

GUM SPRINGS COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

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Invited Guests for December 11th Meeting

Mount Vernon Supervisor Gerry Hyland and officials from the Fairfax County Park Authority have been invited to attend the community monthly meeting on December 11th. Main Topic: Martin Luther King Pool.

Inauguration Day 2013

The official inauguration day is January 20, 2013. However, because that date falls on a Sunday, a private ceremony will be held and the public swearing-in ceremony will be held on Monday, January 21, 2013.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s, birth date is January 15th. However, his holiday is celebrated on the third Monday in January of each year since signed into law by President Bill Clinton on August 23, 1994. For 2013, his holiday falls on January 21st, which is also the public inauguration day for President Obama.

The Civic Association will be hosting its annual candlelight vigil and a small program in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 15, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. at the entrance of the Martin Luther King Park, which is the community park in Gum Springs at the end of Fordson Road. To keep you warm, hot apple cider will be served!

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Gum Springs Community Center

8100 Fordson Road

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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, December 11th.**

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!

Fairfax County Park Authority Bond Referendum and MLK Pool

The voters of Fairfax County approved the Fairfax County Park Authority (PA) bond referendum on November 6th of which the PA will receive \$63M of the \$75M bond. The purpose for the bond is to improve community parks and recreational activities for communities. The MLK pool would benefit from the approved bond.

However, without notice to the community, the PA recommended eliminating the \$53,000 to manage and operate the MLK pool after the 2012 swim season and the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (BOS) approved the recommendation by not restoring the funds to operate the MLK small community pool that serves more than 7,000 Lee and Mount Vernon District residents. Instead, the PA and Department of Neighborhood and Community Services (DNCS) plan to develop a partnership with Fairfax County Public Schools in order to circumvent the intended purpose for the bond funds by diverting bond funds to pay for the \$1M turf fields requested by certain school advocates wooing the PA, DNCS and certain BOS.

According to Mount Vernon PA Board Member Linwood Gorham in the October 17th edition of the Mount Vernon Voice, the PA "cannot build fields on school property but it can partner with the school system and share in the construction costs." So in a nutshell, there's no other way the bond funds approved for community park and recreation use may be used by schools for schools on school property. Again, the bond funds are for improved community park and recreation activities in communities.

With its closure, the community will be left with an abandoned building that most likely may draw illicit and/or illegal activities because of its location. More importantly, where will the youths go and/or what will the County do with the closed building?

It should be duly noted that the MLK pool is not in disarray or has been improperly maintained. In fact, the pool has benefited from numerous improvements and has been adequately maintained and operated by the PA. So why target the MLK pool for closure?

Supervisor Gerry Hyland and PA officials have been invited to the December 11th community meeting.

Why You Should Sign-up for CEAN

Fairfax County's Community Emergency Alert Network (CEAN) delivers important emergency alerts, notifications and updates during a major crisis or emergency, in addition to day-to-day notices about weather and traffic. Messages will be delivered to all devices you register—e-mail, cell phone, text pager, satellite phone, wireless device. For more information and to register, visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cean.

Building Use Applications

Requests for community use of space at the Gum Springs Community Center will be online beginning early 2013. However, paper applications will still be accepted; particularly for those who do not have a computer or access to the internet. Department of Neighbor and Community Services is responsible for reviewing and approving building space usage.

Hold Your Mail for the Holidays

The U.S. Postal Service can **Hold Your Mail** if you plan to be away for 3 or more days (up to 30 days). To do so on line go to: <https://holdmail.usps.com/holdmail/>

When you fill out a request for Hold Mail Service, you'll need to enter the start and end dates and indicate whether you prefer to pick up your accumulated mail or have it delivered.

If you'll be away for more than 30 days, read about the U.S. Postal Service's Forwarding Mail options at www.usps.com/manage/forward-mail.htm.

Save-the-Date(s)

January 8, 2013 – Civic Association meeting

January 15, 2013 – Annual Candlelight Vigil in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

February 12, 2013 – Civic Association meeting – Guest: Barbara Doyle, CEO, INOVA Mount Vernon

Support the Gum Springs Community and its Newsletter!

Attend monthly community meetings!