

Celebrate the City's Public Works Professionals

ational Public Works Week is May 19-25 — but every day is Public Works Day in Fairfax City. The department's wide scope of responsibility means their functions affect every other municipal department.

Public Works professionals provide a wide array of services: manage and maintain city structures, infrastructure, and facilities including roads, sidewalks, stormwater facilities, wastewater facilities, signage, signals, government buildings, right-of-way, public grounds, wastewater facilities, fleet and equipment management, removal of snow and ice, refuse and recycling, leaf collection, CUE Bus service, and many streetlights.

One division affects all city functions: the storm drainage division that oversees the city's stormwater management system. The city's 10-member storm drainage division keeps the stormwater system functioning properly to help prevent flooding, keeps our streets and neighborhoods clear of debris, and keeps our local streams and the Chesapeake Bay healthy.

Stormwater is water from rain or other precipitation that doesn't soak into the ground. It flows off streets, parking lots, construction sites, and neighborhoods — and is channeled into the city's system of pipes, ditches, and other flood control facilities and waterways. As stormwater flows over paved and hard surfaces, it collects trash, sediment, and chemicals (like motor oil and fertilizer) that pollute local waterways.

The storm drainage division maintains the city's stormwater collection continued on page 5







In 2024, the Commission for Women selected two dynamic city residents as Women of Influence: **Kelly O'Brien** and **Lorraine Koury**.

You've seen Kelly O'Brien around the city for the past 13 years, perhaps as a member of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board or the Old Town Fairfax Business Association board of directors. Or maybe with the Asian Festival on Main leadership team, as a mentor at Daniels Run Elementary, or as a class parent and school supplies coordinator at Mosaic Elementary. Her passion is volunteering — or, as she says, "putting into the world what you want to see — it could be a lot or it could be a little, but it's something."

Volunteering gives her a way to gather knowledge and meet new people. "You come together with people who are like-minded, and you do something to better the world in general," she said. "It's another avenue of connection, and you're meeting people you wouldn't have met otherwise."

Lorraine Koury, a retired family law continued on page 4

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CITY NEWS

City Government Offices Holiday Closures

Monday, May 27, Memorial Day

- Closed: City government offices, DMV Select, General District Court
- Open: Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center
- CUE Bus: Saturday service

Holiday Refuse and **Recycling Collection Schedule**

- May 27: no service
- May 28: Monday and Tuesday routes collected

Please note: there may be a delay in yard debris collection citywide May 27 - 31. Please leave items at the curb until they are collected. Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "Refuse Holiday"), 703-385-7837

Splash Pad Opening Delayed

Due to a mechanical failure, the splash pad will not open in May, as regularly scheduled. Parks and Recreation staff members are working hard to resolve problems and open the splash pad during the 2024 summer season. Updates will be posted at fairfaxva.gov/splashpad.

Free Safety Training, May 4

The Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department offers free lifesaving EMS training to the public on May 4 at Fire Station 3, 4081 University Drive. Sign up for the class at 9 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. to learn hands-only CPR, AED, stroke awareness, and stop the bleed training. Sign up at fairfaxva.gov/ services/about-us/city-calendar.

Proposed City Budget Discussion Concludes May 7

The mayor and city council continue to review and discuss the proposed budget for FY25 until Tuesday, May 7. Stay engaged: download and review the document, watch, or attend the meeting — and engage in person, by eComment, or via WeCare@fairfaxva.gov. Info: fairfaxva. gov/budget, 703-385-7870

Historic Fairfax City, Inc. **Annual Meeting, May 8**

Join members of HFCI at their annual meeting and program, featuring guest speaker Matthew B. Karush, Ph.D., professor of modern Latin American history at George Mason University with a focus on labor politics and mass culture in Argentina. The meeting and free lecture at 7 p.m. May 8 at Historic Blenheim are open to all. Info: fairfaxva.gov, search "historic programs"

Farmers' Markets, Saturdays and Sundays

The Downtown Fairfax Coalition's Saturday Farmers' Market begins May 11 and the Sunday Farmers' Market begins May 12 at 10500 Page Ave. Market hours are 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Info: fairfaxsaturdaymarket.com



Ride of the Patriots, May 26

The Ride of the Patriots, a gathering that pays tribute to America's servicemembers and veterans and raises awareness of POW and MIA soldiers, will be held May 26 at Patriot Harley-Davidson, 9739 Fairfax Blvd. The event includes a parade at 7:20 a.m., an opening ceremony and keynote speaker at 8 a.m., and a motorcycle ride with police escort from Patriot Harley-Davidson to the Pentagon, where riders join "Rolling to Remember." Motorcycles begin lining up at 6:30 a.m. on Fairfax Boulevard. Info: patriotharley.com/en/ride-ofthe-patriots

Older Americans Month, May

Celebrate Older Americans Month with the Young at Heart Senior Center. The center is open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. Membership is free for city residents. Nonresidents may join for \$50/year or \$5/day. See more on page 8. Info: fairfaxva.gov/seniorcenter



Stream Restoration Public Meeting, May 15

Join the Public Works Department for a public meeting on the future of stream restoration in the city at 6 p.m. May 15 at the Sherwood Center. The Public Works Department recently completed a citywide assessment of the Accotink Creek, reviewing stream conditions such as bank erosion and width/height, quality of the riparian buffer, floodplain connection, and more. Using this information, the city identified seven stream segments as potential areas where future stream restoration projects can be constructed.

At the meeting, you can learn more about these segments and provide your input on the city's future stream restoration project areas. We want to know what aspects of stream restoration are important to you and where you want us to focus. Info: PW-Stormwater@fairfaxva.gov, 703-385-7810

EagleBank Arena Graduation Events, May and June

George Mason University will hold commencement at 10 a.m. May 9 at EagleBank Arena and degree celebrations May 9-11. Area high schools hold their graduation ceremonies at the arena from late May through June. During this time, there may be increased traffic in the city and around the university.

Reception for New City Manager, May 2

The mayor and city council invite 💋 you to a community reception • welcoming Laszlo A. Palko as the newly appointed city manager. The reception will be from 5-7 p.m. May 2 at the Sherwood Center. Info: 703-385-7850



PLEASE NOTE: summaries have been edited. To read the full Council Reporter, visit fairfaxva.gov and click on "City Meetings" or scan QR code at left.

COUNCIL ACTIONS OF MARCH 5, 2024

Convened a special meeting to conduct interviews for boards and commissions and discuss appointments to boards and commissions.

COUNCIL ACTIONS OF MARCH 12, 2024

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

- Presentation of a proclamation acknowledging March as Women's History Month in the City of Fairfax.
- Presentation of a proclamation acknowledging March 21, 2024, as Save Soil Day in the City of Fairfax.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Approved, unanimously, the adoption of the agenda. (Councilmember Greenfield was absent.)

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approved, unanimously: Consideration of the Feb. 13, 2024, regular meeting minutes; Consideration of the Feb. 16, 2024, special meeting minutes; Consideration of the Feb. 27, 2024, special meeting minutes; Consideration of the Feb. 27, 2024, regular meeting minutes; Consideration of the March 5, 2024 special meeting minutes; Consideration of appointments to boards and commissions; Consideration of an award of construction contract for Police Station Security Fencing; Consideration of an award of professional services contract for All Hazards Security and Vertical Assets Improvement Program. (Councilmember Greenfield was absent.)
- Approved, 4-1, to authorize the purchasing agent to amend the contract to Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. for additional engineering services for the George T. Snyder Trail. (In favor: Councilmembers Bates, Lim, Ross, and Stehle. Opposed: Councilmember Doyle Feingold.) (Councilmember Greenfield was absent.)

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Public hearing on the proposed FY 25 budget. (No Council action)
- Approved, unanimously, to enact an ordinance amending City Code Chapter 66, Article I pertaining to the city system of personnel administration, as presented. Further moved that the incumbent members of the Personnel Advisory Board be appointed to serve as panelists under the revised grievance procedure, with terms extending for three years following the effective date of this ordinance. (Councilmember Greenfield was absent.)

ITEMS NOT REQUIRING A PUBLIC HEARING

Approved, unanimously, that the City Council advertise

a proposed real estate tax rate of \$1.035 per \$100 of assessed value. (Councilmember Greenfield was absent.)

COUNCIL REPORTER FOR MARCH 26, 2024

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

- Presentation of a proclamation acknowledging the month of March as Brain Injury Awareness Month in the City of Fairfax.
- Presentation of a proclamation acknowledging March 31, 2024, as Transgender Day of Visibility in the City of Fairfax.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Approved, unanimously, the adoption of the agenda. (Councilmember Doyle Feingold was absent.)

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approved, 4-0-1, consideration of the March 12, 2024, regular meeting minutes. (In favor: Councilmembers Bates, Lim, Ross, and Stehle. Abstained: Councilmember Greenfield.) (Councilmember Doyle Feingold was absent.)
- Approved, unanimously: Consideration of board and commission appointments; Consideration of a resolution delegating authority to the city manager and the chief financial officer to make declarations to preserve the city's right to reimburse expenditures with proceeds of subsequent tax-exempt borrowings; Consideration of an award of a construction contract to Utilities Unlimited, LLC for the Fern Street and Park Road Drainage Improvements; and Consideration of a resolution approving an agreement granting a short-term extension of the cable franchise agreement granted to CoxCom, LLC. (Councilmember Doyle Feingold was absent.)

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Public hearing on the proposed FY25 budget. (No Council action)

ITEMS NOT REQUIRING A PUBLIC HEARING

Approved, unanimously, a resolution to endorse the recommended concept of the Fair Woods Parkway Neighborway and direct staff to prepare engineering plans for construction. (Councilmember Doyle Feingold was absent.)





KE MON

New in 2024: The City of Fairfax now has Capital Bikeshare stations all around the city. Download the app at bit.ly/capitalbikeshareapp and rent a Capital Bikesahre bike today - Don't forget to wear a helmet!



Fairfax Art Bike Ride

10am-12pm at Old Town Square (10414 North Street) Register by Noon May 3 here: bit.ly/FFXArtBikeRide Ride your bike with us to check out colorful landmarks around the city. Bring your own bike or rent one from the Library Capital Bikeshare station!



Bike to Work Day

6am-9am at Old Town Square (10414 North Street) Registration here: bit.ly/FFXCityBTWDRegistration Bike to work for a healthier, more eco-friendly commute and stop by our pit stop to win raffle prizes from local sponsors. T-shirts only available while supplies last!



Kids Safety Day at the Antique Car Show

10am to 3pm at City Hall (10455 Armstrong Street) Drop by the free traffic garden to practice biking and walking safety. Bring your bike/scooter and a helmet or come as a pedestrian. Best for ages 5-10.



MORE WAYS TO PARTICIPATE:

- · Log your biking hours for the Mayors' Fitness Challenge Ends May 11! bit.ly/FFXMayorsFitnessChallenge
- Find your Capital Bikeshare station and rent a bike: bit.ly/FindYourCaBiStation
- Post your bike ride on social using #BikeFFXCity and tag @CityofFairfaxVA
- · Visit fairfaxva.gov/bikemonth to find more ways to celebrate!

Women of Influence

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attorney, is passionate about justice, democracy, and the fair and equal treatment of all people. She shares Gandhi's philosophy — the true measure of any society can be found in how it treats its most vulnerable members — and has spent her life and career helping individuals and families.

"You're really helping people in family law," she said of her 34 years as an attorney. "You're helping women get custody of their children. You're helping dads get visitation that maybe has been denied, women getting child support, spousal support, protective orders... you're making a big difference in people's lives. It's direct and immediate."

Helping others is a cause even closer to home: the longtime city resident provided pro bono services in *United* States v. Commonwealth of Virginia, a court case that deals with discrimination against people with intellectual disabilities, including her sister.

She also is passionate about transparent, free, and fair elections — and has worked on nearly every aspect of an election. When she was appointed to the City of Fairfax Electoral Board in 2018, she was the first woman on the board in nearly two decades. When it comes to elections, everyone should have "every single solitary molecule of access to the ballot," she said. "That's the whole point of America."



2024 SCHEDULE MAY 24 Perfekt Blend **JUNE 28 Scorpion Rose JULY 26** 2MB & U.S. Army Downrange **AUGUST 23 Firekite SEPTEMER 27** Dr. Fu & Herr Metal **OCTOBER 25**

Lyn Guzman **Promoted** to **Finance Director**



Lyn Guzman was promoted to finance director on April 1. Guzman has nearly 14 years of local government experience. She has opera-

5 MINUTES WITH ... **DANTE BUMBRAY** STORM DRAINAGE

SUPERVISOR





I've been with the Public Works Department for 16 years. I started on the crew of the storm drainage division, then as a truck driver. I spent six years after that with the asphalt heavy operations crew, rising to the position of assistant supervisor. Ultimately, I became the supervisor of the storm drainage division, which is part of the Public Works Administration and Engineering Division. I have 10 people on my crew.

We assess, repair, and build stormwater utility system updates. In the past year alone, we have rebuilt 19 structures and 16 outfalls. Our work is mainly preventative, so what we do helps the city avoid stormwater utility failures — and,



The Mathy Drive culvert experienced severe erosion near two outfalls. The city reinstalled the pipe, added riprap (large rocks) for erosion control and outfall protection, added a headwall to stabilize the pipe and prevent future dislodging, and backfilled the area with fresh compactable dirt.

more importantly, prevent major catastrophes.

We are conducting a systemwide assessment of the city's stormwater utility infrastructure. We are mapping the system and are identifying and prioritizing projects so we can keep the system healthy and functioning properly. With the size of our system, the assessment is expected to continue for another five to seven years.

Out of sight, out of mind.

Stormwater management shouldn't be overlooked until a sinkhole arises. Most of everything we do is underground, and it's easy to underestimate its importance. Infrastructure is foundational and should be discussed with every city project. When we talk about roadways and sidewalks, for example, we should talk about stormwater management.

Residents can help keep materials out of the storm drain. Only rain down the drain cannot be overemphasized. Don't rinse anything down the drain, especially chemicals. Even light materials like grass, leaves, sticks, or branches can congest the drain: you just don't see it. Materials can back up the drain, and the wrong mix of chemicals and debris can be costly to repair - dangerous, destructive, and even deadly.

tional knowledge with fixed assets, payroll, accounts payable, tax-relief, ARPA, the city's annual audit, and other overall finance activities.

Guzman has served as staff accountant for numerous years. More recently, she has been acting finance director for the city since July 2023 and expertly managed the city's annual comprehensive financial report. She has begun the Certified Public Finance Officers (CPFO) Program via GFOA and will be attending a future Weldon Cooper's Leading, Educating, and Development (LEAD) training.

Public Works continued from page 1

system: 300,000 feet of storm pipe, 1,840 catch basins, 145 outfalls, 28 box culverts, 324 driveway culverts, seven bridges, and 37 bridge culverts.

Crews replace deteriorated storm lines, perform preventative maintenance tasks, clear blocked streams, repair box culverts, and repair damaged driveway pipe and ditch lines.

The best way to support this team is to keep only water in the system. Keep branches and other debris from washing into pipes and streams, and refrain from washing chemicals

such as fertilizer into curb inlets. Also, if you see something, say something: a "small" sinkhole is not the whole story, and erosion and damage are much larger under the surface.

The city's stormwater system is funded by a stormwater utility, a dedicated funding source that equitably distributes the cost of stormwater services among real property owners. Property is evaluated by its stormwater runoff impact: the more impervious (hard) surfaces a property has, the greater the stormwater fee obligation for that property. Info: fairfaxva.gov/ stormwaterutility



BRONZE UNLIMITED: MOVIES AND MUSICALS

8 p.m. May 3, Sherwood Center. \$15. The handbells concert includes pieces from Pirates of the Caribbean, Mamma Mia, Lord of the Rings, The Greatest Showman, and Schindler's List.

CITY OF FAIRFAX BAND: CELEBRATIONS

7:30 p.m. May 4, Old Town Hall. \$15/adult; \$10/senior.

FAIRFAX ACADEMY FASHION SHOW

"Fashion in Motion" 5 p.m. May 1, Sherwood Center. \$40/ preferred; \$20/general; \$10/standing. Prepare for a night of glamour! Fairfax Academy Fashion Careers students showcase their creativity. Mount Vernon Culinary Arts students, under the guidance of Chef Ibrahim, will serve delightful refreshments.

WRITE ON, FAIRFAX!

Memoirists 2-4 p.m. May 19, City of Fairfax Regional Library. Free.

Eric Hodgkins will talk about his book, A Box in the Basement; Sharon Chang will speak on her book, Escaped Alone: A Memoir of an Incomplete Southerner, Meta Evenbly will discuss her memoir, Brave Face; and J. Chapman Petersen introduces his book, Rebel.

FRIDAY MORNING MUSIC CLUB

Noon May 16, Old Town Hall. Free.

BOOK LAUNCH AT FAIRFAX LIBRARY

Unforgivable 3 p.m. May 5, City of Fairfax Regional Library, Room A/B. Free. Dr. Caroline Crocker will read a part of Unforgivable, answer questions, and sign copies of the book! Meta, the person who knew the hero of the book best, will also be in attendance.

MAKING

Traveling Exhibition: Politics of Yellow Fever in Alexander Hamilton's America, through June 8

This traveling banner exhibition explores how party politics shaped the response to the 1793 yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia. Free at the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily at 10209 Main St. Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "Hamilton")

Ratcliffe-Allison-Pozer House Guided Tours, May 4 - Sept. 28 Take a free guided tour with a knowledgeable docent through the Ratcliffe-Allison-Pozer House, the oldest residence in Fairfax City (10386 Main St.). The house is open from noon to 3 p.m. Saturdays from May through September. Note: the house will be open from 1-4 p.m. May 19 during the Asian Festival on Main. Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "Pozer")

The Importance of Historic Preservation: In Celebration of National Preservation Month, May 18

Join us in celebrating National Preservation Month with a talk by cultural historian and architect Andrew Marshall. This free talk will be held at 2 p.m. May 18 at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Blenheim Blvd. Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "preservation")



Meet Kamelia Roshanian, Vice-Chair, Board of **Zoning Appeals**

I have lived in the city since December 2023. I spent my very formative teenage years growing up in Fairfax City. After moving around the Beltway area, I returned to Fairfax because I loved the small-town feel while still being close to the hustle and bustle of D.C. The local restaurants and businesses really provide that local feel, while still having world-class businesses and companies right here in our community.

The Board of Zoning Appeals looks at the overall quality of a community and protects the interests of both the residents and the businesses to find a happy medium that fosters growth. When we review a justification that an applicant has made, whether a business or residence, we review the holistic impact it would have on the community.

The BZA provides balance for a community's development and planning. We want to honor the established city quidelines and ensure applicants' modifications do not have negative impacts on the community.

We are living in a more digital world where it's proven that people are less connected and involved in each other's lives. Giving back to and being an active part of your community is more crucial now than ever. Not only do you feel a sense of accomplishment by contributing to where you live, but you also develop incredible knowledge about zoning requirements and how the city balances different needs.

5 MINUTES WITH ... SUNNY SARNA TRANSPORTATION CAPITAL PROJECTS MANAGER



Transportation is a division of the City of Fairfax Public Works Department. At the direction of City Council, we design and construct roads, intersections, sidewalks, and trails to improve circulation and safety. Our projects are rooted in the city's Comprehensive Plan and planned in collaboration with the Economic Development Office. the Community Development and Planning Department, and other stakeholders. Most of our projects are funded by dedicated state and federal funding sources.

I have lived in Fairfax County my entire adult life and graduated from George Mason University. I joined the transportation division two years ago after working in the Fairfax County Public Schools Office of Design and Construction for 23 years. I worked as an engineering consultant in the private sector prior to that. The folks working in the city's transportation division are some of the most dedicated and caring people I've worked with.

I was attracted by the city's commitment to improving multimodal transportation and the city's record of receiving outside funding for transportation projects. The city has exciting plans to build off-street trails, shared use paths, new roads, safer intersections, and wider sidewalks.

My role is to oversee the consultants retained for design and contractors who build our projects



and ensure projects are delivered on time. One project I am excited to see constructed is the **Government Center Parkway** extension, which will connect the existing county road to Jermantown Road in Fairfax City. This project will include improvements for pedestrians and cyclists as well as motorists.

Transportation projects take a long time to deliver, but the most successful projects occur when residents are involved early in the planning process

and remain engaged throughout the project. I highly recommend following City Council and Planning Commission discussions, attending public meetings, reading Cityscene, and subscribing to the city's e-newsletters.



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Cityscene is produced by the city's Communications and Marketing Office

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City Manager Laszlo Palko (laszlo.palko@fairfaxva.gov) Large Print

Recorded

Braille

Cityscene is mailed to city residents and businesses by the first of the month and published on the city website. It is published by the Communications and Marketing Office to inform the public of government actions and events of interest in the city. Information is subject to change after publication. Cityscene is available in large print, Braille, and audio upon request.

Para solicitar ayuda con servicios de la ciudad o preguntas sobre esta publicación, por favor llame al 703-385-7800 (TTY: 711).

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Celebrate **AMERICANS** MONTH



POWERED BY CONNECTION: MAY 2024

Every May, the Administration for Community Living leads the nation's observance of Older Americans Month. The 2024 theme is **Powered by Connection**, which recognizes the profound impact that meaningful relationships and social connections have on our health and well-being.

> Join us in promoting the benefits of connecting with others at the senior center (4401 Sideburn Road) throughout the month of May, Monday-Friday

8 a.m.- 5 p.m. Activities include pickle ball, an art exhibit, health and fitness day, daytrips, bocce, Mother's Day tea, and workshops. Info: fairfaxva.gov/seniorcenter 703-273-6090

HELPING HANDS THE CITY NEEDS

PEOPLE LIKE YOU **SERVE ON CITY BOARDS** AND COMMISSIONS

Board of Building Code Appeals (two vacancies: one mechanical or plumbing vacancy and one city resident); Board of **Zoning Appeals** (one vacancy); **Commission on the Arts (two** vacancies: one for city resident and one for business representative); Commission on Aging (one vacancy); George Mason **University Fairfax Campus** Advisory Board (one vacancy); **Human Services Committee**

(one vacancy).

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