



FOX IN THE FLOWERS

On July 10, Fairfax City Economic Development unveiled “Fox in the Flowers,” a new mural located at 10407 Main St. in Old Town Fairfax. Designed by Bailey Sullivan, a Richmond-based illustrator known for her bold, floral-inspired artworks, the mural brings color, character, and a strengthened sense of place to the heart of the city.

Commissioned as part of FCED’s expanded focus on placemaking and tourism efforts, Fox in the Flowers celebrates the community’s rich local identity. Situated on the second-story facade of Marlowe Ink Tattoo, above Senberry Bowls, the vibrant artwork features native crepe myrtles and dogwoods surrounding the centerpiece: Sneakers the Fairfox, Parks and Recreation’s mascot. The fox, a

continued on page 8

Commissioned as part of Fairfax City Economic Development’s expanded focus on placemaking and tourism efforts, “Fox in the Flowers” by Bailey Sullivan is a new mural located in Old Town Fairfax.
Photo from Bailey’s Instagram, bailzy

INSIDE CITYSCENE

City News	2
Council Reporter	3
Joseph Willard Health Center Closing ..	4
Five Minutes with Jamie Ergas	5
Making History	6
Fairfax Restaurant Week	6
Move Fairfax City	7

CITY NEWS

Virginia Sales Tax Holiday, Aug. 1-3

Virginia's annual tax holiday is here! From Aug. 1-3, purchase qualified items tax-free: clothing and footwear; school supplies; hurricane and emergency preparedness items; and Energy Star™ and WaterSense™ products. *Info: tax.virginia.gov/virginia-sales-tax-holiday*

National Night Out, Aug. 5

The annual National Night Out will be held from 6-9 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 5, rain or shine. Supported nationwide by public safety agencies, National Night Out promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to help make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. Neighborhoods host block parties, cook-outs, and various other community events with safety demonstrations, seminars, youth events, visits from emergency personnel, and more.



Early Voting Through Sept. 6

Early voting for the Sept. 9 Special Election for the U.S. House of Representatives (11th District) continues through Sept. 6 at Fairfax City Hall. **Please bring your ID.**

Early voting is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays (excluding holidays), as well as from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 30, and Saturday, Sept. 6. The final day to vote early in person is Saturday, Sept. 6.

Request by-mail ballots by 5 p.m. on Aug. 29 via *elections.virginia.gov/vote*. By-mail ballots may be returned by mail, in person by the voter, or in the secure ballot drop box at the City Hall Atrium main entrance (facing George Mason Boulevard). Register to vote or update registration information by Sept. 2. Sample ballots and more info are available on *fairfaxva.gov/vote*, 703-385-7890



Back to School

On Aug. 18, students return to Fairfax County Public Schools. Classes begin Aug. 25 at Northern Virginia Community College and George Mason University. Mason students will move into housing on the Fairfax campus beginning Aug. 20. During that time, roads around Mason may experience high traffic volume, so consider alternate routes when possible. Be sure students are properly immunized. Find information on Fairfax County Public School immunization requirements at *fcps.edu* (search "immunization"). Fairfax County Health Department provides free immunizations for FCPS students. *Info: fairfaxcounty.gov/health/immunization*

Here are some important safety tips to remember:

- Stop for school buses where students are loading or unloading.
- Watch out for school crossing guards and obey their signals.
- Look out for students throughout the community, but especially on crosswalks and near schools.
- Avoid distractions — and remember that new laws prohibit handling phones while driving.

Speed Cameras in Use During School Year

When school's back in session, so are speed enforcement cameras in school zones during certain hours of the day. Signs with flashing lights alert drivers when the cameras are activated. The cameras are in school zones on Blenheim Boulevard, Route 236/Main Street, and Jermentown Road, near the city's four schools and two Fairfax County schools (Woodson High School and Frost Middle School).

Library Services Assist with Academic Achievement

If you have a Fairfax County Public Library card, you have a partner in ensuring academic excellence for students of all ages. Take advantage of books, magazines, newspapers, and specialty databases with in-depth coverage of various topics and prep resources for SAT, ACT, and AP exams. Or just use the library as a dedicated study space: library branches, including the City of Fairfax Regional Library in Old Town Fairfax, have free wi-fi and computer access. FCPL cards are available for free for all who live, work, and own property in Fairfax City. *Info: fairfaxcounty.gov/library*



Community Farmers Markets, Saturdays



Shop for fresh fruits and vegetables, baked goods, and more at the Saturday Farmers Market at 10500 Page Ave. (adjacent to the historic Fairfax Court House). Sponsored by the Downtown Fairfax Coalition, the market is held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays through Oct. 25. *Info: fairfaxSaturdaymarket.com*

THE CITY NEEDS PEOPLE LIKE YOU SERVE ON CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Board of Building Code Appeals (four vacancies: one mechanical or plumbing vacancy, one architect vacancy, one fire protection vacancy, and one for city resident); **Board of Architectural Review** (one vacancy for city resident); **Board of Zoning Appeals** (two vacancies for city residents); **Economic Development Authority** (one vacancy for minority or women-owned city business); **Environmental Sustainability Committee** (two vacancies for city residents); **Fairfax Alcohol Safety Action Program Policy Board** (one vacancy for city resident); **Grievance Panel Board** (five vacancies for city residents); **Historic Fairfax City, Inc.** (one vacancy for city resident); **Human Services Committee** (one vacancy for city resident); **Northern Virginia Community College Board** (one vacancy for city resident); **NOVA Parks** (one vacancy for city resident); **Planning Commission** (one vacancy for city resident).

To apply, visit *fairfaxva.gov* and search "boards and vacancies," or call 703-385-7935.

COUNCIL REPORTER

PLEASE NOTE:

Summaries have been edited.
To read the full Council Reporter,
visit fairfaxva.gov.

COUNCIL ACTIONS OF JUNE 10, 2025

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

- Mayor Catherine Read presented proclamations acknowledging June 19, 2025, as Juneteenth and June 16-24, 2025, as National Waste and Recycling Workers Appreciation Week in the City of Fairfax.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Appointed Laurie Curtin, Susan Kuiler, and Kelly O'Brien as city representatives to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.
- Appointed Sungin Cho as the architect on the Board of Architectural Review.

PUBLIC HEARING

- Approved, unanimously, to enact an ordinance amending the city code to add a new chapter creating the City of Fairfax Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) Financing Program. The program will facilitate loans made by capital providers to property owners of eligible properties within the city to finance eligible improvements.

ITEMS NOT REQUIRING A PUBLIC HEARING

- Approved, 4-2, a resolution to reaffirm previous approval of the George Snyder Trail as designed. The George Snyder Trail Project has 100%-approved construction plans and is ready for bid. City council action on April 8, 2025, paused advertising for construction to consider potential alternative options, including cancellation. (In favor: Councilmembers Amos, Bates, Hardy-Chandler, and McQuillen. Opposed: Councilmembers Hall and Peterson.)

COUNCIL ACTIONS OF JUNE 24, 2025

ACTIONS OUT OF CLOSED MEETING

- Approved, unanimously, appointments of Jaison Desai and Emily Rabbitt as the city resident representatives to the Move Fairfax City Steering Committee.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

- Approved, 4-2, addition of agenda item: Brief discussion of Bus Rapid Transit. (In favor: Councilmembers Amos, Hall, McQuillen, and Peterson. Opposed: Councilmembers Bates and Hardy-Chandler.)
- Approved, unanimously, adoption of the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Appointed the following applicants to city boards and commissions:
 - Commission for Women: Dorothea Tyree and Trish Bailey.
 - Commission on the Arts: Amberly Page, Melanie Cameron, Jianxin Wang, Anne McMarrow, Rahul Bardhan, and Cheryl Neway.
 - George Mason University Fairfax Campus Advisory Board: Matthew Slomka.
 - Board of Equalization: Timothy Shull.
 - Fairfax Village in the City Advisory Board: Rebecca Raiger.
 - Regional - Coordinating Council for Adults and Adults with Disabilities: Grace Francis.
 - Regional - Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board: Jennifer Desai.
 - Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Rob Knowles.
- Adopted the 2025 Fairfax City Purchasing Resolution as recommended by city staff.
- Approved, unanimously, to write off taxes in compliance with the state code and publish the list of delinquent taxes on the city website in compliance with the state code. Write-off of uncollectable personal property and business license taxes is a yearly process, as is the presentation of those taxes to the mayor and council. The write-off removes all 2019 receivables from the general ledger. The total amount of the write-off is \$44,504.55.
- Adopted, unanimously, a resolution setting the allocation percentage for personal property tax relief for tax year 2025 at 32%. An annual resolution is required to implement the changes made to the PPTR during the 2025 session of the Virginia General Assembly.
- Approved, unanimously, the resolution adopting the city's 2025 Emergency Operations Plan. In accordance with Virginia Emergency Services and Disaster Laws, the revised City Emergency Operations Plan is required by law to be adopted by the governing body.

PUBLIC HEARING

- Approved, unanimously, adoption of a resolution authorizing the exercise of "quick-take" powers, to include the initiation of condemnation proceedings, for the acquisition of certain fee simple right(s)-of-way and easements, on various properties, for the Blenheim Boulevard Multimodal Improvements Project. The city has made good faith offers to the respective landowners for the full estimated value of the required acquisitions, as well as certain costs to cure items. Each of the property owners has been advised of this action and the need for proceeding at this time.



Quick Response Prevents Environmental Damage, Maintains Sewer Service

Unlike stormwater runoff which is channeled to streams through unsealed pipes, grassy swales, and concrete ditches, wastewater is conveyed from homes and businesses to the treatment plant in sealed pipes. It's dirty stuff, and the goal is to keep it in the pipes to protect public health and prevent environmental damage.

At 8:30 p.m. on June 10, Patrick Remson, the city's utilities project manager, had just finished a 15-mile mountain bike ride at Wakefield Park. He was cooling off in the parking lot when his phone rang. It was Rene Romero, the city's wastewater operations supervisor, and he had bad news. Santos Lemus, the on-call wastewater tech, had responded to a report of a sewer odor coming from the Andes Drive pump station and had observed water bubbling out of the ground. Popes Head Creek runs adjacent to the pump station, and a sanitary sewer overflow was underway.

Remson mounted his bike and raced home to change clothes and grab his truck. Within an hour

continued on page 5

Joseph Willard Health Center Closing Oct. 1

The last day for services at the Joseph Willard Health Center (3750 Blenheim Blvd.) is Wednesday, Oct. 1.

The closure is to make way for the construction of the Willard-Sherwood Health & Community Center.

Clinic services – including immunizations, maternity services, pregnancy testing, tuberculosis testing, sexually transmitted infections testing and treatment, HIV testing, and newcomer health screenings – can be scheduled at another health department clinic location, including the Franconia-Springfield Public Health Center opening Oct. 7. *Info:* fairfaxcounty.gov/health/clinics. Call 703-246-7100 (TTY 711) to schedule an appointment.

Speech & Hearing services are available at the Mount Vernon and the Herndon-Reston speech and hearing clinics. Call 703-246-7120 (TTY 711) to schedule an appointment.

Vital Records – including copies of birth, death, marriage, and divorce certificates – are available through the health department for a fee at the Annandale, Herndon-Reston, and Mount Vernon district offices. Beginning Oct. 7, the Franconia-Springfield Public Health Center also will offer vital records services. Vital records are available 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays for walk-in service only. Save time by downloading the vital records application form before visiting.

Women, Infant and Children (WIC) program offered at the Joseph Willard Health Center transitioned to other Health Department WIC locations in December 2024. For a full list of sites offering WIC services, visit fairfaxcounty.gov/health/women-infants-children. Call 703-246-5599 (TTY 711) to schedule an appointment.

For more information and to get answers to frequently asked questions, visit bit.ly/jwhc-transition



FAR LEFT: A trench box provides protection for workers. **LEFT:** The failed pipe segment was located and replaced.



ABOVE: A vacuum truck removes wet sediment from the excavation site.

QUICK RESPONSE

continued from page 4

of receiving the complaint, he was on-site with Romero, Lemus, and other members of the emergency response crew. Crew members who were called in to help traveled from as far away as Stafford County. Wastewater management is not a nine-to-five business; things can break at any time of day or night.

The Andes Drive pump station is located just outside Fairfax City limits, where a wet well collects wastewater from about 350 surrounding homes in Fairfax County. The wastewater is pumped uphill to the city's wastewater system, where it then flows downhill toward the treatment plant in Lorton. On a typical weekday evening, residents take baths and showers, wash clothes, run dishwashers, and flush toilets. Basically, a lot of dirty water is generated at this time of night, and some of it had reached the creek. Rain began to fall, and the crew had to act fast to prevent any more wastewater from entering the stream.

After an initial assessment, the crew split into two teams. By 10 p.m., the first team had installed a temporary bypass system, which allowed the neighborhood to maintain uninterrupted sewer service. Sewage was pumped from the wet well into a rotation of three tanker trucks. The trucks safely dumped the diverted wastewater back into the closed system via a nearby manhole. This process continued through the night and into the following day.

The second crew focused on locating the source of the leak, which required moving a storage shed.

The crew began excavating the area where the wastewater was pooling on the ground. Using pressurized water and a vacuum truck to safely dig around buried infrastructure, they located a broken pipe more than 14 feet underground. They installed trench boxes to prevent a cave-in and then climbed into the hole to begin replacing the broken pipe.

The next day, staff from the stormwater operations crew arrived to relieve the initial responders and maintain the pumping operation. A wastewater emergency is an all-hands-on-deck event! About 20 hours after arriving on-site, the team of 25 dedicated Public Works professionals concluded its emergency response and reported the sanitary sewer overflow to the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

The wastewater team had previously identified this pipe as a primary candidate for rehabilitation through its asset management program. A contract to reline the pipe was issued earlier this year and planning was underway to begin work, but the pipe failed before work began. The contractor is now proceeding with repairs along the full length of the sewer force main.



5 MINUTES WITH...

JAMIE ERGAS

HOUSING PROGRAM MANAGER



I have worked as the city's housing program manager since January, and I have lived in the city for 16 years. I have dedicated my entire career to housing and homeless services, first for nonprofits and Fairfax County, and now in my own community. While the position is new, it is built on a strong foundation laid by residents, non-profit partners, the faith community, as well as city staff and leadership.

I lead and support city efforts to develop long-term, sustainable solutions to provide the community access to safe, stable, and affordable housing. I enjoy blending big-picture thinking and real-world impact, making changes that make a real difference in people's lives.

I'm excited about launching the Housing and Healthy Communities Advisory Board, which brings together a wealth of expertise and diverse perspectives that can drive progress on affordable housing and homelessness in Fairfax City, and developing the city's first affordable housing and homelessness strategic plan — providing a clear roadmap and strategic framework to guide how we move forward, ensuring our policies and programs effectively meet the needs of our community.

LIVE LIFE in the arts

KIDZ KORNER

10:30-11:15 a.m. Saturdays.
Old Town Square. Free.

Aug. 2: My Gym

Aug. 9: Superhero Training
with SUPERMAN!

Aug. 16: Mollie's Bubble
Party & Demo

Aug. 23: Music with Marsha
Goodman Wood –
Science & Songs!

FUNDAY MONDAY

10:30-11:15 a.m. Mondays.
Sherwood Center. Free.

Aug. 4: Music Together
Little Steps

Aug. 11: Drew Blue
Shoes Magic!

Aug. 18: My Gym



**2025 FPYC LIONS
YOUTH FOOTBALL & CHEER**

**REGISTER BY AUG. 15 TO SAVE
PRACTICE STARTS AUG. 4**



**TACKLE
FOOTBALL
BOYS & GIRLS 7-14
CHEER
GIRLS 6-12**

FPYCSports.com/REGISTRATION

MAKING *History*



Dairy Day at Willcoxon Farm, Aug. 8
Fairfax City celebrates Historic Blenheim's history as a thriving dairy farm with "Dairy Day at Willcoxon Farm" from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Aug. 8 at Historic Blenheim. Visitors of all ages can learn how dairy farming impacted the region through the mid-20th century — and make ice cream and butter. Free, signups are needed. *Info: fairfaxva.gov, search "Dairy Day"*

"WWII: Voices of Service,"
through Aug. 8

Explore major events of World War II through photographs, letters, and oral histories of everyday Americans in this traveling banner exhibition from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. The exhibit provides an overview of important events on the battlefield and the home front, from the attack on Pearl Harbor through the GI Bill. Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center. Free. *Info: fairfaxva.gov, search "WWII"*

Ratcliffe-Allison-Pozer Hour Tours,
Aug. 9, 30

Travel back in time with a free tour of the Ratcliffe-Allison Pozer House. Connect with the individuals who shaped the City of Fairfax, particularly the impactful legacy of Kitty Pozer, who donated the house to the city. Tours will be offered from noon to 3 p.m. on the second and last Saturdays of the month through October.

Old Town Fairfax Walking Tours,
Aug. 30

Take an hour-long tour of Old Town Fairfax with a knowledgeable guide from Historic Fairfax City, Inc., on the last Saturday of the month through October. The tour steps off at 11 a.m. from the Fairfax Courthouse, 4000 Chain Bridge Road. Free. Space is limited; reserve your place through Eventbrite or visit historicfairfax.org/events.



SUMMER 2025

FAIRFAX CITY RESTAURANT WEEK

Starts Aug. 22

Participating restaurants will offer new menu items for everyone to enjoy. Don't miss out on this chance to chow down at a discount. fairfaxcityrestaurantweek.com

Historic Blenheim Guided Tours,
Tuesday-Saturday

Learn more about Historic Blenheim, famous for its "diary on the walls" left by Federal soldiers on the attic and house walls of the Historic Blenheim home. Tours are conducted at 1 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Free.

Fairfax Courthouse and Historic Records Center Guided Tours,
Fridays

Tour the 1799 Fairfax Courthouse and Historic Records Center, 4000 Chain Bridge Road, at 3 p.m. on Fridays (excluding holidays and other court closures). Free. *Info: 703-246-4168*

"The Fairfax Story,"

Wednesday-Monday

Explore "The Fairfax Story" at Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center through artifacts, maps, images, and fun facts in a permanent exhibit that tells the story of the people who have called Fairfax home. The museum is open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday-Monday. Free. *Info: fairfaxva.gov/visitors*



NEW CITY WEBSITE DESIGN

The city in late July launched a redesigned website at *fairfaxva.gov* to better serve residents and business owners. The web address remains the same, and the new site features a modern layout that is easier to read and navigate, and information is organized to help people complete tasks quickly.

The redesign is the result of more than a year of research, staff collaboration, and community input. Beginning in 2023, the city studied website analytics, heatmaps, user behavior, and community survey responses. This research revealed key challenges, such as difficulty finding information, outdated content, and inconsistent formatting.

Common complaints included:

- Very clunky. Lots of link-clicking to get to what you are looking for. Needs to be streamlined.
- Some items are buried, and it takes a long time to find details.
- Website navigation is not very intuitive for users unless they are very familiar with how city departments are organized.
- Search results can be unreliable.

In response, the city consolidated hundreds of pages, improved search functionality, and reorganized content to reflect how visitors use the site.

KEY FEATURES

STREAMLINED HOMEPAGE

- Make payments online.
- Apply for permits.
- Find events, activities, and meetings.
- Explore current and upcoming projects.
- Report issues through Fairfax City Resolve (Ready311).
- Read city news.
- Find CUE Bus routes and schedules.

PREDICTIVE SEARCH BAR

- If what you need is not on the homepage, use the search bar to find things faster.

RESPONSIVE DESIGN

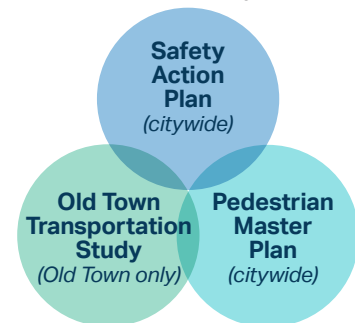
- Because more than half of city website visits occur on mobile devices, the new site was designed to work optimally on both desktop computers and smartphones.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

- **Update your bookmarks.** Some links may have changed due to restructured navigation. Please update your bookmarks for saved pages. If you manage a website that links to the city website, please check your site for possible broken links.
- **We want to hear from you.** Staff will continue to refine content and features based on user needs and feedback. If you have comments, suggestions, or need help, please email We.Care@fairfaxva.gov with the subject line "New Website."



The city was awarded a federal Safe Streets for All grant to develop a city-wide safety action plan, conduct an Old Town Fairfax circulation study, and develop a citywide pedestrian master plan. A steering committee was established on May 13.



Each plan will have distinct recommendations and priorities, but key areas of overlap include safety analysis, pedestrian needs evaluation, and public engagement. Coordination of these plans will occur under the umbrella project name, "Move Fairfax City."

- **Safety Action Plan:** Develop recommendations to improve safety for all roadway users: drivers, pedestrians, bicyclists, transit riders.
- **Pedestrian Master Plan:** Identify priority recommendations for pedestrian network improvements.
- **Old Town Fairfax Circulation Study:** Evaluate the feasibility of alternative traffic circulation patterns and potential opportunities to improve walkability, connectivity, and safety in Old Town. This study advances recommendations in the Old Town Fairfax Small Area Plan to improve transportation in the activity center.

The project budget is \$545,300 (\$400K SS4A grant and \$150K in local funding). The public engagement period continues through spring 2026, and opportunities to participate will be shared soon. Visit Engage Fairfax for updates.

City Hall • 10455 Armstrong St. • Fairfax, VA 22030

The City's communications and marketing office produces the *Cityscene* every month.

Interim City Manager Bryan Foster (bryan.foster@fairfaxva.gov)

Mayor Catherine S. Read

City Council
(mayorandcouncil@fairfaxva.gov)

Anthony T. Amos

Billy M. Bates

Stacy R. Hall

Stacey D. Hardy-Chandler

Rachel M. McQuillen

Thomas D. Peterson

School Board
(schoolboard@fairfaxva.gov)

Carolyn S. Pitches, Chair

Amit S. Hickman, Vice Chair

Lauren A. Bartelme, Member

Kristina M. Cecere, Member

Sarah M. Kelsey, Member

Cityscene includes news about upcoming events and performances, city projects and initiatives, and city council actions. Information is subject to change after publication.

Report problems and request services at fairfaxva.gov/resolve.



To request this information in an alternate format, call 703-385-7800 (TTY: 711).



Escanea el código para leer *Cityscene* en español.

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FOX IN THE FLOWERS

continued from page 1

playful and symbolic figure, serves as a nod to the city's charm, history, and welcoming spirit.

"My work is inspired by decorative European folk art," said Sullivan. "I love including lots of florals, animals, and other bits of nature. For this mural in particular, I was inspired by the fable of the fox and the crow. I'm honored to be able to paint in beautiful Old Town Fairfax and hope this piece sparks a little joy for those passing by." Sullivan's work has been featured in a range of prominent media, including book covers, U.S. postage stamps, and even the recently released autobiography of Dolly Parton.

The project is a collaboration between FCED, City of Fairfax Cultural Arts, and the City of Fairfax Commission on the Arts.