

# Mount Vernon Gazette

## Person of the Year

Andrews receives county-wide award.

By Aleksandra Kulczuga, The Gazette

Wednesday, March 11, 2009

Anne Andrews of Mt. Vernon has volunteered and served the citizens of Fairfax County for over 40 years. This Sunday the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations will honor her work in providing human services to her fellow citizens.

"This was completely out of the blue and I was overwhelmed," said Andrews, on finding out she was this year's recipient.

"We are proud to publicly recognize the achievements of Anne Andrews, our citizen of the year, and Linda Byrne and Christine Morin, our Citation of Merit winners, who have selflessly worked to make Fairfax County a better place," said John Jennison, the Citizen of the Year chair. He adds that these are regular people who work hard to improve the quality of life for county residents and serve as role models for their communities.

Andrews describes her life's work as "advocating for adequate and improved human services in the Route One corridor. I definitely had an impact on housing and affordable healthcare." She claims persistence and assertiveness combined with her knowledge of how the government works enabled her to push through many initiatives.

Andrews was born in New York, attended high school in New Jersey, then Bryn Mawr college in Pennsylvania. She moved to D.C. after graduating to take a government job with the Civil Service Commission where she met her future husband Richard Andrews. The two were married in 1955 and had three children, Walter, Bronwin, and Peter. In 1960 they moved to Mt. Vernon, where Andrews has lived ever since. "There were 100,000 people in Fairfax County and no beltway when we moved here," she said. When her first child was born in 1957 she became a stay-at-home mom, and joined the League of Women Voters, which was her first foray into public service.

While working for the federal government, Andrews said she did not feel she was accomplishing much for the betterment of the world. Through the League of Women Voters, and in an early organization for senior citizens in Mt. Vernon, she found her calling in public service.

IN 1975 Andrews convened the Route One Task Force for Human Services with the goal of enhancing services in the Route One corridor. "This used to be a major center of poverty," said Andrews on why she chose to focus her efforts there. "We're there to help people who can't help themselves." She explains that there is good coordination in Fairfax County between the citizens, the government, and the non-profits to assure that services are provided and that resources are allocated efficiently. "We have effective cooperation here that doesn't exist in other parts of the community," said Andrews of the reasons for their success.

"The first thing we tackled was housing. There was a mobile home community that we redeveloped. We've gotten into many things through the years, sometimes schools and sometimes recreation." Andrews always is paying attention to what the community needs.

"The three health clinics make me very proud to be in Fairfax," said Andrews of the Community Healthcare Network of Fairfax County, which provides primary care services to low-income residents of Fairfax County. The clinics provide a full range of services including preventative care, referrals to specialists, and low cost medications. Andrews was a founding member and was instrumental securing funding for the clinics. "It's a wonderful program and it allows people to go to work," she said, explaining the importance of keeping the workforce healthy, and not overburdening the county's emergency rooms. These were projects she pushed hard for. "People who have no other place to go, who are outside the system can go here." The clinics are funded by Fairfax County. Andrews was also instrumental in saving the Mt. Vernon hospital, whose corporate sponsors had proposed moving it.

Chris Stevens, program director for the Community Healthcare Network of Fairfax County, the clinics that Andrews championed, was instrumental in nominating Andrews for this award: "I have known Anne for 11 years and she is one of the strongest advocates for providing healthcare to low income uninsured people who live in Fairfax County."

Marlene Blum, the chair of the healthcare advisory board and former recipient, had suggested that Andrews would be an excellent candidate for this award. Stevens couldn't agree more. "Anne is an unsung hero, she is always on the lookout. With every fiber of her being she is always thinking about how something in the community can be improved. She never waits and is never satisfied with the status quo." To this day Andrews will volunteer to help individuals who need rides to their doctor's appointments.

"We've always had a lot of support from the elected supervisors," said Andrews. "I'm very proud of the county, they had wonderful goals for housing and health services." The problems facing some of the human services she is involved with are caused by the budget crisis that is affecting the county. "It's so sad to see programs that you've worked so hard for years to get them to spend more money, and to see it wiped out," adding that especially in these tough economic times there are more people who need these services. "Our county leaders have wonderful ideals and ideas, but they are faced with a huge budget problem this year," said Andrews, citing the uncertain future of some programs she has worked for. Andrews says that in the future she will work to reinstate any programs that are cut.

BOTH OF HER SONS will be attending the awards ceremony with their families. Her daughter lives in Colorado with her husband and two children. Her oldest son Walter was a senior in high school in 1975 and attended the first meeting Andrews held of the Route One Task force. Walter's son Richard, a sophomore in college, is named after Andrews' late husband who died in 2003. "I'm glad there will be at least one Richard Andrews present," added Andrews of her grandson. She has five grandchildren.

"My husband was always very proud of me, and very supportive. He would drive me to meetings, and volunteered himself as well, often driving cancer patients to treatments," said Andrews.

The Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations and The Washington Post co-sponsor the annual awards program to recognize outstanding volunteers in Fairfax County. The Citizen of the Year receives an engraved silver cup that passes to each year's recipient.

Andrews continues to serve on the Southeast Health Planning Task Force, Citizen Advisory Board of Mt. Vernon, and the Center for Community Mental Health Committee. The programs are known for health care service to the homeless, underinsured and mentally ill.



Anne Andrews

Awards Banquet  
Fairfax Person of the Year 59th  
Annual Awards Banquet

Sunday, March 15, 6:30 p.m.

Fairview Park Marriott Hotel

3111 Fairview Park Drive, Falls  
Church

Keynote Speaker: Sharon Bulova,  
Chairman, Fairfax County Board of  
Supervisors

Tickets and Information: \$65.  
Contact John Jennison at  
703-591-5586.

### Making a Difference

Anne Andrews has been and continues to be a leader on many projects that enhance the quality of the community. Among her numerous leadership positions are:

- \* Southeast Health Planning Task Force, Chairman (2003-2008) Member (2008-present)

- \* Route One Task Force for Human Service, Convener (1975-present)

- \* Citizen Advisory Board, Mount Vernon Center for Community Mental Health, Founding Member of "Revived" Board (2000-present)

- \* Community Advisory Committee, Founding Member (1989-present)

- \* Health Care Advisory Board, Mt. Vernon District Representative (1988-1991)

- \* Community Involvement Committee for the PACT (Program of Assertive Community Treatment) Program, Founding Member (1999- 2005)

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