of local advocates for discussion of Affordable Housing, including representatives of New Hope Housing, Good Shepherd Housing, and Ventures in Community (VIC), Mount Vernon Government Center Conf. Room, 9:30-11:30 a.m.

PLANNING AND ZONING

The meeting was called to order at 7:35PM, and in attendance were representatives from the following associations: Hollin Hills, Huntington, Marlin Forest, Memorial Heights, Montebello Condominiums, Mount Vernon, Mount Zephyr, Newington Forest, Potomac Valley-River Bend, Riverside Gardens, Spring Bank, Stratford Landing, Stratford on the Potomac Section IV, Wellington, Wellington Heights, Wessynton, Williamsburg Manor and Williamsburg Manor North. The Committee heard five land use cases.

The first case was for a Van Metre project of 4 homes on East Boulevard. Two waivers (4711-WPSF-1 and 4711-WPSF-2) are being requested to allow a subdivision on a road that is not VDOT maintained (E. Blvd is Federally maintained and is treated by the county as a private road). The committee voted to not oppose these waiver requests.

The second case was an information presentation by Bob Betsold of the Fairfax County Park Authority regarding public-private partnerships being planned for Laurel Hill Park. These include an active recreation “Sportsplex” and associated athletic fields in the former Youth Center, an Equestrian Center at the former Dairy Barn that will target the general population and beginner riders, and a Cold War Museum located at the former NIKE missile launch site. The third case was for PCA 1999-MV-025 and SEA 99-MV-020

THE COMMITTEE reports

requested by Minnieland Private Day School seeking to locate within the Lorton Station Shopping Center (currently under construction). The specific list of uses permitted by proffer does not include a childcare facility. This Partial PCA is to add "child care center" to the list of permitted uses; the SEA is for the actual use. The committee voted to not oppose these applications.

The fourth case was rezoning 2004-LE-021 for Mount Vernon Gateway. This 17-acre project in Lee District is bounded by Richmond Highway, Buckman Road, and Janna Lee Ave. The request is for PDH-30 proffered to 25 DU/AC (430 units in low and mid rise condos), 40% open space, 70,000 sf of commercial and office. 70 units will be for age 55+; about 27 are ADUs. The development plan includes major changes to the intersection of Buckman Road and Richmond Highway converting it to a right-turn-only both in and out. Traffic that currently turns left onto northbound Richmond Highway will make the left at an improved Janna Lee intersection. Development will be low impact. The committee voted to not oppose this rezoning.

The final case was RZ 2004-MV-041 by Madison Homes for Huntington Mews. Madison Homes is proposing to redevelop the 13.45 acres located on the north side of Huntington Avenue between the Huntington community and Riverside apartments, comprising much of the neighborhood currently accessed by Foley Street and Hunting Creek Road. The rezoning is from R-4 and R-8 to PDH-12 allowing the construction of 110 townhouses. The comprehensive plan calls for a residential density of 16 to 20 DU/AC. The plans are not final. There are outstanding environmental issues as the project includes fill and construction in the floodplain and RPA, and the adjacent Huntington Community still has concerns.

The Planning and Zoning website contains related documents and links.

The meeting adjourned at 9:55PM. The next meeting is Monday, April 4, 2005 at 7:30PM in the Jack Knowles Lecture Hall of Walt Whitman Middle School.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Associations represented: Bucknell Manor, Collingwood on Potomac, Hollin Hall, Mount Zephyr, Potomac Valley River Bend, Riverside Estates, Riverside Gardens, Stratford Landing, Stratford on the Potomac Sec. IV, Waynewood, Wellington, Williamsburg Manor, and Williamsburg Manor North.

The major topic was the Fiscal Year 2006 Advertised Budget Plan. Copies of the 'Citizen's Guide to the Budget' were provided to each attendee. In addition, the chair provided the 'FY 2006 Advertised Budget Plan Presentation' prepared by the Fairfax County Department of Management and Budget to everyone. The sources of funds for the county were reviewed. There was considerable discussion about the approximately 25 % jump in real estate assessments and the need to offset at least part of the increase in total real estate tax by reducing the tax rate. The committee then shifted to some of the county proposed expenditures. There was concern about affordable housing projects. While all appeared to be in favor of providing affordable housing, there is fear that some will use the low rate/price at which they acquire the ownership to make a significant

profit a few years later when they sell it. They want the county to be sure that this is monitored and controlled.

The committee then reviewed the portions pertaining to public safety and judicial administration. It concurred with expenditures pertaining to the new fire station, advanced life support staffing, EMS, additional police patrol officers, expansion of the police gang investigation unit, the new Public Safety Transportation Operations Center (including the creation of a separate Department of Public Safety Communications), the expansion of the Adult Detention Center, adding a position for the Office of Emergency Management Training Coordinator, and the market rate adjustment (3.07%) for public safety personnel. With regard to the proposed 4% salary adjustment for uniformed Police and Fire and Rescue personnel, the committee noted that the Police Citizens Aides (PCA) (formerly Police Communication Assistants) as well as the Sheriff's Deputies were not included in this adjustment. With regard to the PCAs, they went for years with few pay adjustments and their pay is still relatively low for the vital services they perform in each of the police stations. The committee voted to request that they be included in the 4% salary adjustment when the MVCCA budget resolution is prepared. With regard to the Sheriff's Deputies, over recent years there was an effort to keep them at salary parity with the Police. The competition for recruits is not with other localities but rather between the Sheriff's Deputies and the Police. The committee voted to ask that this inequity be corrected in the resolution.

The raise in the court attendance overtime by one million dollars again raised the issue of establishing the traffic court at the South County Center. This would significantly lower the overall county traffic court costs. The committee voted to have this included in the MVCCA budget resolution.

The committee then reviewed the lack of funding for salary supplements for state employees whose services are provided solely to the county. These include the magistrates, public defenders, and the District 29 parole and probation officers. It was decided to again ask the BOS to include a supplement for them.

Overall, the committee was pleased with the County Executive's proposed budget plan.

The loss of state funding (\$209,000) in June 2003 for the Detox Diversion Program was reviewed. This grant funded program had a main focus of reducing the drunk in public (DIP) arrests in the county. Persons stopped for being DIP were given the option of getting substance abuse or mental health services with no record of arrest or to be incarcerated. Many opted for the services which helped them overcome their substance abuse. Without this option, DIPs are incarcerated with an arrest record and little in the way services. There is work going on in the county to restore this program using county funds. We will monitor its progress.

The chair provided a short report on the Fairfax County Gang Prevention Summit held on February 25 at the Fairfax County Government Center. The final report should be ready in June 2005 and will be the subject of a committee meeting.

The chair reported that the Fairfax Joint Local Emergency Planning Committee's (FJLEPC) video entitled 'Shelter in Place' has been reconstructed and will start being shown on Channel 16 in early March.

THE COMMITTEE reports

The Public Safety Committee's next meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, April 7, in Community Room #3, Mount Vernon Governmental Center. Our speaker will be Capt. Mike Kline, the new Commander, Mount Vernon Police Station.

TRANSPORTATION

The MVCCA Transportation Committee met on March 7, 2005 in the Media Center of the Walt Whitman Middle School. Attending were: Errol Bergsagel, Co-Chair MVCCA; Earl Flanagan, Mount Vernon District Transportation Commissioner, representatives of 18 active MVCCA member organization and of 3 suspended member organizations: (Belle Haven Terrace, Berkshire, Collingwood Springs, Fair Haven, Gum Springs, Hollin Hall, Huntington, Milway Meadows, Montebello, Mount Vernon Manor, Mount Zephyr, Potomac Valley-Riverbend, Southwood, Spring Bank, Stratford Landing, Tauxemont, Waynewood, Wellington, Wessynton, Westgrove, Williamsburg Manor) and 2 citizens.

Mr. Nick Nicholson, Project Manager, Woodrow Wilson Bridge Project, assisted by Mr. Alexander Lee, Assistant Project Coordinator, briefed the committee on the status and direction of the replacement bridge. The project is currently 1/3 complete, on time and on budget. The Washington Street overpass will be completed within the next 30 days and 4 lane traffic will become permanent once more. This Fall, the Church Street ramp will be closed and will remain closed for the next 18 months. Traffic crossing the bridge and heading for the GW Memorial Parkway will have to exit at Route #1 North and turn right on Franklin Street to reach the Parkway. In the Fall, a traffic light will be erected on Route #1 which will control access from Beltway exit ramps. The ramp traffic from Route #1 has already been slowed and it sometimes maybe advantageous to access the Beltway via the Telegraph Road ramps. Although the ramp access is slowed, the traffic on the Beltway should now flow better. The Committee should be prepared to provide feed-back as new configurations are implemented.

Mr. Conrad Mehan President of EnviroSolutions, the new owner for the Lorton Debris Landfill, briefed the Committee on his operations. The site accepts only construction and demolition waste; other type of debris is routed to the nearby County Incinerator. Reports from the site have indicated that the new owner has turned the operation 180 degrees towards improvements; he stays in touch with his neighborhood, is sensitive to public requests and has improved much of the prior unsafe traffic patterns. The deadman's curve on Lorton Road is in process of being improved in consonance with this Committee's resolution. A new resolution for further longer-term/permanent improvements on Lorton Road will be considered in the near future.

Ms. Sheri Hoy, of the legal firm McGuire Woods, along with 5 other consultants came from the Planning and Zoning Committee meeting to brief this committee on their East Boulevard Drive project, on the East side of the GW Memorial Parkway. It is a relatively small project, with only large, single family homes to be constructed on four fair sized lots and should cause no traffic impact on the Parkway. In view of concerns by the National Park Service, no sidewalks are envisioned within the scope of this project.

Mr. Earl Flanagan provided a briefing on the current effort to review and provide input for changes on the Fairfax County Comprehensive

Plan. The plan requires input every 4 or 5 years. The Transportation Committee developed a prioritized listing of desired changes in 1992 and this listing needs to be updated; however many of the listed projects remain current. Some desired changes were achieved by this Committee in the past. The Committee insisted that plans for a four-lane road on Sherwood Hall Lane, Fort Hunt Road and Route #235 (from the Mount Vernon Circle to Route #1) be scrapped. This year the process has been divided into two parts, North County and South County nominations. There is some political disagreement how changes will be integrated, but probably the Supervisor will again form a Task Force to review recommendations and set priorities. Nominations are due by the end of the Summer. A Transportation sub-committee was formed with Frank Cihak, Carson Carlisle and Neal McBride. Their first task will be to review the 1992 listing and discern the new reference pages in the current Plan. All committee members were asked to annotate the distributed A-Pages of the 1992 list showing which projects remain of interest to each respective civic associatio. Since about 20 associations within the Committee were not represented in the March meeting, Earl Flanagan will distribute the 1992 list again, this time by e-mail towards the end of March; all Committee members desiring input need to annotate that list and bring it to the April meeting or mail it in advance of the meeting to the Chair if they cannot attend the April meeting (F.Cohn, 8809 Gateshead Rd, Alexandria, VA 22309).

In updates, the Committee was advised that Steve Ditmeyer will be our representative on the Morningside Drive Task Force. Also, the Lee District Supervisor indicated that the Lockheed Connector will never happen in view of environmental concerns. The turning lane at the Route #1 Post Office is still being planned.

Towards the end of the meeting, The Committee received an abbreviated briefing from Mr. Russell S. Rosenberger on the Madison Homes project on the North side of Huntington Ave, off the West side of Route #1 and behind the Riverside Towers condominiums and bordering to the North against Hunting Creek Road. Since the Huntington Community did not want an intermingling of traffic, there will be no opportunity for the new development to access a traffic light for turns into Huntington Avenue. Currently there are three exits planned to access Huntington Avenue. Only right in and right out will be mandated for the center exit, however the plan envisions left turns as permissible when exiting from both flanks. Committee members cautioned about a left turn from the northern most exit since it would interfere with traffic turning from the development on the other side of Huntington with site distances impaired by the contours. It was suggested that a left turn be only permitted for traffic exiting on Old Cameron. Since the briefing was truncated and there were added traffic concerns, Mr. Rosenberger indicated that he will return and continue at our April meeting.

Administratively, Committee members were apprised that some associations had not yet paid their dues and thus their eligibility to vote was adversely affected. Also, a large group of permanent Committee members were not listed as the Transportation Committee representative by their respective President and thus were not reflected on the Transportation Committee Roster furnished by the Co-Chairs. The next meeting will be at 8 PM, April 4, 2005 in the Media Center of the Walt Whitman Middle School.

THE COMMITTEE resolutions

Resolution on the Fairfax County FY 2006 Budget, As Advertised

WHEREAS, the overall economy of Fairfax County is improving this year as job growth remains strong, demand for housing and other county services continues to climb; and

WHEREAS, while the overall Fairfax County Public School (FCPS) student population has remained stable, the percentage of students from economically disadvantaged households, with limited English skills, and with other special needs continues to increase; and whereas, teacher compensation must be maintained at appropriate, competitive levels for the region; and

WHEREAS, Fairfax County spent approximately \$395.3 million to comply with unfunded federal mandates in FY 2004, leaving the taxpayer with a bill roughly equivalent to 22 cents of the property tax assessment rate; and

WHEREAS, housing costs in Fairfax County have increased on average over 100% since 2000 adversely affecting taxpayers with lower disposable income and making it difficult for segments of our community to find affordable housing; and

WHEREAS, Fairfax County has provided supplemental pay to offset the high cost of living in Northern Virginia to recruit and retain commonwealth attorneys who are state employees, the County has not done so for other state employees who provide vital services solely within the County, specifically the public defenders, magistrates, and District 29 parole and probation officers, resulting in significant problems in recruiting and retention as trained personnel move to other jurisdictions and agencies that provide supplemental or higher pay; and

WHEREAS, the uniformed Police Citizens Aides (PCA) (formerly Police Communications Assistants) who provide vital support duties at police stations freeing sworn officers for other duties, are not included in the 4% salary adjustment as they should be, particularly in view of the low salaries they have in the only two salary P-plan pay grade levels for which they are eligible; and

WHEREAS, the proposed budget contains an increase of one million dollars to support court time for police officers, if the BOS had implemented MVCCA resolutions passed three years ago concerning establishing a traffic court at the Fairfax County South County Center to handle Mount Vernon and Franconia Police Station traffic cases, the costs for overtime and cruiser usage, as well as the lost time in station duties for all police station officers would have been significantly reduced by now; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Mount Vernon Council of Civic Associations (MVCCA) commends the County Executive for its efforts in formulating the FY 2006 budget on behalf of all of our citizens and strongly urges the Board of Supervisors to implement the FY 2006 Advertised Budget Plan in addition to the requests in the resolutions provided herein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, MVCCA commends the Fairfax County School Board for its outstanding coordination with the County Executive to formulate its budget and we fully endorse the transfer to the Fairfax County Public School budget increase of 8.24%, as recommended by the County Executive.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, MVCCA supports the Board of Supervisor's' one-cent initiative to support affordable housing while maintaining the County Executive's advertise 10-cent reduction in the real estate tax rate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, MVCCA urges the County Executive to evaluate the burden on counties of unfunded mandates and that the BOS shall consider a reduction in the real estate tax assessment rate as the Federal Government provides any additional funding absorbing current Fairfax County liabilities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, MVCCA urges the BOS to reduce the residential real estate tax rate further than the proposed 10-cent reduction contained in the FY 2006 Advertised Budget and, if higher, than estimated revenues occur from any source, they will be used to reduce the real estate tax rate. However, MVCCA suggests that no further reduction in the tax rate be taken unless it can be accomplished within the funding parameters of the Advertised Budget including the recommendations herein.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, MVCCA requests that the BOS establish within the FY 2006 budget a six hundred thousand dollar fund to supplement the salaries of state employees serving Fairfax County, specifically the public defenders, magistrates, and District 29 parole and probation officers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the PCA's be included in the proposed 4% salary adjustment (estimated total of \$60,000) for uniformed Police in the FY 2006 budget; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, to begin reducing the climbing costs of lost time and overtime for police officers and of related cruiser operation time, the BOS direct the County Executive to develop and provide a plan for establishing a traffic court at the Fairfax County South County Center; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, MVCCA strongly urges the Board of Supervisors to increase funding of the reserve fund for periods when our economy may not be as robust.

EDUCATION RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Fairfax County School Board (School Board) has approved a School Budget for Fiscal Year 2006 (School Budget) which, for full funding, and after reductions made by the School Board, requires a 9.2% increase in fund transfer, and the Fairfax County FY 2006 Advertised Budget Plan (Advertised Budget), presented to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS) on February 28, 2005, proposes a fund transfer increase of 8.24% (Proposed School Increase) which would underfund the School Budget by approximately \$12 million (Budget Difference); and

WHEREAS, the FY2006 budget process has seen a welcome increase in cooperation and information exchange among the School Board, the BOS and Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) staff, and the Budget Difference is the smallest experienced in a number of years, and may be further reduced by approximately \$6 million in proposed additional state funding; and

WHEREAS, the Advertised Budget also, for the first time in many years, recommends a Proposed School Increase that is less than the stated percentage growth in County revenue (8.9%), thereby resulting in a decline in the percentage of the Advertised Budget which represents the school funding transfer; and

WHEREAS, much of the increase in the School Budget continues to be driven by increasing expenses which bear little relationship to changes in overall revenue, the cost of living or inflation indices and are largely outside the control of FCPS including (1) the continued growth in the percentage of students requiring additional staffing and services (non-English speaking, learning disabled and/or economically disadvantaged) where the cost to educate averages at least \$3000 to \$7000 more per capita than other students, (2) increased Virginia Retirement System contributions as mandated by the Commonwealth and (3) increased general insurance and health insurance costs as are being experienced nation-wide by both public and private employers; and

WHEREAS, operating costs in FCPS are extremely labor intensive, with the result that compensation to employees (most of whom are school-based instructional personnel) represents about 85% of the School Budget; and

WHEREAS, the compensation increases proposed in the School Budget, which also reflect escalating retirement mandates and insurance costs discussed, are approximately the same as applied since 2001 and the proposed 3% Market Scale Adjustment or MSA (essentially cost-of-living or COLA) above compare favorably to the 3.07% MSA proposed by the County for eligible County employees, and to the current 3.4% federal COLA, as well as to salary increases proposed in competing jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, the compensation proposed would at best prevent further erosion of FCPS's midrange salary ranking among local school systems as reflected in the annual reporting of the Washington Area Boards of Education (WABE Report) and is essential to protecting FCPS' most important asset—a highly qualified, professional instructional staff; and

WHEREAS, the School Budget maintains the FCPS's per capita student cost in the mid-range of local jurisdictions (indeed, the FY2006 proposed is less than the FY2005 per student cost in Arlington, Alexandria, Falls Church and Montgomery County, according to the WABE Report) despite significant increases in populations which have higher educational costs such as non-English speaking, learning disabled and economically disadvantaged students, and continues to reduce both the ratio of non-school-based to school-based personnel and the percentage of administrative costs; and

WHEREAS, the School Budget and the taxpayers of Fairfax County continue to be affected by underfunded mandates of the federal government [among them the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLBA), and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)] in that the cost of implementation far exceeds the assistance provided; and

THE COMMITTEE resolutions

WHEREAS, the School Budget and the taxpayers of Fairfax County continue to be affected by the failure of the Commonwealth of Virginia to provide and fairly distribute adequate funding of its own Standards of Quality (SOQ) mandates, with the result that FCPS receives state funding for only 20% of its needs (compared with a 41% statewide average) and County taxpayers provide about 75% of school funding (compared with a local funding average of less than 50% statewide); and

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

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

WHEREAS, schools in the area represented by the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations are among those most heavily affected by the growth in population of students who require additional services and staffing consideration, have benefited from increased resources as demonstrated by significant progress in achieving mandated benchmarks, and will require continued additional targeted resources if progress is to continue

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations, in consideration of all of the above, urges the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors in adopting a Budget for FY 2006 to transfer to Fairfax County Public Schools an amount no less than that contained in the Fairfax County FY2006 Advertised Budget Plan, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations respectfully requests that the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors consider additional transfers to Fairfax County Public Schools, particularly for non-recurring expenses such as computer and bus purchases, should revenue growth and competing considerations permit during the course of FY2006.

PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR FAIRFAX COUNTY AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND

WHEREAS, a healthy housing mix, affordable to adults who work in our communities in a broad range of services, is essential to the well-being of families and neighborhoods in Fairfax County; and whereas a well-documented gap exists between median county wages and market prices for residential property of any kind; and whereas this gap has widened since 2000, resulting in growing numbers of both single adults and families who work in the area but cannot obtain adequate shelter even at more than 1/3 their annual wages (whether in rent or in mortgage payment);

WHEREAS, local human service agencies find that the number of working families at risk for homelessness is growing, federal subsidy through voucher programs and community block grants is declining, and combined county and charitable human services resources required to prevent eviction and stabilize families are already overstretched;

WHEREAS, the Affordable Housing Preservation Action Committee recently urged the Board of Supervisors to make affordable housing policy a priority, directed attention to the "extraordinary rate at which the County is losing its precious supply of affordable housing," and recommended strategies for immediate action, especially creation of a dedicated stream of funding—"one penny of the real estate tax rate"—to begin in FY2006, for "the preservation of affordable housing" (with the goal of preserving 1000 units by 2007);

WHEREAS, Fairfax County has lost many more than 1000 affordable rental units in recent years and is urged to add 10,000 affordable units by 2010;

WHEREAS, the need is urgent both to preserve affordable units wherever feasible and also to provide effective incentives and guidelines to develop an appropriate range of housing countywide—near transportation and workplaces, available through rental as well as ownership—in harmony with transportation, environmental imperatives, schools, commercial zoning, and all considerations that must be carefully integrated in a revised Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations urges the Board of Supervisors to dedicate two cents of the residential real estate tax rate, in FY2006, to an Affordable Housing Trust Fund for Fairfax County—with one cent targeted toward preservation and one cent to stimulate development.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES PLANNING FOR FY2006

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, reduction of cost-effective model programs for crisis prevention has been one unintended outcome of repeated, disproportionate reductions in public funding for health and human services (the result, especially since 2001, of combined federal, state, and county actions);

WHEREAS, the County's Advertised Budget Plan for FY2006 represents a balance among multiple service needs, sustaining essential county operations at a cost increase of 6.93% overall—including increased transfers to schools (+8.24%), Community Services Board (+10.9%), and Consolidated Community Funding Pool (+4.6%)—while sustaining other health and human services (less than 3% increase) without making reductions classified as "damaging" by the citizen advisory Human Services Council;

WHEREAS, The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations gives its strong support to the availability of high quality health and human services countywide, delivered in the community and among the people most in need of services, and whereas MVCCA recognizes crisis prevention and early intervention in particular as among our most cost-effective program strategies;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations supports approval by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors of the Advertised Budget Plan for FY2006, in the expectation that the Plan can accommodate these recommendations for Board action:

THE COMMITTEE resolutions

(1) *Take no actions that may reduce the County's (projected) revenue below what may be required in the General Fund to deliver quality services countywide and respond to community crises;*

(2) *Dedicate two cents from the real estate tax rate to an Affordable Housing Trust Fund that can partner with other resources to preserve and expand the housing choices appropriate for the needs of a wide range of persons with very low to low-moderate incomes—such as families and single adults in the workforce, as well as frail elderly persons and those with severe disabilities;*

(3) *Reserve some funds (available mid-cycle) 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 those severely mentally ill, displacement of working families from affordable housing, or service disruption from federal de-funding of community block grants; and finally*

(4) *Recognize that residential property tax relief, in a time of escalating assessments, may need to be restructured and targeted, more equitably, among homeowners who are below the area's median income (regardless of whether their income source is earnings, pension, or return on investments).*

RESOLUTION ON WAIVER REQUESTS 4711-WPSF-1 AND 4711-WPSF-2 VAN METRE HOMES ON EAST BOULEVARD

WHEREAS, Van Metre Homes desires to divide lots 102-2-((1))-22C and -102-2-((1))-22D on East Boulevard to construct 4 homes with an average lot size of 2.5 acres, and

WHEREAS, East Boulevard is maintained by the National Park Service (NPS) and not by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and treated by the county regulations as a private road, and

WHEREAS, county development regulations require that access be to a VDOT maintained road, and

WHEREAS, the granting of a waiver from the regulation is the only way this by-right project can be built, and

WHEREAS, over 40 percent of the development is not affected by construction and will be protected by conservation easements, scenic easements, and storm water easements, and

WHEREAS, the easements are required by, and have been approved by, the NPS,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations does not oppose waiver requests 4711-WPSF-1 and 4711-WPSF-2 for the development project, as presented.

RESOLUTION ON PCA 1999-MV-025 AND SEA 99-MV-020 MINNIELAND PRIVATE DAY SCHOOL AT LORTON STATION SHOPPING CENTER

WHEREAS, Minnieland Private Day Care School wished to establish a child care facility at the Lorton Station Shopping Center currently under construction, and

WHEREAS, proffers for the Lorton Station Shopping Center included a specific list of permitted uses, and that list does not include child care, and

WHEREAS, the Partial PCA will add the text "child care center" to the list and the Partial SEA will permit the actual use as a child care center,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, The Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations does not oppose PCA 1999-MV-025 and SEA 99-V-020 to allow Minnieland Private Day Care School to open a child care facility at Lorton Station Shopping Center.

RESOLUTION RZ/FDP 2004-LE-021 - MOUNT VERNON GATEWAY

WHEREAS, the properties being consolidated in the area bounded by Richmond Highway, Buckman Road, and Janna Lee Avenue are surrounded by much higher density residential or commercial development, and

WHEREAS, these residential properties have been the targets of extensive and repeated property crimes, and

WHEREAS, the project would create a safe gated community surrounded by a metal wrought iron style fence with controlled entry, and

WHEREAS, the community would have a mix of residential options including mid-rise condominium, low-rise condominium, and townhouses, and

WHEREAS, the development includes about 70 units for "senior living" and about 27 units designated as affordable dwelling units, and

WHEREAS, adequate parking for the residents will be provided including underground parking garages, and

WHEREAS, the project will include desirable amenities for the residents including a swimming pool, active and passive recreation areas, a business center, shuttle vans to the Huntington Metro station, walking paths, and esthetic enhancements, and

WHEREAS, environmentally friendly low-impact features will be built, including porous concrete roads and paths, and scattered small storm water retention basins, and

WHEREAS, substantial improvements to the intersections of Richmond Highway with both Buckman Road and Janna Lee Avenue will help traffic flow along Richmond Highway, and

WHEREAS, the project includes a public access retail & office building of approximately 66,000 square feet with underground parking,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations does not oppose RZ/FDP 2004-LE-021 for the Mount Vernon Gateway development project, as presented.

Note from the Chair: This resolution was originally passed by the Committee at the January 2005 meeting. However, there were outstanding concerns about the lack of inclusion of the trail planned for Cameron Run, the desire to have vegetation under the beltway ramps, and assurances that the land under the ramps would not, in the future, be reverted to parking spaces. After negotiation with Jane Kelsey representing Ourisman Dodge, county staff, and VDOT, these issues have been resolved.

RESOLUTION ON SEA 87-V-106 (OURISMAN DODGE)

WHEREAS, Ourisman Dodge has lost parking spaces due to VDOT easements for the new Richmond Highway - I495 interchange, and

WHEREAS, SEA 87-V-106 would allow Ourisman Dodge to build a four story parking garage to replace the lost parking spaces, and

WHEREAS, the parking garage would be primarily for vehicles in inventory, under repair, or for staff parking, and

WHEREAS, the construction of the parking garage will result in a net reduction of impermeable surface, and

WHEREAS, Ourisman Dodge will modify the SE plat to indicate a paved trail along Cameron Run; the trail may be in the VDOT easement, and

WHEREAS, Ourisman Dodge will work with VDOT and the county staff to plant the land lost to the easement with vegetation that will help protect Cameron Run, control erosion, and will be expected to survive in that location, and

WHEREAS, the SE plat will not show any parking spaces or development in the land lost due to the easement except for the trail and a turn-around for off-loading trucks,

WHEREAS, be it resolved, that the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations does not oppose SEA 87-V-106 as presented

MOUNT VERNON COUNCIL OF CITIZENS' ASSOCIATIONS Treasurer's Report

For period from January 1, 2005 through March 10, 2005

	Budget 2005	Actual to Date	Budget to Actual (to date)
Balance Beginning Period		\$2,868.84	
RECEIPTS			
Dues	\$4,653.00	\$3,708.00	-\$945.00
Record Subscriptions	\$480.00	\$345.00	-\$135.00
Gala Income	\$3,475.00	\$0.00	-\$3,475.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$8,608.00	\$4,053.00	-\$4,555.00
DISBURSEMENTS			
Record Expenses	\$4,508.00	\$944.60	\$3,563.40
Administrative	\$389.00	\$307.61	\$81.39
Gala	\$2,743.00	\$0.00	\$2,743.00
Web Site	\$690.00	\$270.00	\$420.00
Record Postage	\$400.00	\$100.00	\$300.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$8,805.00	\$1,622.21	\$7,182.79
Balance Ending Period 3/10/05		\$5,299.63	

COMMITTEE CALENDAR FOR MARCH 2005

MVCCA Board-MVGC-SUPV Thurs, March 10, 8:00 pm

Date/Day/Time	Comm.	Place	Chair	Phone
4/5 T 7:30	H/HS	IMVH-C	Louise Cleveland	703.780.9151
4/27 W 8:00	COAF	WWMS-LH	Queenie Cox	703.360.2414
4/6 W 7:30	BUDG	WWMS MC	George Bauer	703.768.1774
4/6 W 7:30	ENVR	MVHSE114	Jim Davis	703.799.3278
4/6 W 8:00	EDUC	WWMS L	Judy Harbeck	703.780.1883
4/7 Th 7:30	PSAF	MVGC	Dallas Shawkey	703.360.2185
4/4 M 8:00	TRANS	WWMS MC	Frank Cohn	703.780.5698
4/4 M 7:30	PL/Z	WWMS LH	David Dale	703.765.8247

*The **Record** (USPS 702-510, ISSN 1055-5986) is published monthly except August for \$15.00 per year by the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations, P.O. Box 203, Mount Vernon, VA 22121-0203. Periodicals postage is paid at Mount Vernon, Virginia.*

*POSTMASTER: Send address changes for the **Record** to P.O. Box 203, Mount Vernon, Virginia 22121-0203.*



Record

PO BOX 203
Mount Vernon, VA 22121-0203
www.mvcca.org

Periodicals Postage
Paid at
Alexandria, Virginia