



Mount Vernon
Council
of Citizens'
Associations

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Record

By Subscription \$15.00 Per Year

Volume XXXVIII, No.10, NOV 2006

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21 2006 8 PM (Please note date change)

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	Al Bornmann703.360.5964
	Robert Reynolds703.772.8708
	Mack Rhoades703.329.9120
Treasurer	Phyllis Evans703.960.2140
Secretary	Carol Coyle703.780.7955
Editor	Dave Bolte703.781.0443
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	David Dale703.765.8247
PSAF	Dallas Shawkey703.360.2185
TRANS	Frank Cohn703.780.5698
FCFCA	Judy Harbeck703.780.1883
SCAWH	Jerry Ireland703.768.6923

PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, October 25th 2006 8 pm

Walt Whitman Middle School Jack Knowles Lecture Hall

MINUTES

ATTENDING: Co-chairs Reynolds, Rhoades; Secretary Coyle; Record Editor Bolte; Committee Chairs Bauer, Cleveland, Cohn, Cox, Dale, Davis, Harbeck, Shawkey, and (SCAWH) Ireland; MV Rep to FCFCA Harbeck; Representatives from Belle Haven Terrace, Collingwood, Collingwood Springs, Crosse Pointe, Hollin Hall, Huntington, Hybla Valley Farms, Montebello, MV Civic, MV Manor, MV Mobile Homes, MV on the Potomac, Mount Zephyr, New Gum Springs, Newington, Newington Forest, Potomac Valley-Riverbend, River Towers, Riverside Estates, Riverside Gardens, Spring Bank, Sulgrave Manor, Voice at Kings Crossing, Waynewood, Wellington, Williamsburg Manor, Williamsburg Manor North.

RECORD EDITOR'S REPORT: Mary Richards is appointed Editor of the Record, to begin in November.

Announcements

2007 MVCCA Nominees

Co-Chair nominees (in alphabetical order):

Dan Fisher-Burrier

Bob Reynolds (current Co-Chair)

Dan Rinzel

Tim Sargeant

Secretary nominee: Carol Coyle

Treasurer nominee: Jerry Musarra

For more information about the 2007 MVCCA Nominees, please see the Nominating Committee's report, which appears elsewhere in the Record.

Guest speaker for the November 21st Council meeting will be Mr. Steve Sinclair, Fairfax County Utility Analyst, Department of Cable Communications and Consumer Protection, speaking on electric power purchase.

Note changes in Council meeting dates: Tuesday, November 21st, before Thanksgiving and Wednesday, December 20, before the Christmas holidays, both in the usual place and hour.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Approved

MINUTES: Minutes for Sept. 27 were unavailable in October; they are to be printed in the November RECORD for approval in the November Council meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

The chairs supplemented Record Reports and responded to questions, as follows.

Budget and Finance: Nov. meeting will include a mid-year update on Fairfax County Government Revenue and Expenditures.

Consumer Affairs: In place of a meeting, the Committee will provide a guest speaker for the November Council: Steve Sinclair, utility analyst for Fairfax County. NB: The regulation cap for power comes off in 2009.

Education: Mr. Binggeli is the new Cluster IV superintendent. A BRAC person will be involved in discussions on how BRAC will impact school enrollments. However, the consultants' recommendations do not include BRAC. ("So the report is useless." — Gerry Hyland). Discussion followed, on need to get a handle on how many people will be moving into the area. The Army has been asked for projected numbers, preferably broken down by specific offices. Nov. meeting has speakers on Jr-Sr High School literacy.

Environment: Jim met with the Air Quality Council. Mount Vernon area still has the worst air quality in the area according to their monitors. Discussion followed on non-compliance with federal air quality regulations, higher incidence of lung and coronary diseases. We are ringed by a number of coal-fired power plants that trade off and so don't have to cut their emissions; particulate matter comes from coal-burning plants as far away as NC and southeastern OH. There are minimal plans for better control of air quality as development continues to expand. The metropolitan area is 22nd in the nation; is the MV area worse than the rest of the metro area?

Gerry Hyland commented: This is a major issue for the metropolitan area. COG is required to adopt measures to bring us into compliance; we become an attainment area. Fairfax County has 5% set aside, using natural gas in buses and other vehicles. Tim Sargeant noted that several MD counties purchase wind power.

Health and Human Services: The chair clarified Record on Nov. meeting time and place, when Inova Mount Vernon Hospital CEO Barbara Doyle is guest resource. HHS committee supports unanimously the Resolution, "Restoring State Funds for Child Care Assistance and Referral." Restoration deserves strong support from nonpartisan civic organizations such as MVCCA, to direct attention now during the Governor's mid-year budget review and preparation of the next budget. The public mental health system, amid symptoms of serious strains, is subject to both state-level review of state legislation and county-appointed "blue ribbon panel" review of our Community Services Board, with recommendations anticipated for FY2009; the HHS chair welcomes comments on MH issues that can benefit from more immediate attention.

Planning and Zoning: Minutes and 4 resolutions are in the Record.

Public Safety: Speaker at next meeting will be Greg Bender.

Transportation: RE: Walgreen development, issues are still the drive-up window and the impact of traffic on the surrounding neighborhoods. The committee put no resolution in the Record.

Since Gum Springs still has issues with the drive-thru, Queenie Cox intends to introduce a resolution, based on compliance with the comprehensive plan, to support the project but oppose the drive-thru feature. Traffic-calming speed tables will be installed on streets that connect Sherwood Hall Lane and Boswell. Discussion: Once the project is approved, the County can initiate blocking of the service road (police can do this on a temporary basis), proceed with marking lanes on Boswell. A "Porkchop" would prevent left turns into or out of the property from Boswell. Will a drive-thru encourage more idling traffic? (Frank noted that this is the first time such concern has arisen.) Mention was made that bank drive-ups are much busier than a pharmacy one will be. In answer to a suggestion of postponing a decision, Sherry Hoy from the Walgreen developer noted that the application has been in process for over a year. The owner of Daks has said they can't move until this is resolved, which has his 75 employees in limbo. Presiding co-chair Reynolds promised the issue would be decided later in the meeting, by taking up Gum Springs' resolution during member time. (See below.)

Special Committee on Affordable and Workforce Housing:

Minutes and Resolution are in the Record.

FCFCA REPORT: There will be a debate on the pros/cons of the marriage amendment Oct. 29. It was noted that Virginia Constitution already defines a marriage couple as one man, one woman.

RESOLUTIONS

Actions on Resolutions published in the Oct. Record were taken:

Bank of America, PCA 2000-MV-025-02: approved 25-0-0

Ryan Homes at Sky View, PCA 2000-MV-051: Passed 25-0-0

Vulcan Materials Special Permit (5-year) Renewal: approved 21-1-3

Discussion noted that concerns re: blasting are the same as mentioned 20 years ago when the Southpointe homes were built, Vulcan has been a good neighbor to date, and their

seismometer readings are well under government standards. They plan to relocate truck traffic down route 123. *Mount Vernon*

Gateway Assessments and Zoning: approved 18-3-3

Although on the west side of Route 1 in Lee District, this project has high impact on Mount Vernon District. Higher density was approved for a particular project, which is now abandoned, resulting in high assessments to homeowners. The resolution asks the county "to not alter the assessments without also returning the properties to the original lower density," or, in lieu of that, to direct planning staff to strictly enforce all (previously proffered) conditions and allow no waivers.

Restoring State Funds for Child Care Assistance and Referral (CCAR): approved, 25-0-0

Amendment to definition of "Affordable Housing" and "Workforce Housing": Approved, 24-0-0

OLD BUSINESS

Nominating Committee Report: Queenie Cox, chair, reported that the committee had met and that the slate of nominations will be published in the November RECORD. (The committee members named in September are Cox, Bob Coyle, Earl Flanagan, Jerry Ireland, and Scott Taylor.)

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By-Laws: The chair announced that this item, inadvertently omitted from the agenda, was not ready to be discussed.

NEW BUSINESS/MEMBER REPS TIME

Neil McBride (Newington) praised the first annual Cold War Remembrance. Students at South County HS did a good job of interviewing people and would welcome more people to interview.

Coast Guard training on pollution will take place November 4: Contact Catherine Thorsen, 703-660-6220.

David Dale (Springbank) reminded us that John Byers is retiring as MV rep to the county Planning and Zoning Commission: if interested, applications go to Brett in the Supervisor's office.

Queenie Cox (New Gum Springs) requested the Council consider a resolution (available in printed copies) that would support the Walgreen development in general but oppose the drive-thru. BOS hearing on this matter is November 20 and MVCCA does not meet until November 21; therefore, Gum Springs asked that the Council consider this resolution "as a matter of urgency," without its being published in the Record prior to the meeting. The chair then called for a vote to suspend the rules, which was defeated, 8-10-6. The New Gum Springs request was not considered or voted upon.

Hybla Valley Farms' representative reported that late in the evening someone placed a ladder up against the house under her 5-year-old daughter's window. The intruder was scared off before he could break into the house. A warning message is on e-mail message boards in nearby neighborhoods.

George Bauer reminded all of the benefit Golf Tournament scheduled October 30.

SUPERVISOR'S TIME

Gerry reports he feels like he's been "BRACensized."

November 6 is cut-off for applications for appointment to the County Planning Commission, with Public Hearing to be held November 10 and, if needed, the following week. Absentee voting applications are at the Governmental Center through November 4. The Mount Vernon Town Meeting will be held on January 23 (Super Bowl Saturday).

A report on the flooding in Huntington is drafted. It is a whitewash or, more appropriately, a "wet wash." Blame is being placed on apartment developments alongside Cameron Run.

Kings Crossing development is on the back burner.

Carol Coyle, Secretary

[September Council Minutes, unavailable in October, are being offered for approval in the November meeting.]

SEPTEMBER COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, September 27, 2006 8 p.m.

Walt Whitman School, Jack Knowles Lecture Hall

PRESIDING: Co-chair Rhoades

ATTENDING: Co-chairs Bornmann, Reynolds, Rhoades; Secretary Coyle; RECORD Editor Bolte; Committee Chairs Bauer, Cox, Harbeck, Davis, Cleveland, Dale, Shawkey; Special Committee Chair Ireland; MV Rep to FCFCA Harbeck; Representatives from Belle Haven Terrace, Collingwood, Collingwood Springs, CrossPointe, Hollin Hall, Huntington, Marlan Forest, Montebello, MV Manor, MV on the Potomac, Mount Zephyr, New Gum Springs, Newington Forest, Olde Belhaven Town, Potomac Valley-Riverbend, River Towers, Riverside Estates, Riverside Gardens, Spring Bank, Sulgrave, Kings Crossing, Waynewood, Wellington, Williamsburg Manor North.

Also in attendance: Bruce Clubb with Boy Scout Troop 1509, working on the Communications Badge.

MINUTES (July 27 Council meeting), **TREASURER'S REPORT:** Approved as published.

SUPERVISOR'S TIME

(This agenda item was moved forward by consent.)

Gerry Hyland announced that John Byers is stepping down as MV Representative on the County Planning Board; a committee will be appointed to interview applicants to replace him. Marcia Hansen also is retiring from his office staff, and Tom Howard has been appointed to that position.

There are two communities that oppose the Walgreen drive-thru; a meeting has been set with representatives from these communities and from Walgreen.

Several Fort Belvoir gates are to be closed. The one most directly affecting MV residents is Woodlawn Road, which has been the most direct access to the Commissary and PX.

Assessments in the County are flat, and some are down, which will impact the funding of government services. BOS approved \$5 million for increased insurances; \$8 million for schools to fund 'no child left behind'; \$ 0.5 million for a review of mental health facilities; \$50,000 for Police and Fire Olympics, which will bring tourists to the area. However \$75,000 for a law library accessible to the community was not approved.

Army Corps of Engineers is conducting a \$1 million study of causes and solutions to the flooding of Cameron Run. There is an additional 2 feet of silt in Cameron Run; dredging is needed now at a cost of about \$8 million, which would be shared by Federal, Commonwealth, and Alexandria City governments.

Plans are on track to make restrooms at Metro stations accessible to the public.

Six of the Northern Virginia representatives in Richmond voted against transportation funding for this area.

Re Affordable Housing: the Task Force on the Comprehensive Plan voted to keep North Hill as a park; however, RHA can build

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housing there by right. Some part of the site could be developed as housing, perhaps manufactured housing, without compromising use as park. A study of feasibility is in the works. [Also, the Building Museum has a display of manufactured housing Hyland would like representatives from Council to see; he will notify when a time to view it is available.]

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Committee chairs (or designated alternate) supplemented or updated Reports in the September RECORD, as summarized.

Budget and Finance: Al Bornmann will chair the Oct. 4 meeting, when George Bauer will be away, to work on two BRAC resolutions plus one requesting a special tax on entertainment facilities. Bauer has prepared a presentation on history and trends of county real estate assessments and property taxation, including tables and charts for data since 1990, supplementing the RECORD report. He offered to present key points in any time remaining at the end of the meeting (see below).

Consumer Affairs: Correction: the October 3 meeting is at 7:30 p.m.

Education: FY2007 will see a shortfall in projected revenue, which will impact Education funding: Recall that the BOS was warned to keep tax rate higher. Congratulations to WPHS on having the highest increase statewide in SAT scores. At the next meeting, meet the Cluster Four Director.

Environment and Recreation: The committee heard a Lorton Construction Landfill proposal to reclaim a landfill and turn it into county park land (as reported in September RECORD).

Health and Human Services: Sarah Allen (guest speaker for the Sept. HHS meeting) is now appointed acting Region I Manager for Human Services, as Ken Disselkoen becomes acting director for the Dept. of Systems Management for Human Services. Inova Health System on 9/26 announced a new COO Mark S. Stauder, with impressive credentials; a pending merger with Prince William Hospital is on track; and Inova Mount Vernon Hospital plans a "30th Anniversary Fall Festival" on October 21.

Planning and Zoning: Wildwood Street application reported in RECORD has now been withdrawn, apparently because the market for houses of +\$1 million has gone soft.

Public Safety: see Sept. Record.

Transportation: Bill Dean (reporting for chair Frank Cohn) described the Quick-take Condemnation procedure as addressing need for more trails and sidewalks. Area Plans are being brought into alignment with County plans. County staff is working on revisions: contact person is Leonard Wolfenstein.

Affordable and Workforce Housing: A National Modular Housing Council representative is scheduled to speak to the General Council in October [date postponed].

FCFCA REPORT

The Federation of Citizens' Associations has finally passed a resolution on parking within neighborhoods and is interested in our resolutions re BRAC. A speaker on pandemic flu preparations said the County will send representatives to talk to citizens' associations. FCFCA continues to consider planning and zoning ordinance changes and a Resolution on PODS (now illegal). More neighborhood organizations should join the Federation, since the

MVCCA Rep serves on the Board but has no "member" vote. Members have a weighted vote based on number of households represented.

NEW BUSINESS

Nominating Committee for MVCCA Officers for 2007: This committee was constituted, as required in the by-laws, with appointment of 2 members announced by the co-chairs and 3 members nominated and elected by the General Council. Queenie Cox (New Gum Springs) and Bob Coyle (Waynewood) were appointed, with Cox designated as Chair. Scott Taylor (Belle Haven Terrace), Jerry Ireland (Kings Crossing), and Earl Flanagan (Riverside Estates) were nominated from the floor and approved: 20-0-0

By-Laws Revision: There was a motion to distribute a draft text of proposed revisions to the by-laws, for future consideration of the Council, via posting to the MVCCA web site (rather than snail mail), with e-mail notification. Approved 21-0-0.

RESOLUTIONS

Actions on the resolutions published in the Sept. RECORD were as follows:

BRAC Fort Belvoir Parking Plans, approved 19-0-2.

Quick Take Condemnation Action, amended and then not approved: 6-13-2.

Discussion centered around need for sidewalks, as a safety issue, versus protection for property owners afforded by 'slow-take.'

Surplus School Property, approved: 20-0-0.

Definition of Income Limits for Affordable and Workforce Housing, approved: 21-0-0

MEMBER REPRESENTATIVE'S TIME

Springbank's president noted that one-family houses there are becoming 2- and 3-family houses.

George Bauer (see Budget and Finance, above) gave an overview of his presentation.

The meeting adjourned shortly before the 10 pm curfew for vacating the facility.

Carol Coyle, Secretary

Nominating Committee Slate for 2007

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate for the voting membership to select officers for the 2007 meeting year:

Co-Chair nominees (listed in alphabetical order):

Dan Fisher-Burrier
Bob Reynolds (current co-Chair)
Dan Rinzel
Tim Sargent
Secretary nominee: Carol Coyle
Treasurer nominee: Jerry Musarra

Nominations from the floor will be accepted prior to voting. Member association representatives can vote for no more than three names on the ballot for co-Chairs and no more than one name for secretary and treasurer. Voting will be by secret ballot. Additional information will be provided prior to voting. The following bios are submitted in advance on the nominees for Co-Chair positions.

Daniel Fisher-Burrier

Resident 55 years
Educated United States, Europe
Atlanta: Two IOC committees
S. Fulton Commission
President So. Fulton Revitalization
Piedmont Park Advisory Board
Inter-Agency Council on Health
Mid-Town Business Association

Current:

American Cancer Society
President, Mt. Zephyr
Transportation Chair
Representative to Fairfax Federation
Park Partners;
Founder NAB for Gregory Dr facility
currently serve on 3 HOA Boards

Co-chairs bring order and structure to meetings while presiding in an unbiased and professional manner. Besides administrative duties they help grow the organization, assist member associations, promote openness and lobby to bring resolutions into fruition while fostering positive relationships. Reach out and build.

Tim Sargeant

Has held various civic leadership roles in Fairfax County during the past 15 years.
Chairman of the Laurel Hill Adaptive Reuse Citizens Task Force
Member of the Laurel Hill Project Advisory Committee
Co-chaired the 2005 Area Plans Review task force for the Mt. Vernon district
Served as a vice president of the Federation of Lorton Communities (now the South County Federation) and president of his homeowners association
Member of the board of directors of Celebrate Fairfax, Inc.
Member of the Fairfax County's Virginia 2007 Committee

Bob Reynolds

Current Co-Chair
Bio was not provided

Daniel F. Rinzel

Mount Vernon Civic Association - 19 year resident of the Mount Vernon District
Volunteer activities:
President, Mount Vernon Civic Association
Legal Counsel, Past President and Past Board Chairman
Mount Vernon-Lee Chamber of Commerce
Founding Chairman, Mount Vernon-Lee Education Foundation
Communications Committee, Good Shepherd Parish
Member, Mount Vernon Kiwanis

I view the role of the co-chairs as one of conducting meetings and the business of the Council in an efficient, orderly and fair manner with as much transparency as possible, involving as many Association members as possible. Lagging interest and participation is a problem which needs to be addressed if the Council is to maintain influence.

BUDGET AND FINANCE

The Budget & Finance Committee met on November 1st at 7:30 in the principal's conference room at Walt Whitman Middle School. Representatives from Hollin Hall, Hollin Hills, Mt. Vernon on the Potomac, Mount Zephyr Citizens' Assn, Potomac Valley/Riverbend, Williamsburg Manor North, Stratford Landing and Wessington Homes attended. Also attending were Barbara Emerson and Marcia Wilds from the Fairfax County Department of Management and Budget who gave us an update on Fairfax County's fiscal outlook.

Their presentation highlighted a number of important elements of the budget that the County has managed successfully over the years for our rapidly growing county. As pointed out in previous years, the number of County employees per 1,000 residents has declined from FY 1992 and has remained relatively level as shown in the table below:

County Positions per 1,000 Residents

FY92	FY02	FY03	FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07
13.57	11.45	11.40	11.25	11.19	11.18	11.20

In FY 2007, the adopted transfer for Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) was \$1.53 billion which was a 6.6% increase over FY 2006. This year the Board of Supervisor's (BOS) guidance to the FCPS is a 3.5% increase for FY 2008. The FY 2007 adopted transfer for school debt service is \$12.3 million.

Comprehensive Services Act, School-Age Child Care, Club 78 & Head Start	\$29.0 million
School Health (e.g., Public Health Nurses and Clinic Room Aides)	\$11.9 million
School Crossing Guards & School Resource Officers	\$8.0 million
Other	\$8.7 million

Additionally, the County provides a total of \$57.6 million in additional County support to FCPS as listed here: Looking forward, the BOS guidelines provide only for a 3.0% increase in the FY 2008 General Budget. This will include accounting for benefits provided to retired County employees per GASB 45. The BOS believes that FCPS should identify these liabilities and provide information in the FY 2008 budget as to how this will be addressed and over what time period.

The percentage of revenue of the Budget coming from real estate taxes continues to increase. Additionally, the percentage of the revenue from commercial properties has declined causing the tax burden to be shifted increasingly to the residents of the County. We have commented in the past that we felt that there was evidence that this trend would begin to reverse in FY 2008 and this is confirmed in the table second table below:

Real Estate as a Percentage of Total General Fund Revenues

FY00	FY05	FY07
50.2%	57.8%	58.9%

Commercial Percentage of Total Real Estate Assessment Base

FY90	FY96	FY01	FY02	FY03	FY04	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08 (est)
26.76%	19.04%	25.37%	24.84%	21.97%	19.14%	18.20%	17.36%	17.22%	17.90%

This trend is expected to continue to improve as residential values stabilize and nonresidential values increase moderately. Current total office space in Fairfax County is estimated at 104 million square feet and expected to increase at double digits rates.

The tax structure on communications has been significantly changed. The Telephone Utility Tax and Mobile Phone Tax has been repealed. The E-911 Tax has been lowered to \$.75. This tax will be replaced with a 5% sales tax on telephones (including long distance), mobile phones, cable, satellite TV and radio. The problem we see here is that this tax will be collected by the State and redistributed according to the current utilization pattern. This pattern does not have a set period to be updated.

We have two resolutions that pertain to BRAC. One of these should have been printed in The Record last month but it did not get transmitted to the printer. The second resolution had been sent back to our committee with the suggestion of expanding the application of taxation to buildings to be built to serve as offices for contractors working at Ft. Belvoir. The Committee has confirmed that they wish to maintain the language as submitted to the Board in this resolution.

We will not meet in December or January. Our next meeting will most likely be a joint meeting with the Education Committee to be held approximately on February 20th.

CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Because the Consumer Affairs meeting date fell on election night, the committee voted to provide a guest speaker for the general membership meeting on November 21st. The guest speaker will be Mr. Steve Sinclair, Fairfax County Utility Analyst, Department of Cable Communications and Consumer Protection, speaking on electric power purchase.

EDUCATION

The Education Committee met at 8 pm on November 1, 2006, in the media center of Whitman Middle School. Associations represented included: Newington Forest, King's Crossing, Sulgrave Manor, Wellington, Stratford on the Potomac IV, Riverside Estates and Mt. Zephyr.

A primary focus of the meeting was discussion of proposals for school attendance area boundary changes to address serious overcrowding at South County Secondary School (SCS), including BRAC ramifications, and FCPS' methodology in projecting enrollment and calculating capacity of schools.

SCS (grades 7-12) is to some degree a study of the problems FCPS has had in predicting enrollment and assessing capacity, which the Committee has discussed many times previously.

SCS was built through an innovative public/private partnership, established in part because of FCPS' initial doubt that the school

was needed and inadequacy of available construction funds once the need was recognized. Initial plans were to open as a secondary school, and convert to a high school in 3-5 years when a new middle school was to open.

SCS opened with trailers, more than 20% over stated capacity, and neither planning nor construction funding for the proposed middle school is included in the current Capital Improvement Program (CIP) meaning it will not be built under current plans until 2015 or later. The various boundary proposals shift students back to schools they just left-- Lake Braddock and Hayfield—which now, it is contended, have space due to renovations recently completed at Hayfield and about to begin at Lake Braddock. Mount Vernon, unlike the first go-round, is out of the mix because, while there is some capacity at MVHS, there is none at Whitman.

Apart from the immediate implications to MVCCA members and other associations in the SCS area, the Committee has long been concerned that FCPS does not use effective methodology for predicting enrollment and overstates the educationally viable capacity of middle and high schools, thus exacerbating the flawed enrollment predictions by finding capacity exists when in fact it does not under appropriate educational expectations.

On the prediction issue, the School Board recently received the final report of outside consultants, McKibben Demographics, retained to examine the school's methodology. It recommended among other things (the report is on the website www.fcps.edu, under "School Board") better data sharing between the County and schools, particularly as to home building and sales trends, and incorporating census variables (eg household age range since demographics skewing toward an adult population 35-50 implies more school-age children irrespective of type of home). The report also noted that to accommodate this variable analysis the size of the department should be increased from its current staff of only two.

The McKibben report also gave enrollment projections indicating overall slight population increases followed by another leveling off but significant increase in some selected areas including South County. However, the report specifically did not consider BRAC and the expert, at the hearing, stated that BRAC will likely skew all numbers upward.

Capacity calculation remains a troubling adjunct to enrollment issues: while, as taxpayers, the Committee agrees FCPS should try to use existing capacity before building expensive new schools—or adding capacity where it is not needed—students do not always appear where the classrooms are located and the overriding goal should be to provide quality education in an appropriate community-based environment. Constant piecemeal moving of students to reduce overcrowding at one school and fill allegedly empty seats at another results in oddly gerrymandered school attendance zones, erosion of community support, transportation issues, and, potentially, overcrowded conditions at the "under-capacity" school due to overstatement of available space.

School boundaries are among the most painful, divisive and politically dangerous civic issues. Nevertheless, it may be time to stop the band aid approach and undertake a more comprehensive review, using improved prediction methods and capacity

calculations, and recognizing that there may be other cost-effective public uses for school space if demographic shifts have temporarily or permanently emptied part of a school.

The Chair was instructed to prepare and circulate by e-mail a resolution on the SCS boundary proposals and the county-wide issues of capacity and projection. However, due to new boundary proposals presented at a public meeting held at the same time as the Committee's meeting, and at the request of affected member associations, resolution consideration was postponed to January by the Chair.

Other issues considered were areas to be explored at the planned December meeting on secondary (grades 7-12) literacy, language arts and reading comprehension programs.

One "new" issue discussed at some length was the apparent effective deletion of cursive handwriting from the language arts program. As recent news articles have mentioned, while in the computer/electronics age, keyboard skills seem pre-eminent, an inability to write legibly, fluidly and quickly impedes note-taking in class and essay writing on standardized tests, resulting in lower achievement and scores. Printing—which is done exclusively by many students at all achievement levels—is slow and many students cannot even read cursive, let alone produce it. Moreover, cursive exercises have been shown in some studies to have reasoning and fine motor skill benefits. The Committee felt there was some central ground between spending hours turning out workbook pages of perfect "c"s and spending virtually no time on the subject.

Next meeting: December 6, 2006, 8 pm. Whitman MS library

ENVIRONMENT AND RECREATION

The Environment and Recreation Committee met Wed, Nov 1, 7:30 PM, Room E-114, Mt Vernon High School. Attending met: Collingwood on the Potomac, Hollin Hills, Mt Vernon CA (2), Mt Zephyr, Spiegel's Landing, Spring Bank, Sulgrave Manor, Wellington, and Wessynton.

The Committee approved the agenda and corrected paragraph 4 of the October E and R Minutes to read, "Lot 30 would gain access to canal, owned by WHA, by virtue of settlement achieved as a result of supplanting the 1968 agreement between WHA and the predecessor to the current owner".

The Committee discussed additional community considerations (trucks accessing and exiting to residential areas, earlier closing of facility, financial obligations) from "Landfill to Parkland". See resolution (November 2006 Record)

The Committee was presented a new resolution for teleconferencing testimony from the Mt Vernon District to public hearings at the Planning Commission or the Board of Supervisors.

The Committee adopted a set of Committee procedures and protocol to improve Committee performance.

The Committee was briefed on the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee's November 4, "Town Meeting" at the Council

THE COMMITTEE reports

of Governments (COG) in Washington DC. The Committee discussed BRAC implications in regards to this report's finding and recommendations.

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

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Participating in the November 7 HHS meeting were the following 12 representatives: Belle Haven Terrace, Collingwood on Potomac, Hollindale, Hollin Hills, Mount Zephyr, Stratford on Potomac-Sec. 4, Stratford on Potomac-Valley View, Sulgrave Manor, Wellington, Wessynton, Williamsburg Manor, United Voice at Kings' Crossing. Kris Rosenthal, of the Citizen Advisory Board for the Mount Vernon Community Mental Health Center, also participated.

Barbara J. Doyle, Inova Mount Vernon Hospital (IMVH) CEO and Inova Health System (IHS) Senior Vice President, was our guest resource, reporting on a number of encouraging developments and engaging in a lively dialogue on the significance and means of "raising the bar" for practice of the very highest standards of quality at IMVH. Ms. Doyle explained that the Inova Board of Directors is placing great emphasis on quality of care, setting the goal of delivering the "best in the world," and is encouraging facilities within the system to work more actively and cooperatively with each other in developing centers of excellence and linking resources throughout the network. One recent indicator is the Board's commitment to create more nursing positions, and fill them, to achieve a 5 to 1 ratio of patients to nurses. At IMVH, emphasis on nursing includes placing a "charge" nurse on every shift who is free to monitor developments, training and mentoring newly graduated nurses as they gain broader clinical experience, and maintaining a culture of "staff helping staff" to create a workplace environment in which everyone watches for and reports mistakes or gaps in practice of procedures so that these can be fixed. The national challenge, begun in Boston for hospitals to "save 100,000 lives" through safety awareness and elimination of systematic sources of mistakes is embraced here.

It is encouraging to learn that, during the past year, kinds and numbers of surgeries performed here have increased. With recent state approval of Certificates of Public Need, IMVH will reopen two more Operating Rooms. The hospital usage, roughly 145 to 165 beds occupied daily, is appropriate for this licensed 237-bed facility, since many clinical considerations make it necessary to place 1 person in a semi-private room. Overall, finances continue to improve.

Setting high standards and achieving consistently high performance is key to having an attractive workplace; IMVH already enjoys one of the lowest staff turnover rates in the system and seeks to build on this strength in the competitive process of recruitment and retention. Seeking measurement by independent reviewers, inviting recommendations for improvement, and celebrating as staff performance levels continue to rise is a basis for physician, staff, and patient satisfaction.

Dialogue over future developments was also lively, as committee members reported on needs/opportunities they see for services in neighborhoods that grow simultaneously "older and younger," rapidly. Clearly services for families—especially women and children—must expand. Will Inova consider partnering in workforce housing available nearby to hospital workers? Will this be a year of progress in regional emergency and disaster planning that coordinates with hospital system planning as well as neighborhoods? What medical needs/opportunities will be revealed here, once huge pending decisions about military medicine in the capital area set the "marching orders" for Belvoir military medicine and a new DeWitt Hospital? HHS committee members and our IMVH CEO are eager to continue communication and dialogue throughout the year.

Next month: Note below that the Committee plans to meet on the first Thursday, jointly with the Public Safety Committee, in order to explore issues that arise on the "front lines" of Emergency Response.

Community meetings—open to the public

Thursday, Dec. 7, MVCCA Joint Committee Meeting, Health and Human Services with Public Safety, 7:30 p.m., "Emergency Responses – when healthcare and public safety concerns interact," MV Gov Center Community Room.

Monday, Nov. 27, Route One Task Force on Human Services, 7 p.m., South County Center, meets on affordable housing and on ending homelessness. Convener Anne Andrews, 703 780-1773.

Wednesday, Dec. 13, Southeast Health Planning Task Force, 6:30 p.m., Inova Mount Vernon Hospital-Engl Conference Room, meets quarterly on developments concerning the future of IMVH and the Lorton Healthplex. Chair Anne Andrews, 703 780-1773.

PLANNING AND ZONING

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 PM with representatives from the following associations: Hollin Hall Village, Huntington, Montebello, Mt Vernon, Mt Vernon Mobile Homes, Riverside Gardens, Spring Bank, Sulgrave Manor, Wellington, Wm H. Randall, Williamsburg Manor, and Williamsburg Manor North. Three land use cases were heard and one resolution was passed.

The first land use case was for changes to the previously approved Huntington Mews development on Huntington Avenue just west of the Riverside apartments. The developer has now acquired two of three parcels that were not available at the time of the original consolidation. In order to include these additional properties a new rezoning must be approved. This presentation was for information only pending the resolution of stormwater concerns and a written statement of the proffers.

The second land use case was an application to permit by Special Exception a child day care facility in a location that does not have an outdoor play area. The Washington Community Church, located in the Sacramento Shopping Center, completed the modifications inside the church to host the childcare use before learning of the play area requirement. They are hoping to fulfill the requirement by busing the children to nearby Grist Mill Park, or by constructing a playground on a "walk to" lot. They are still in negotiation, so no vote was taken.

The third land use case was a reconsideration of an out-of-turn Plan amendment (S06-IV-LP01) at the intersection of Lorton Road and Richmond Highway to add language permitting drive-thru facilities for both a bank and pharmacy. Pamela Nee and Deborah Albert, both of the county planning staff, presented the staff recommended language, which was agreed to by the applicant. The intended development would result in lower density and less impervious surface than the existing approved site plan. The Committee voted to not oppose the out-of-turn Plan amendment, as presented.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM. The next Planning and Zoning Committee meeting is Monday, December 4, 2006, at 7:30 PM, in the Jack Knowles lecture hall of Whitman Middle School on Parkers Lane.

The Committee's web site www.mvcca-pz.org has more information and documents.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Associations represented: Collingwood on Potomac, Hollin Hills, Mount Zephyr, Riverside Estates, Riverside Gardens, Southwood, and Williamsburg Manor North.

The committee continued its review of the gang prevention program progress. Last month we reviewed the initial annual report of the Fairfax County Gang Prevention Coordinator to the Board of Supervisors. For this meeting we invited the Mt. Vernon Police Station Gang Prevention Officer, MPO Greg Bender, to discuss the gang prevention effort in the Mount Vernon District.

The Mount Vernon Police have had a gang prevention program in place that predates the current county-wide program by many years. This effort was an impetus for the initial placement of school resource officers (SROs) in high schools, then in middle schools, and finally some coverage for the elementary schools. There are now SROs assigned as primary duty to each high school and middle school. An SRO is assigned to groups of elementary schools. The police developed community support for the gang prevention program which includes an anti-graffiti program. They then worked successfully to get the business community involved.

MPO Bender opened with a review of the number of gang related cases in the Mt. Vernon Police Station area which includes the Richmond Hwy down to just below Fort Belvoir. In 2004, there were 114 gang related cases; in 2005 there were 106 cases; and so far in 2006, there have been on only 85 cases. The SROs have been a major help in identifying gang members. The SROs have developed good relations with students. As a result they get valuable information on gang members and activities. They can assist students who are being pressured to join a gang. They get information on inter-gang conflicts. The police get tips on person who have put up graffiti or defaced property. This is the reason that they were able to quickly solve the recent graffiti cases at Mount Vernon High School and at West Potomac High School. Further, the police are closely following gang members who are on parole or probation to ensure they are following the conditions of their release. This includes home visits in the day and evening to assure that they are where they are supposed to be.

A major problem contributing to gang activity is the lack of parental involvement. Many parents do not know their children are members of gangs. This is frequently a result of the many working hours of both parents. The parents have little, if any, interaction with schools. They don't show up at police meetings or court dates. One item that has gotten more attention from some of these parents is the execution of a search warrant. This year the police have executed 12 search warrants on the homes of gang members who have been identified as having committed an illegal act. They use the search warrant to gain information on gang activity – such as computers, notes, clothing, and other related materials. The police also have good working relations with the immigration services so that persons convicted of gang activities, who are not citizens, can be, and are, turned over for deportation.

There has been a marked decrease in the amount of graffiti. This has been the result of the efforts to have graffiti removed or painted over. Wherever possible the painter of the graffiti is required to remove it. Otherwise, the home or business owner is requested to remove it as soon as possible. This is effective in removing the graffiti and making it clear to the perpetrator that his work will not be seen by anyone. Currently, most graffiti has been found to not be gang related, but rather the efforts of middle class white kids.

The chair reviewed the recent reports of bank robberies and assaults with the committee.

The next meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be held in Community Rm. 3, Mount Vernon Governmental Center beginning at 7:30pm, Thursday, December 7, 2006. This will be a joint meeting with the Health and Human Services Committee to review the emergency services provided by the INOVA Mount Vernon Hospital Emergency Room and its interaction with Police and with Fire and Rescue EMT services.

TRANSPORTATION

The Transportation Committee met at 8 PM on November 6, 2006 in the Walt Whitman Intermediate School Library. Attending were Mr. Jerry Ireland, Chair, Special Committee on Affordable Housing; Mr. Robert Brubaker, Metroped; representatives from 14 member organizations (Berkshire, Gum Springs, Marlan Forest Heights, Montebello, Mount Vernon on the Potomac, Mount Zephyr, Potomac Valley-Riverbend, Sulgrave Manor, Tauxemont, Waynewood, Wellington, Westgrove, Williamsburg Manor North, Woodland Park); and three interested citizens.

A team from Fairfax County staff provided a briefing on pedestrian safety aspects. The team consisted of Mr. Chris Wells of FC Department of Transportation, Mr. Michael Guarino of FC Department of Public Works, Ms. Diane Barnes of FC Land Acquisition, and Mr. Robert Kaleach of Parsons Brinckerhoff. Pedestrian safety projects are focused on the Route #1 corridor from Alexandria to Fort Belvoir; safer bus service, sidewalks and/or trails on both sides of Route #1 and future Transit Centers are involved. It is a four-year plan budgeted at \$55 million with \$25 million identified but not all of that money is currently available. Funding incorporates costs for pertinent land acquisitions. The RX bus service with 11 stops was initiated in September 2004, in conjunction with traffic light time stretch; ridership has increased

significantly. A prototype new bus stop is situated at the South County Government Center. These shelters will be placed at each stop with supporting sidewalk segments. The consultant has developed an ideal pedestrian friendly intersection design supported by a median along Route #1, pedestrian crosswalks linking all 4 corners, new curbs, paths to the supporting bus stop and countdown traffic signals. A future public hearing will be held where proposals will be presented. Discussion ensued concerning the desirability of raised safety islands and raised noses at crosswalks. Currently, VDOT has opted against raised concrete citing maintenance concerns as well as vehicular safety concerns. It was suggested that the ideal intersection design should incorporate the best engineering ideas, regardless of current VDOT policy. Proposals for projected Transit Centers have not yet been finalized. The owner of Smitty's Lumberteria on Route #1 had been concerned about the proposed median design in the vicinity of Frye Road, however the elimination of a raised median has alleviated his concerns. Never the less, the point was made that it was essential to provide design plans to business establishments before plans are finalized. Various trouble spots on Highway #1 and at other locations were identified by the Committee: The Hybla Valley Shopping Center; Boswell/Route #1; Radford/Route #1; Lukens Lane/Old Mill Road; V-Intersection between Mt Vernon HS and Route #1; Sidewalks in Gum Springs; Lighting along Route #1; Sidewalk segment between Hyland St and the Engleside Office Park on the east side of Route #1. An unresolved problem was surfaced which has precluded the need for owners of major house renovations to place sidewalks in front of their property; Virginia law and local ordinances will have to be changed before this problem can be solved.

The Committee was updated on a number of items (1) A memorandum was provided to attendees which reflects the understanding reached by most participants in a meeting concerning the proposed opening of a Walgreen Drug Store incorporating a Drive-in window at the Boswell/Route #1 intersection. (2) The Kings Crossing development has experienced a withdrawal by the developer; it appears that the owner will now develop the property with the "build by right" option, without the need for any variances. The road plan separating Kings Highway and Route #1 at that location remains in effect. (3) The Route #1 – Telegraph Road Connector is integrated with the BRAC expansion of Fort Belvoir and is proceeding as planned. (4) Mr. Earl Flanagan is proceeding with presenting his detailed analysis of integrating wording and drawings affecting the changes in the County's Comprehensive Plan to the County staff and hence to the Board of Supervisors. (5) Committee members will continue to receive traffic alerts issued by the Woodrow Wilson Bridge project.

The next meeting of the Transportation Committee is scheduled for Monday, December 4, 2006 in the Library of the Walt Whitman Middle School. Agenda to be announced.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AFFORDABLE AND WORKFORCE HOUSING

The monthly meeting was held on October 26th with 6 voting members present: United Voice at Kings Crossing; Riverside Estates; Collingwood on Potomac; Stratford Landing; Mt. Zephyr Citizens Assn; Hunting Creek Club Apts.; Mount Vernon Mobile Home Residents Civic Assn;

The meeting started at 7:00 PM with a review of the resolution passed by the Council on the changes to the housing definitions to be updated in the committees mission statement and forwarded to the Board of Supervisors.

The first agenda item before the committee was the review process the committee would use in reporting to the council on the progress and usage of the 1 penny funds in FY 2006 and the continued planned usage in FY 2007. It was agreed by the committee that a full review of projects that used the 1 penny money was important. It was also agreed that a report to the council should show the cost per unit to preserve and the product or service provided for that unit. The recent report from the county on its usage and review of the FY 2006 penny funds was also provided to the committee and will be a source of info for the final report from the committee to the council. Different members of the committee are working on this report, and the final report with supporting documentation is planned to be presented to the Council in January 2007.

The second agenda item the committee took into consideration was the "strawman's report" as a part of the Fairfax Counties regional Transit Oriented Development (TOD) committee's initial report on their progress to date. Since the Huntington Metro station falls directly under this area, our committee believes this committee's work is very important to Mount Vernon. The main consideration not included in the TOD standards to this date is the inclusion of a .5 to 1 mile radius around metro or transit sites to allow planning for development that proffers shuttle or transit services to the metro station. This will be an item the committee will continue to follow in the coming months.

The next meeting of the SCAWH will be on November 30th 2006 at the Mount Vernon Government Center, Community Room 3.

Funding to Support BRAC Impact on Fairfax County Infrastructure

WHEREAS, the Department of Defense conducted a Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) study, approved by the US Congress, which increases demands on the Fort Belvoir infrastructure, and

WHEREAS, it appears that no Federal funding has been allocated for the Fairfax County infrastructure supporting Fort Belvoir that is impacted by the BRAC, and

WHEREAS, it also appears that 22,000+ DOD employees and support contractors will relocate to Fort Belvoir over the next five years,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations that our Congressional representatives and Virginia legislators representing the Mount Vernon District aggressively seek supplemental Federal funding to support BRAC-related Fairfax County infrastructure requirements such as roads, schools, public safety, and health and human services.

Taxing Commercial Use Property on Fort Belvoir

WHEREAS, it is the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations' understanding that Headquarters Department of the Army (HQDA) is considering constructing a hotel and conference center on Fort Belvoir, and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Virginia and Fairfax County have the authority to levy a tax on public use of property located on Federal land located within Virginia,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations that the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and our Virginia legislators representing the Mount Vernon District notify HQDA that if such a hotel and conference center is built on Fort Belvoir, it will not be exempt from Virginia and Fairfax County special taxes on entertainment facilities and hotels.

Resolution on Out-Of-Turn Plan Amendment S06-IV-LP01

WHEREAS, The parcels (108-3-01-2&3, 108-3-92-2,5&6) at the intersection of Richmond Highway and Lorton Road have an existing site plan that has never been constructed, and

WHEREAS, A development with a bank and a pharmacy, both with drive-thru facilities, might be a good alternative use for the property, and

WHEREAS, The intended use of a bank and pharmacy would result in a lower density development and less traffic than the current site plan, and

WHEREAS, The County planning staff has added reasonable conditions to the development option that is to be added with this amendment and these conditions have been accepted by the nominator,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations does not oppose this out-of-turn Plan amendment, as presented, provided the amendment includes the staff recommended language.

Landfill to Parkland Resolution

WHEREAS, EnviroSolutions, Inc, the owner of the Lorton Construction Landfill, has proposed to reclaim its site on Furnace Road in the Laurel Hill area also known as "Landfill to Parkland", and,

WHEREAS, the current site is a construction landfill, scheduled to close at latest 2018, be monitored until 2028 by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and be conveyed to the Fairfax County Park Authority, and,

WHEREAS, the proposed plan is to establish a passive park with amenities (performance area, sculpture garden, trails) acceptable to the Fairfax County Planning and Zoning Staff and the Park Authority Staff, and,

WHEREAS, the current allowable height of the landfill is 290 feet from sea level and the proposed plan allows up to 412 feet above sea level, and,

WHEREAS, the current allowable height limit for the County owned landfill across Furnace Road to the west is 408 feet above sea level, and,

WHEREAS, balloon tests for height were done to determine neighborhood impacts, and

WHEREAS, no violations of environmental laws and regulations have been observed, recorded or predicted to date at the landfill site, and,

WHEREAS, parkland is needed in this part of the county and is desired by the neighboring community, and,

WHEREAS, EnviroSolutions, Inc has agreed to phase in the passive park with amenities in a gradual manner from now until completion in accordance with the proposal reviewed including maintenance aspects of the proposal as a condition precedent to favorable review of the proposal, and,

WHEREAS, financial support for contingencies is being provided in accordance with State regulation, and

WHEREAS, protections for performance standards as determined by the Department of Environmental Quality will be continued even after the site is conveyed to the Fairfax County Park Authority.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Fairfax County Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors approve the "Landfill to Parkland" proposed plan, as presented.

MOUNT VERNON COUNCIL OF CITIZENS' ASSOCIATIONS Treasurer's Report

Treasurer's Report

For period from January 1, 2006 through November, 9, 2006

	Budget 2006	Actual to Date	Budget to Actual (to date)
Balance Beginning Period		\$2,188.93	
RECEIPTS			
Dues	\$4,500.00	\$4,524.00	\$24.00
Record Subscriptions	\$345.00	\$225.00	-\$120.00
Gala Income	\$2,645.00	\$2,833.00	\$188.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	\$7,490.00	\$7,582.00	\$92.00
DISBURSEMENTS			
Record Expenses	\$4,800.00	\$4,688.27	\$111.73
Administrative	\$625.00	\$110.56	\$514.44
Gala	\$2,500.00	\$1,654.11	\$845.89
Web Site	\$690.00	\$495.00	\$195.00
Postage	\$400.00	\$200.00	\$200.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$9,015.00	\$7,147.94	\$1867.06
Balance Ending Period 11/09/06		\$2,622.99	

COMMITTEE CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER 2006

MVCCA Board-SUPV Monday, December 11 7:30 pm

Date/Day/Time	Comm	Place	Chair	Phone
12/7 Th 7:30	H/HS	MVGC	Louise Cleveland	703.780.9151
12/5 T 7:30	COAF	WWMSPCR	Queenie Cox	703.360.2414
2/7 W 7:30	BUDG	WWMS PC	George Bauer	703.768.1774
(Not Meeting Dec & Jan)				
12/7 Th 7:30	ENVR	MVHSE114	Jim Davis	703.799.3278
12/7 Th 8:00	EDUC	WWMS L	Judy Harbeck	703.780.1883
12/7 Th 7:30	PSAF	MVGC	Dallas Shawkey	703.360.2185
12/4 M 8:00	TRANS	WWMS L	Frank Cohn	703.780.5698
12/4 M 7:30	PL/Z	WWMS-LH	David Dale	703.765.8247
11/30 Th 7:30	SCAWH	MVGC-1	Jerry Ireland	703.768.6923

*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.*



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

Periodicals Postage
Paid at
Alexandria, Virginia