

July 28, 2020



Dear Neighbors,

Tuesday marked another **significant step** forward in Fairfax County's efforts to **mitigate climate change** and its impacts on our community by **unanimously passing the Fairfax Green Initiatives #2 (FGI #2)** Board Matter. Even in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, **my colleagues and I** acknowledge the need to continue our **environmental efforts**. While COVID-19 is severely impacting us all, predictions indicate the **climate crisis will be worse** if not addressed quickly. FGI #2 shows the Board's strong commitment to doing just this. A key highlight from the Board Matter is the County's **commitment to purchasing electric vehicles for 100% of eligible replacement fleet vehicles** in FY 2021 and to propose a plan for **accelerating all future purchases to electric vehicles**.



I also presented a Board Matter that was **joined by the entire Board** to recognize **August as Women's Suffragist Month** and marking the **Centennial Anniversary of women's right to vote**. This was an important movement and **much of its history** took place **right here in Fairfax**, therefore it is pertinent we recognize this occasion. **On August 26, 2020**, I will be hosting an **event in commemoration** of the **100th Anniversary** of the day the **19th Amendment was certified on August 26, 1920**. More details to follow.

Five Additional Meeting Highlights:

1. Endorsed projects submitted for SmartScale, with the **Richmond Highway Widening being the top priority**.
2. Approved a letter to the United States Secretary of Transportation noting support of **expanding the Newington Road Bridge**.
3. Approved expanding **free student bus pass program**.
4. Approved a public hearing for **FY 2020 Carryover Review and Budget**.
5. I announced that the **Tour de Mount Vernon** will take place on **October 3**.

This week **Governor Northam** announced **new public safety restrictions** in **Hampton Roads** due to the rise in the percentage of **positive COVID-19 cases** in that region. He stated that the increase has been primarily **driven by those in their 20s and younger** who have not been social distancing.

This decision, although **not applicable to Northern Virginia**, is a reminder that this **pandemic is not behind us**. There is still significant risk and although **our region's data is positive at this time**, this can change if we are not cautious and **stop taking precautions**. To help **prevent spikes in cases** we must continue to **social distance, wash our hands and wear face masks** as required.

You can read more about the **latest COVID-19 information** and **upcoming community meetings** below.

Respectfully yours in public service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan North".

The following are **highlights from the Board of Supervisors July 28, 2020 meeting**, including items of particular interest to Mount Vernon residents. For additional information, please go to the [County's Board Agenda and Meeting Schedule](#). You may listen to highlights from the Board meeting on your computer or listen directly on iTunes. Subscribe to the podcast, or choose a program and listen in.

Para recibir la información de **nuestro boletín electrónico en español**, o **para hablar con un hispanohablante**, comuníquese con **Diego Rodriguez Cabrera** a su preferencia, por teléfono al (703) 619-4339 o por correo electrónico: diego.rodriuezcabrera@fairfaxcounty.gov.

All presentations and recognitions were postponed.

To view the July 28, 2020 Board Package [click here](#).

Administrative Items

Item 7: Approved **\$6.5M in Federal Emergency Solutions Grants CARES Act funds** be used to be used for:

- **expansion of shelter** capacity by using hotels, which is the primary need and eligible activity that will be prioritized;
- **additional supplies, equipment and transportation services** needed to operate this expanded shelter capacity; and
- other **eligible activities** permitted by HUD, including administrative costs, if needed.

The full item can be read on pages 172 - 179 of the Board Package.

Authorized Public Hearings on:

- Amending Chapter 11 of the County Code, including **anti-discrimination and fair housing statutes** and the Fairfax County Fair Housing Act.
 - The County and schools' **FY 2020 Carryover Review** to amend the appropriation level in the FY 2021 Revised Budget Plan.
 - Amendments to the Public Facilities Manual to **improve the speed, consistency and predictability** of the County's **Land Development Review Process**.
 - An ordinance to establish an **Economic Incentive Program** in four Districts, **including Mount Vernon**.
 - Amendments to Chapter 6 of the Fairfax County Code relating to weapons to **prohibit firearms in County buildings, parks, recreation and Community Centers**.
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Action Items

Item 1: Plain language explanations for the **2020 bond referendums** for transportation, parks and park facilities, libraries, and community health and human services facilities. *The full item can be read on pages 214 - 224 of the Board Package.*

Item 4: Approved changes to the **County Purchasing Resolution** to include:

- Requiring bidders to enter into or adhere to **project labor agreements** on the public works projects.
- Including a factor that will be used in evaluating a proposal, the **proposer's employment of persons with disabilities** to perform the specifications of the contract.

The full item can be read on pages 245 - 322 of the Board Package.

Item 6: The Board of Supervisors' **draft regular meeting schedule** for calendar year 2021. *The full item can be read on pages 337 - 338 of the Board Package.*

Item 7: Approved A Memorandum of Agreement between Fairfax County and Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) for the **free student bus pass program**. *The full item can be read on pages 339 - 355 of the Board Package.*

Item 10: Approved of Fairfax Connector service changes effective August 29, 2020, to include realignment of **Route 334: Newington Circulator** to serve the new **Army Museum** and the new **Transportation Security Administration (TSA) facility** in Springfield. *The full item can be read on pages 399 - 415 of the Board Package.*

Item 11: Endorsed projects being submitted for **state funding** through the Commonwealth Transportation Board's FY 2022-2027 **Smart Scale Program**, with the **Richmond Highway Widening** from Sherwood Hall Lane to Jeff Todd Way as the **County's top priority**. *The full item can be read on pages 416 - 423 of the Board Package.*

Board Matters

5th Annual Tour de Mount Vernon

The **5th Annual Tour de Mount Vernon** is approaching. Given the difficulties of the COVID-19 Pandemic, I am hoping a **safe community bike ride** will be a **welcome relief**. The ride will take place on **Saturday, October 3, 2020**. We are planning to be in the **southern portion** of the Mount Vernon District again, **beginning and ending at the Workhouse Arts Center**. We will ride to see Gunston Hall, Mason Neck State Park, Pohick Bay Regional Park, Occoquan Regional Park, the National Museum of the US Army, and **Fort Belvoir for the 2nd year in a row**. This event has come a long way with the help of our partner, **Fairfax Alliance for Better Bicycling**. I also want to thank **FCDOT** and **Fairfax County Department of Economic Initiatives** for all their support. This event is focused on **encouraging community members** to explore the **many treasures** of the Mount Vernon District.

We are offering **two routes this year**, with distances of 35-mile and 20-miles. **Riders of all levels are welcome** and 20-miles is accessible for even for moderate riders. Additional information and the registration portal will be available soon on the [Mount Vernon District webpage](#). [View the flyer...](#)

Action

Directed the Office of Public Affairs to advertise the 2020 Tour de Mount Vernon.

Authorization to Provide Letter of Support for Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) Application to the Federal Railroad Administration State of Good Repair Program for Newington Road Rail Bridge - Joint with Chairman Jeff McKay and Supervisor Rodney Lusk

DRPT has been working on additional rail tracks on the CSX rail line as part of a larger effort to **improve mobility along the I-95/I-395 Corridor**, which has been known as **Atlantic Gateway**. Part of this effort includes **expanding rail capacity** on certain bridges in Fairfax County, **including the rail bridge at Newington Road**.

In 2016, the Board sent a letter to then-Secretary Aubrey L. Layne, Jr. with **comments on the Atlantic Gateway project**. The letter included language stating that the Board believed the **current rail bridge over Newington Road must be addressed**. Original plans called for a new bridge to be provided for the new track, but that the **existing rail bridge would remain**. The letter noted concerns, since the **bridge clearance would be more than two feet less** than the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) standard criterion of 16.5 feet. Further, the **existing bridge has deteriorated** and was in need of replacement. Lastly, Newington is **only a one-lane underpass**. For these reasons, the letter asserted the Board's belief that project should **replace the current bridge** or, at the very least, include efforts to **lower the roadway** to improve clearance issues.

DRPT and VDOT have worked with the County on these and other issues related to Atlantic Gateway and intend to **apply for Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) State of Good Repair Program funding** for the Newington Road project, which will address the County's noted concerns. The project consists of **full replacement of the existing two-track span** as well as **construction of a new two-track span** to the east. This will bring the horizontal clearances of the roadway undercrossing up to **modern VDOT standards** and **accommodate a future third passenger track**. The Commonwealth has requested a letter of support from the County for this application.

Action

Approved a letter to the United States Secretary of Transportation noting support of the Newington Road Bridge Project Application for (FRA) State of Good Repair funding.

Proclaim August 2020 as Women's Suffrage Month in Fairfax County - Joint with Chairman Jeff McKay and all the Supervisors

On July 2, 2020, the U.S. Senate passed a bipartisan resolution designating this **August as National Women's Suffrage Month**, as America celebrates the **100th anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment**, which granted American women the right to vote.

As we prepare for the **100th anniversary** of women's right to vote on **August 26, 2020**, we want to shine the spotlight on the **importance of women's suffrage** and the **Equal Rights Amendment (ERA)**. Women were not included in the Constitution until the 19th Amendment and the ratification of the 19th Amendment led to the **largest single one-day increase of potential voters** in the history of the United States.

In recognition of the 100th anniversary of the certification of the 19th Amendment, **I will be hosting** a socially-distanced, masks required, **community celebration of the Year of the Woman on August 26, 2020**. More details to follow. The Workhouse Arts Center, which also had to **postpone the Grand Opening of the Lucy Burns Museum** in May due to COVID is also planning several recognitions, including a **Girl Scout Gold Award project** about the suffrage story directly from the Lucy Burns Museum. Organized by Emma Skog, an event called "**100 Years Later: How Women Got the Right to Vote**" will be for Scouts of all ages. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic activities will be **entirely online** and scouts who complete the project will receive a **specially designed patch**. More details are available on the [Workhouse website](#). Read the [full Board Matter...](#)

Action:

- *Directed a proclamation be prepared with the full Board's signatures designating August Women's Suffrage Month in Fairfax County.*
- *Directed the Office of Public Affairs publicize information in recognition of this month and the August 26 celebration.*

Fairfax Green Initiatives #2 (FGI #2)

On February 5, 2019, at a regularly scheduled meeting, the Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted my **Fairfax Green Initiatives (FGI)** Joint Board Matter with Chairman Jeff McKay and Supervisor John Foust. The FGI took a decisive step forward to take **action to mitigate climate change** impacts on our community. Many of those actions have been initiated, with some even complete. **FGI #2 is a follow-on motion** based on our individual discussions over the last few months and discussion at last week's Environment Committee meeting. It proposes **additional targets and actions** the County can take to advance critical environmental issues even more quickly.

Summary of actions:

- Present plan for a **community food composting** pilot.
- Encourage increased education about **backyard composting**.
- Accelerate **electric vehicle (EV) fleet purchases** and EV infrastructure.
- Legal review of consumer incentives for **EV purchases**.
- Consider implementation of a **5-cent bag fee**.
- Provide plan for **phasing out existing hydrofluorocarbon (HFC)** refrigerators, refrigerant cases and air conditioners at all County facilities.
- Legal review for considerations to require **energy use disclosures** on residential home sales.
- Accelerate expectations on requiring **EV infrastructure** in private parking facilities.
- Report and legal review on incentives for **community solar and geothermal** installations.
- Staff review for options to accelerate **residential and commercial green building practices**.
- Report on feasibility of creating an **Energy Efficiency Funding Pool (EEFP)** pilot.
- Report on feasibility of creating a **Fairfax Green Bank**.
- Report on feasibility and legality of investing County **retirement funds** in **non-greenhouse gas emitting energy investments**, local green businesses and decreasing those in fossil fuels.

[Read the full Board Matter...](#)

Action:

Directed the various actions in the Board Matter be advanced.

Public Hearings

Amend Proffers and Conceptual Development Plan for Avention Holdings

Approved amended **proffers and conceptual development plan** to allow construction of a **seven story multifamily residential building** with up to **379 multifamily units** on the north side of **Huntington Park Drive**, and the intersection with North Kings Highway. The plan **promotes use of transit** (Metrorail and bus), other high-occupant vehicle commuting modes, **walking, biking and teleworking**, all to reduce automobile trips. The Applicant has proffered a Transportation Demand Management Plan, has an outlined dedicated **Sustainable Design Plan** for the buildings, an **Invasive Species Plant Management Plan**, **tree preservation and soil remediation** to satisfy cultural requirements for trees, shrubs, and groundcovers. Of significance, this project will **create 44 workforce dwelling units**, furthering the County's goal of **providing more affordable housing**. It will also create more **public open space and walkable features** around the development, with low-level lighting bollards along each pathway to address **pedestrian safety**. The Applicant has **worked closely with the community** to develop a plan that works well and is aesthetically pleasing. *The full item can be read on pages 466 - 467 of the Board Package.*

Board Appointments

Mount Vernon residents were appointed or reappointed to the following:

- **Michael Roark** (Consumer Protection Commission)
 - **Lanita Thweatt** (Human Services Council)
 - **Hank Kim** (Uniformed Retirement System Board of Trustees)
 - **Diego Rodriguez Cabrera** (Young Adults Advisory Council)
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COVID-19 Updates

[Tax Counter at Government Center Open Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays; Virtual Assistance Still Recommended](#)

[School-Required Immunizations Remain Mandatory for School Enrollment](#)

[Virginia Adopts Workplace Safety Standards to Protect Workers from COVID-19](#)

[Help Still Wanted: Recruitment of Contact Tracing Staff Continues](#)

[Face Coverings Can Save Lives and Keep COVID-19 Case Numbers Down](#)

[Contact Tracing: Answer the Call, Protect the Community](#)

[Increased Funding for Fairfax RISE: Small Business and Nonprofit Relief Grant Program](#)

[Neighbor to Neighbor Shopping Program Serves Its 100th Participant](#)

[Staying Safe at an Event or Gathering During COVID-19](#)

Rebuild VA Grant

- On **August 10, applications will open** for the **Rebuild VA Grant fund** to help **small businesses and nonprofits** whose operations have been disrupted by COVID-19.
- The **\$70 million program** will help approximately 7,000 applicants.
- [Learn more and sign up for information sessions...](#)

FCPS

- FCPS announced last week that the **2020-21 school year will begin virtually** for all students on **September 8**.
- Should **health conditions improve**, they will look to **phase students in**, starting with **students who require intervention support**, followed by elementary school students, select special education students and English learners.
- [Read Superintendent Brabrand's message to parents...](#)
- Last week, the School Board voted to **rename Lee High School** after the **late Congressman John Lewis**.

Routine Immunizations

The Health Department has scheduled **free immunization clinics** for routine vaccines that **protect children against illnesses** such as polio, measles, whooping cough and chicken pox.

- The County is urging parents, **especially those with children under 2** years old, to **call their provider** to see if **vaccinations are due** and to take advantage of these **free vaccine clinics**.
- To **minimize face-to-face time** during the vaccination clinic, families are encouraged to **send a picture of their child's vaccination record** ahead of the appointment.
- **School-required immunizations remain mandatory** for school enrollment
- **To schedule an appointment**, call 703-246-6010, TTY 711.
- [All locations and times...](#)

Child Care

The **demand for childcare** will be high this fall. The County anticipates partially **supporting this need** by bringing back a **modified SACC program with smaller group sizes**. The County is **working quickly** to stand this up and **safely help working families** now that FCPS has decided to **start the school year virtually**. More details will be available in early August.

Food Benefits

With schools closed, students who depended on the **Free and Reduced Price Lunch program** don't have access to the **food offered at school**. Students can still **receive food benefits** through **Pandemic EBT**.

- To be eligible, the **household must include a student** who was **participating in the free or reduced priced meals program** anytime between March 16, 2020 through June 12, 2020.
- **Immigration status**, household income, age of the child or grade level **are not considered**.
- **Learn more** through the [Department of Family Services](#) or through the [Virginia Department of Social Services](#) or call 804-726-7000.

Contact Tracing

The County is still **hiring contact tracers**. It is important that our contact tracing team is a **reflection of the community** served. **All Fairfax County residents** are encouraged to apply, **especially if you are bilingual**.

- 210 positions have been filled, but **400 total are needed** by the end of the summer.
- [Learn more here...](#)

Don't forget if you **tested positive for COVID-19** or were identified as a **close contact** with **someone who has COVID-19**, you will be **getting a call from a contact tracer**. Be sure to **answer the phone**, but **avoid scams**. Contact tracers **will NOT ask for your social security number, bank details or credit card number**.

Fairfax County Animal Shelter

The [Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter](#) is **collecting loose change** for emergency medical care, dental care, parasite prevention and other needs that must be met at the Shelter. **Drop your loose change off this week** at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter (4500 West Ox Rd. Fairfax):

- **On: 7/30 and 8/1**
- From: 11am-1pm

As a reminder, the **Shelter is still closed for walk-in visitors** for pet adoptions. A [virtual adoption process](#) is available.

District Information & Upcoming Events

Residences at North Hill Groundbreaking

July 31 at 11 a.m.

I invite you to join us for the **North Hill Groundbreaking on Friday, July 31 at 11 a.m.** This exciting project is **35 years in the making** and a significant **County investment in affordable housing** on the Richmond Highway corridor, while also creating a **12-acre park**. You will also be able to **view this groundbreaking virtually** on Fairfax County

South County Site Specific Plan Amendment Virtual Meetings

August 11 at 6:30 p.m.
September 1 at 6:30 p.m.

To submit a public comment, please email MtVernon@FairfaxCounty.gov **by Monday, September 14**, so it can be included for distribution at the final Task Force meeting on Tuesday, September 15. [More information about the nominations and the meetings...](#)

Hot Cars Are Deadly

Animals left in hot cars can die in only minutes, even with windows cracked.

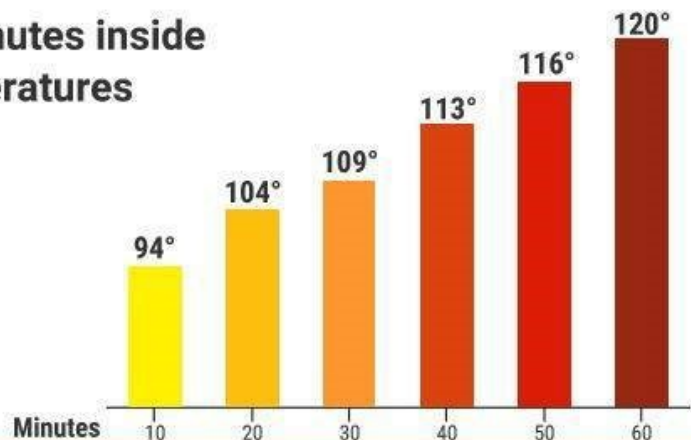


103°

Body temperature can lead to fatal heat stroke in dogs



Temperature rise by minutes inside car when outdoor temperatures reach 75 degrees:



If the outside temperature is 70 degrees or above, and you see an animal left in a hot car showing signs of distress, call Non-Emergency Police dispatch:

703-691-2131



LOCK IT OR LOSE IT



Mount Vernon
District Station



**Let's work together to prevent crime!
Below are some tips to prevent vehicle
theft.**

- Keep your vehicle doors locked at all times.
- Never leave the keys inside the vehicle.
- Do not leave valuables inside your vehicle.
- If you have something of value in your vehicle, hide it from plain view.
- Report suspicious activity! You know your community best.

**For immediate emergency assistance, call 9-1-1!
Otherwise, please use our non-emergency
number at 703-691-2131.**

Visit our Website

Mount Vernon District Office | 703-780-7518
MTVernon@fairfaxcounty.gov | FairfaxCounty.gov/MountVernon

STAY CONNECTED

