

GUM SPRINGS COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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Summer Vacation is Over

The Civic Association's July and August vacation is over. The community meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 8th at 7:30 p.m. at the Gum Springs Community Center.

INOVA Mount Vernon Hospital

INOVA Mount Vernon Hospital (INOVA MVH) is preparing for the next phase of its expansion project. This phase will have a detrimental effect on the Gum Springs community because it will bring more traffic into the area.

It appears that the quality of life for Gum Springs residents does not matter because the community's concerns about vehicle and pedestrian safety to include no crosswalks, lack of signage and the sharing of left-turn lanes in opposite directions (head-on collision) have fallen on deaf ears to VDOT, Fairfax County and other officials (see letter and photos posted on the community website: www.gumspringscivicassociation.com).

Disparate Treatment of Gum Springs

It did not go unnoticed that VDOT recently re-painted the lanes and sharrows but nothing else for the Gum Springs community compared to the other communities along Sherwood Hall Lane. Therefore, it is reasonable to assume that VDOT, Fairfax County and other officials may react in a "positive" manner for INOVA MVH's next phase that may undoubtedly increase traffic along

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Gum Springs Community Center

8100 Fordson Road

888-740-6009 (Civic Association)

www.gumspringscivicassociation.com

Community Meetings

The Civic Association is the voice for the Gum Springs community. You should support your community organization if you live, work or worship in the Gum Springs community. Community meetings are held the second Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Gum Springs Community Center. No meetings are held during July and August. The next Civic Association **meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 8, 2015**. Dues are \$5 per person. Your dues are used solely for community purposes to a community newsletter, flyers, membership dues in the MVCCA, fees to maintain our 501(c)(4) tax exempt status with the IRS and registration fees with the Commonwealth of Virginia State Corporation.

We also use the funds to support special programs and activities for community residents.

If you would like to support the Civic Association by making a monetary, make your check or money order payable to NGSCA and mail to: NGSCA; P.O. Box 6112; Alexandria, VA 22306 or bring to a meeting.

The Civic Association is here for the community it serves!

Sherwood Hall Lane (SHL) whose plans to mitigate the traffic issues may include expanding the lanes on SHL and/or adding a second SB left-turn lane from Richmond Hwy onto SHL.

The Gum Springs community is not against the hospital and supported the hospital even when certain communities were nonexistent and those that were around did not support the hospital when it was first built.

VDOT, Fairfax County and INOVA MVH should provide similar, if not the same, accommodations to Gum Springs that were provided to the other communities along SHL. Just view the photos of what the other communities received compared to what Gum Springs received during the re-stripping of Sherwood Hall Lane approximately 1-year ago on the community website: www.gumspringscivicassociation.com. Gum Springs safety issues continue to exist despite VDOT's year-long promise to return to correct the deficiencies.

Woodlawn-Faith UMC 1st Annual Motorcycle Rally

Woodlawn-Faith invites you to assist and participate in their 1st Annual Motorcycle Rally as one of its events celebrating its 150th Anniversary. The rally will be held on Saturday, September 26th. Meet in the church parking lot (7010 Harrison Lane) at 9:30 a.m. for a word of prayer, singing and a word for God in the sanctuary. The rally will then begin at 10:15 a.m. with escort service from Fairfax County Motorcycle officers.

Worship Watch Meeting

Mount Vernon Police will be holding a Worship Watch meeting on Saturday, September 19th from 8:30 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. (noon) at Aldersgate United Methodist Church (1301 Collingwood Road). Worship Watch encourages congregants to become more involved in reducing the opportunity for crimes to occur on facility premises. RSVP to MPO Robert Urps by email at Robert.urps@fairfaxcounty.gov. For questions or more information contact him on 703-360-8928.

Fairfax County students start school on September 8th. New late start times: High schools between 8:00 and 8:10 a.m. and ending between 2:45 and 2:55 p.m. and Middle schools will start at 7:30 a.m. and end at 2:15 p.m. Check the bell schedule at www.fcps.edu.

Special Salute to Mount Vernon Police Officers

Police officers may not always get it right the first time and let's face it—they're human too! Therefore, it cannot go unnoticed by Gum Springs the way Mount Vernon Police handled a call for assistance involving a mentally ill individual on August 16th.

The individual was known to be schizophrenia and violent. The individual visited a local church in Gum Springs and did not want to leave despite the church being closed. Church staff was not trained to handle individuals with mental illnesses so the Mount Vernon police was called (twice).

There were only two options available to remove the individual from the church—1) on his own free will, which did not seem likely since the individual entered the church around 10:00 a.m. during morning worship services and it was now around 4:00 p.m.; and 2) being cited for trespassing and removed by the police which was not a favorable option for a church that did not want anyone forcibly removed from a safe haven such as the church.

Finally, using his training and negotiation skills, Private Mamalis was able to coax the individual out of the church without force or the individual being arrested. Private Mamalis was assisted by Officers Brougine and Dobson. 2LT Colwell also arrived on the scene to oversee the incident and provide supervision.

There was more to this incident but you should know that there were no injuries to the police, the mentally ill individual or church staff and congregants. The church was thankful and appreciative to the officers for an ending that was welcomed by both the church and the mentally ill individual.

Decision on Gum Springs Conservation Plan

A small group of residents have been working on an acceptable conservation plan for approval by the Fairfax County Planning Commission (PC). The PC will make a decision concerning the reactivation of the Gum Springs Conservation Plan on September 17th.

Support the Gum Springs community!