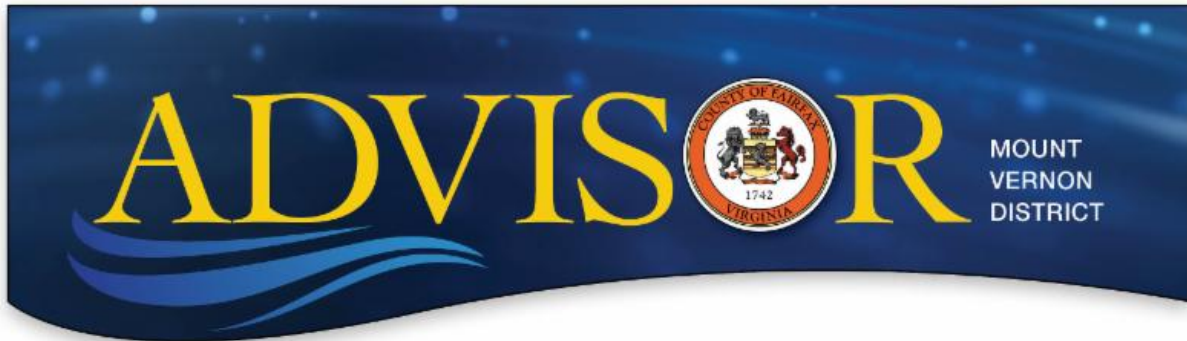


October 2020



Neighbors,

Voting is a fundamental American right and the basis of our democracy. **"We the People"** are our foundation and each of us and our **votes are cornerstones**. This year, like no other recent time in our history, we are being reminded how our country has **struggled to support that right** for each and every American, and **how important it is that each individual exercise this right to vote**.



Early voters are turning out and mail-in ballots are **being requested in record numbers**. Our office, and others, are **answering hundreds of emails, phone calls and visitors** as our residents want to be sure they have **all the correct voting information**.

I know you are hearing about **long lines at the Fairfax Government Center** and concerns about the **safety of mailing your ballot** and COVID-19. Once again, **Fairfax is a great place to be**. I can assure you there are **many safe ways to cast your vote** this year, from early – no excuse – voting at **14 satellite voting locations (5 more than 2016)**, opening **October 14**, first time ever **secure ballot drop boxes**, mail-in ballots (**mail as early as you can!**) and, of course, voting on election day. Fairfax County is **committed to ensuring all voters** have the opportunity to vote and **all votes are counted**. Below is a **full section on ways you can vote**.

Please **exercise your hard-earned rights and vote** this election season! Regardless of party or beliefs, it is important that you **express your views**. Take some time today to **review all your options and make a plan** for the best way for you to vote this year!

Sadly, we had a homicide in the **Hagel Circle neighborhood** in Lorton two weeks ago. In response, we held a **community meeting with residents**, myself and my staff, and officers from the Franconia Police Station. **Many community members turned out** to hear an update on the case, **learn how they can work with officers** in situations like this, and get answers to any questions they had. Along with **increased community patrolling**, outreach to the residents continues through **our outreach and LatinX coordinator** and the police community outreach coordinator.

Respectfully yours in public service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dan Storck".

Dan Storck
Supervisor, Mount Vernon District
Fairfax County Board of Supervisors



Hagel Circle Community Meeting

Para **subscribirse para nuestro boletín en español** o si conoce a alguien quien quiera subscribirse, o **para hablar con un hispanohablante**, comuníquese con **Diego Rodríguez Cabrera** a su preferencia, por teléfono al (703) 619-4339 o por correo electrónico: diego.rodriguezcabrera@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Voting this Fall - What You Need to Know

Early Voting

Early voting continues at the Fairfax County Government Center (12000 Government Center Parkway) from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Mondays to Fridays. Voting will also be available on **Saturdays** from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. **from Oct. 10-31. Any registered Fairfax County voter can vote early**, and can cast their ballot at any early voting site.

An additional 14 early voting locations will open starting October 14, including the Mount Vernon Governmental Center and the Laurel Hill Golf Club. Currently, the voting hours at these locations will be from 1 to 7 p.m., Mondays to Fridays, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays. **The last day to vote early is Saturday, October 31, at 5 p.m.**

To keep voters and poll workers safe, **social distancing and enhanced cleaning and disinfecting** procedures will be followed.

Absentee Ballots

Request an absentee ballot and vote by mail. It's anticipated that more than **100,000 ballots were mailed out initially** — so election officials say it will take time for them to reach voters. [Request a mail-in ballot by October 23...](#)

If you **don't want to mail back** your cast ballot, you can **return it at a drop-off box at any early voting site** during the hours they're open. There also is one **24-hour secure, drop-off box available outside** the Fairfax County Government Center.

Can You Vote Early if You've Requested a Ballot by Mail?

Yes. Bring your uncast, mail-in ballot to an early voting location. **You must surrender it**, and you will be given a new ballot to vote in person. **Poll workers know** if a voter has been issued a mail-in ballot, so it's **important to bring it with you**.

Curbside Voting

Curbside voting is **available for those who are 65-years-old or older, or any person with a physical disability**. A phone number is **posted outside** of all voting locations that you can **call if you need to vote curbside**.

What to Bring

By law, voters **must show identification** when they vote—but a **photo ID, like a driver's license, is no longer required**.

As a result of a new state law, **you may now use** as ID a copy of your:

- Current utility bill
- Bank statement
- Government check
- Paycheck
- Other government document with the voter's name and address

Photo IDs remain an acceptable form of identification — and you can **even use an expired Virginia driver's license** no matter how long ago it expired.

Remember, you must **bring your mail-in ballot, if you have requested one**.

What to Know in Advance

This year's **ballot is longer than usual**, with two constitutional amendments and four bond

referendums. It is **strongly recommended** you **review the ballot prior** to going to your voting location. **Sample ballots in multiple languages** [can be read here...](#)

[More information...](#)

Tour de Mount Vernon



What a Smashing Success!

Thank you to everyone who came out to **ride and volunteer** for this year's **5th Annual Tour de Mount Vernon!** It was a beautiful, crisp fall day, **perfect for a ride** through the many gems of South County and we had **many new riders** this year!

It was unfortunate that due to COVID-19 we **had to cap the ride at 250 riders**, because we had **many, many others** who reached out to us after registration was closed! While 250 is the most riders we have ever had, we **could certainly have had 100 more!** For **those of you who were not able to register**, we hope you will mark your calendar, register early and **join us next year!**

Saving River Farm

Thank you to the **hundreds of you** who reached out to our office to express your **concern and dismay** about the possible **sale of River Farm**. Many of us have spent **enjoyable afternoons and evenings** at events and strolling the gardens at the **incredibly beautiful River Farm**. This 50-year local institution is full of **history, heritage and natural beauty**.

Like you, I was incredibly surprised and saddened to learn that the **American Horticultural Society (AHS) Board** has decided to **offer the property for sale** without talking to anyone in the



community, including local leaders that could help retain this community gem.

I am leading a **coalition of federal, state, regional and local leaders** to find a solution to **ensure River Farm** remains a community asset and is **not lost to a private developer**. Conversations with AHS **confirm they are willing to work with us** to keep this property available to the public, but **your continued advocacy is also critical** to our efforts.

Our local legislators have started **petitions to rally and show community support** for River Farm. **Sign the petitions today!**

[Senator Scott Surovell's Petition...](#)

[Senator Adam Ebbin's and Delegate Paul Krizek's Petition...](#)

Upcoming In-Person & Virtual Events

- [Farmers Markets Open](#)
- Saturdays: [Workhouse Community Market](#) - 9 a.m.
- Oct 10: [Outdoor Historical Tour of Fort Willard](#) - 2 p.m.
- Oct 13: [South County Federation Meeting](#) - 7 p.m.
- Oct 14: [Climate Change and Your Health](#) - 12 p.m.
- Oct 15: [Free Virtual Lecture: Ask an ER Doctor About Flu Season](#) - 4 p.m.
- Oct 17: [Crime Solvers Shred Event](#) - 8:30 a.m.
- Oct 17: [Owl Moon at Mason Neck State Park](#) - 7 p.m.
- Oct 18: [Low Cost Rabies Clinic](#)
- Oct 19: [Hone your Drawing Skills on Nature Walks at Huntley Meadows](#) - 4 p.m.
- Oct 19: [Solutions to Trash, Plastic and other Litter Pollution, a Briefing](#) - 7 p.m.
- Oct 21: [Putting for Pets \(Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter\)](#) - 7:30 a.m.
- Oct 26: [Senior Flu Clinic](#) - 9 a.m.
- Oct 28: [Mount Vernon Council of Citizens' Associations Meeting](#) - 7 p.m.
- Nov 3: [Election Day](#)
- Nov 7: [Community Flu Clinic](#) - 10 a.m.

Land Use Updates



South County Site Specific Plan Amendment (SSPA) Process

Last month marked the conclusion of the preliminary stage of **very engaging and thought-provoking SSPA Task Force meetings** in the Mount Vernon District. The SSPA process started with **8 nominations in the District** for amendments to the County's Comprehensive Plan and ended with **2 withdrawals and 6 nominations** receiving a final vote.

Our office received **almost 300 public comments** on the SSPA nominations in the District. I am very **impressed at the level of engagement** in this process by residents and business owners. I want to **express my appreciation** to all members of the community who participated, and to the **SSPA Task Force** and County staff for their outstanding work and **dedication to the process**. [Read more...](#)

[Learn more about the SSPA Process...](#)

North Gateway Interchange Study

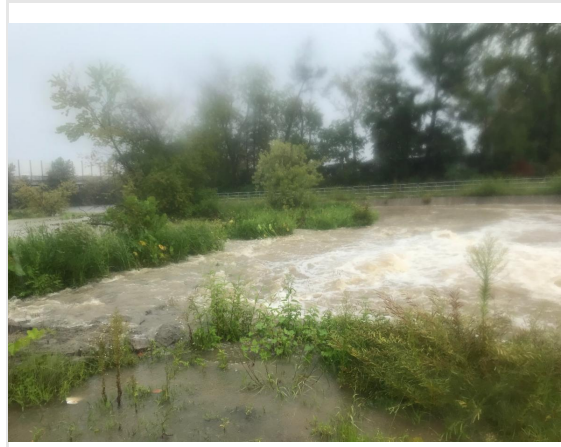
In July, Fairfax County DOT staff briefed the MVCCA Planning & Zoning and Transportation Committee on **VDOT's North Gateway Interchange Study**. FCDOT also provided recommendations on how to **address future congestion and traffic growth** due to the proposed increase in land use density for the area.

FCDOT and the Department of Planning and Development (DPD) staff met again with the MVCCA committees on August 31, where the **committees voted to support FCDOT's recommended "Hybrid Plus" option**, which seeks to **reduce access to the I-495** interchange into two lanes of traffic, and to **eliminate left turn access** onto Fort Hunt Road, with **appropriate signage** to advise drivers of these lane changes.

County staff is now **finalizing their report** on the North Gateway Plan Amendment. The report will be **thoroughly reviewed this month by the MVCCA and other community members** before the **Planning Commission public hearing on November 4** and the

proposed **Board of Supervisors (BOS) public hearing on December 1**. Please do not hesitate to contact my office for more information. [Learn more...](#)

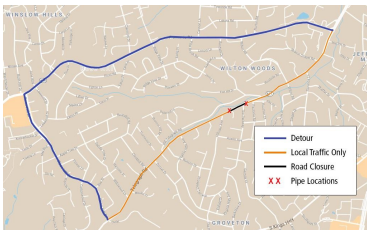
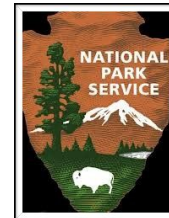
Huntington Levee Does Its Job in Recent Heavy Rains



Transportation Updates

GW Parkway Update

The National Park Service is working to **finalize the safety study** for the southern section of the **George Washington Memorial Parkway**. They intend to release it **later this fall** and are working with the Federal Highway Administration to **implement some of the study's recommendations in 2021**. [Learn more...](#)



Telegraph Road to Close in Groveton

Telegraph Road between **Rose Hill Drive and Franconia Road** will be closed to through traffic (weather permitting) from **7 a.m. Monday, Oct. 19 to 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 23** to replace two stormwater pipes.

Those **needing to reach properties** along Telegraph Road **may use the local route**; however, **traffic will not be able to go beyond the pipe locations**. Residents who live **between the two pipe locations** on Telegraph Road and Algona Court will have access via **northbound The Parkway to southbound Telegraph Road**. Through traffic will be detoured via Franconia Road and Rose Hill Drive.

Richmond Highway BRT Update

A detailed project update is available on the [project website](#), where FCDOT has posted a [12-minute project update video presentation](#) and a new [project newsletter](#).

Highlights include:

- **Hybla Valley Station Location:** FCDOT is moving forward with station configuration Option B, which means that **Fordson Road will remain open** after station construction and will operate as it does today. [View updated maps...](#)
- **Right-of-way Acquisition:** At this time, the County is continuing to refine the design and has **not yet started any acquisition process**. Services are available to aid **current property owners and occupants** to aid in the acquisition of property related to the Richmond Highway BRT project. [Learn more...](#)
- FCDOT plans to organize a **virtual community meeting** about Richmond Highway soon.

Celebrating Latinx Heritage Month



National Latinx/Hispanic Heritage Month is September 15 – October 15 and honors the culture and contributions of Hispanic and Latinx Americans in the United States. Hispanic and Latinx Americans have **enriched our nation** in every way. Their **contributions to our arts** in the form of dance, music, and art are rooted in folkloric, indigenous and African culture **exhibited in our museums and cultural festivals**. Their **contributions in**

our sciences through notable scientific discoveries in medicine and physics to the **breaking of barriers in politics and space exploration**. Their strong labor force whose **hands create the infrastructure** around us and pick the very **fruits and vegetables at our local grocery stores**. We cannot overlook our fellow Americans and their **positive impact on our country**. The Hispanic and Latinx community is a **melting pot of race and cultures**, truly embodying and celebrating diversity, **promoting multiple identities** under the banner of Latinidad. Therefore, this month we **celebrate the positive influences, contributions and culture** of the spectrum of Hispanic/ Latinx Americans that have **enriched our nation and society**.

In the News

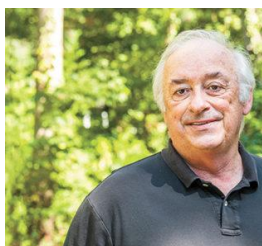
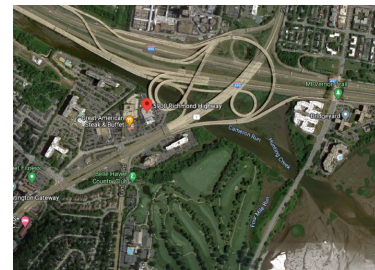


Metro Asks Riders for Input on Service Cuts and other Reductions as Federal Funding Dries Up

Metro announced it has opened a **public comment period so riders can voice their feelings** about service cuts, reduced hours, furloughed staff and other **reductions as federal funding** for the transit service runs out. [Read more on WTOP...](#)

Pedestrian Fatality on Richmond Highway

An **elderly man has died of his injuries** after being **struck by a vehicle** northbound on the Richmond Highway in the **Huntington/Belle Haven area**. The Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD) reported that the man had been **attempting to cross the highway** near the 5900 block at about **10 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2020**. I continue to work with County leaders to **improve pedestrian and bicycle safety** along the corridor. [Read more on the Fort Hunt Herald...](#)



Charity's Small Gifts Help Kids

When **Ron Fitzsimmons was growing up** in the 1960s in West Islip, New York, his father left his mother and their three children. With **just \$250 a month** in welfare benefits, barely enough to cover food and rent, **his mother cleaned houses and took in ironing**. Fast forward - **nine years ago**, Ron and his sister **started a nonprofit, Alice's Kids**, named in memory of their mother, who raised them alone. The organization provides **gift cards and gifts – from sneakers to prom dresses – to underprivileged children** in the D.C. area and beyond. [Read the full article in The Beacon...](#)

Community Information

HomeWise Program Helps Low- and Moderate-Income Residents Save Energy and Water At Home

The County has launched a **new countywide program to educate, empower, and enable residents** to make changes that **reduce energy use, water use and associated costs**



in their homes. The HomeWise program brings **qualified volunteers** together with **low- and moderate-income residents** to make **physical improvements to their homes**, and to provide support for behavior changes that are proven to **conserve resources and money**. [Learn more...](#)



Community Flu Clinics

Neighborhood and Community Services (NCS), in partnership with the Health Department, is **offering flu vaccination clinics at select Senior Centers**. This service began on October 6 and is **available to residents 50 and older** by appointment only. To make an appointment, residents can call 703-246-6010, TTY 711. In the

District:

October 26, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Original Mt. Vernon High School, 8333 Richmond Hwy.

[For more information and additional locations...](#)

The Health Department is also hosting 3 Saturday **flu vaccination clinics for everyone 6 months and older**. In the District:

November 7, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Mt. Vernon District Health Department Office at the Gerry Hyland Center

Make an appointment by calling 703-246-7100. [More information and additional locations...](#)

Free Virtual Lecture: Ask an ER Doctor About Flu Season

Join **Everett Embrey, MD**, emergency medicine physician and Chairman of the Emergency Room at Inova Mount Vernon Hospital, as he explains **what to expect this flu season on Thursday, October 15 from 4 - 6 p.m.** Dr. Embrey will discuss how this flu season is likely to be **different from any other**, how Inova is keeping patients safe and **what you need to know** if you have a health condition that needs medical care during the pandemic. [Register for this free virtual session...](#)

NCS Parent Connect

NCS and its community-based partners will begin to provide **in-person services for parents and guardians** at a variety of community locations. These services are offered by **appointment only Monday through Friday, 3-8 p.m.** Times may vary by location; [see locations here](#). In-person assistance for parents includes:

- Support related to **digital literacy** and **Internet access**
- Support related to **language barriers**
- Connection to county **Health & Human Services resources**, service navigation, and referrals



NCS Connects: AFTER SCHOOL

This is a continuation of our **successful virtual summer program**. The [virtual platform](#) provides programming for **youth and teens during after-school hours, Monday through Friday, 3-6 p.m.** Virtual programs for students include:

- **Academics (i.e., STEAM)**
- **Family engagement**
- **Service learning**
- **Youth leadership development**

Fill the Boot Has Gone Virtual this Year!



Help Fairfax County **Fire Fighters Fill the Boot** virtually this year to fight muscular dystrophy! **Donate today!**



Census Deadline Extended to October 31!

Haven't completed the 2020 Census? You still have time! The deadline has been extended to October 31. This means **online, phone and mailed self-responses continue**. The census count **informs federal funding** to the County for **transportation, schools and many other important services** and programs. **Complete your census today!** [Learn more...](#)

Traditional Trick-or-Treating Not Recommended for Halloween; Safe Alternatives Available

To **keep the number of new COVID-19 cases low**, we must all do our part to stop the spread of the virus. This includes finding **new and socially distant ways to celebrate the upcoming Halloween holiday**. Traditional **door-to-door trick-or-treating and events** that involve large gatherings of individuals is **NOT recommended** this year. [Learn more about safe options...](#)



Nightmare Alley: Drive-Thru Terror

The latest addition to the **Workhouse Art Center's annual "Haunt"** tradition, with a contemporary twist - this year's attraction is **Northern Virginia's first-ever haunted drive-thru**, meaning that visitors can experience all the thrills of Haunt while staying **safely socially-distanced** in their cars. The event runs **every**

weekend through October 31. Specific dates and times (as well as a **special promo code**) can be found on the [website](#).

Not only is this an opportunity to safely celebrate Halloween, it also serves as an **extension of the Workhouse Performing Arts program**, allowing **local youth** to practice their set production and theatrical skills, a unique opportunity given the limited theatrical opportunities available right now.

Historical Tour of Fort Willard

On Saturday, October 10, the **Mount Vernon Regional Historical Society** is sponsoring an **outdoor historical tour** of Fort Willard in Belle Haven from 2 - 4 p.m. **Fort Willard was built in 1862** as the southernmost fort of the **Civil War defenses** for the nation's capital. Fort Willard was one of 68 forts that **President Lincoln had built** to defend the capital and today it is a traffic circle. It was owned by the **Olmi family that developed the Belle Haven community** and in the 1970s was donated to the **Fairfax County Park Authority** for historical preservation purposes. Visitors must wear masks and observe social distancing.

Important Safety Information

Fire Prevention Week 2020

Fairfax Fire Prevention Week goes virtual and [events](#) run through Saturday. This is also a great time to conduct a home fire safety audit at your residents. [Download the survey](#) to complete to see how safe you are!



What's In Your Water? Find Out with the 2020



Fairfax County Virginia Household Water Quality Program

Do you know what's in your drinking water? While **public water supplies are tested daily** for contaminants, most private water supplies, like **wells and springs, are rarely tested**. It is recommended that **well owners test** their water **at least annually** for bacteria and nitrates. Fairfax County residents can learn more about the **quality of their water** and how to care for their water system as part of the 2020 Fairfax County Virginia

Household Water Quality Program. [Learn more...](#)

[Office Emergency Management October Newsletter...](#)

Saving Our Environment

October is Energy Action Month!

Join your fellow Fairfax County residents as we work to **reduce energy use** across the community. Making **smart choices** about energy use **at home, at work** and on the go cuts carbon emissions, **saves money** and supports a clean economy. Here are **five things you can do** to take energy action:



1. **Turn off the lights** when you leave a room. It seems simple, but it can make a major difference.
2. **Switch your lightbulbs to LEDs**. More efficient than incandescents and CFLs, these bulbs pack an energy efficiency punch and last a *long* time.
3. **Vanquish your vampire energy**. Look for devices that have a glowing standby light even when they're 'off.' They could **account for up to 10%** of your home electricity use. Unplug them when they're not in use, or plug them into a **smart power strip**.
4. **Wash your laundry on cold** when you can. A majority of the energy used by your washing machine is devoted to heating water.
5. **Keep your HVAC filter clean**. A clogged filter reduces the efficiency of your HVAC system, the most energy-intensive system in your home or business.

For **more energy action tips** this month, [follow @ffxgreen on Twitter](#) or like the [Fairfax County Climate & Energy page on Facebook](#).

County Conversation Podcast: Solid Waste Management Program (Trash, Yard Waste and Recycling)

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Suicide Prevention Awareness: Reach Out, Know the Warning Signs (Especially Amid a Pandemic)

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), in 2018, **suicide was the 10th leading cause of death** overall in the United States, claiming the lives of over 48,000 people. Suicide was the **second leading cause of death** among individuals between the **ages of 10 and 34**, and the **fourth leading cause of death** among individuals between the ages of **35 and 54**. With all of the **stressors and uncertainty happening recently**, awareness and focus around suicide is **more important than ever**. [Learn more...](#)

Richmond Highway COVID-19 Business Directory

The Southeast Fairfax Development Corporation (SFDC), Fairfax County Government and partner organizations have **created a business directory** to help **inform residents** of which **businesses are still open during this crisis** and how they can **support local businesses** whether they are open or not. Additionally, SFDC



offers various services including **technical assistance, marketing and pertinent information** directly to **local business owners** affected by the current economic environment. [Learn more...](#)

For more information on COVID-19 visit the [County's COVID-19 web page](#).

Team MVD



Mount Vernon District Staff (clockwise): Donna Slaymaker, Nick Rinehart, Christine Morin, Sally Kidalov, Supervisor Dan Storck, Camela Speer, Volunteer Shirley Short, Abdul Shaban, Diego Rodriguez Cabrera.

September 2020 Activities:

- Phone calls: 1187
- Meetings: 217

Stay Connected:

Mount Vernon Governmental Center
2511 Parkers Lane
Mount Vernon, VA 22306
703-780-7518 (TTY 711) 703-780-1491 (fax)
mtvernon@fairfaxcounty.gov

Office Hours

Monday - Wednesday, Friday:
8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Thursday: 8:30 a.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Second Saturday Each Month (except August)
MV District Office: 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Walk-ins and by appointment

Boards, Authorities and Commissions

Help **serve your community** by serving on a Fairfax County Board, Authority or Commission (BAC). Please ask your friends, neighbors and community members if they are willing to help serve Fairfax County.

Advisory Social Services Board

The Board serves to address **all matters pertaining to the social welfare of the people** served by the government; to monitor the formulation and implementation of **social welfare programs**; to meet with the Director of Social Services at least four times a year for the purpose of **making recommendations on policy matters**; to make an **annual report to the governing body** concerning the administration of the public welfare program; and to submit to the governing body other reports that the advisory body deems appropriate. Four (4) year term (limited to 2 full consecutive terms).

There are **several At-Large positions** available as of September 2020 on County BACs.

- Affordable Dwelling Unit Advisory Board (Engineer/Architect Rep)
- Affordable Dwelling Unit Advisory Board (Lending Institution Rep)
- Alcohol Safety Action Program Local Policy Board (ASAP)
- Athletic Council (Women's Sports Alternate Rep)
- Board of Building and Fire Prevention Code Appeals (Design Professional)
- Civil Service Commission
- Engineering Standard Review Committee
- History Commission (Historian)
- Human Rights Commission
- Road Viewer Board
- Tenant Landlord Commission (3 openings - Citizen Member, Condo Owner, Landlord Member & Tenant Member)

[Learn more about these BACs...](#)

Volunteering on these committees **increases citizen participation in our District**. If you are interested in serving on a county board, authority, commission, or committee (BAC), please provide a current résumé to Donna.Slaymaker@fairfaxcounty.gov. For more information, please download the [brochure](#) for a brief guide to BACs, or learn more on the [County website](#). You can also **check out the County's Volunteer Management System for information** on these and **other volunteer opportunities near you**.

[Visit our website](#)

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

STAY CONNECTED

