

Improving Connections for Pedestrians and Cyclists

esign for the following projects will be starting in the coming months, with construction slated to begin in FY 2027. Both projects were included in the city's FY2024-25 Two-Year Transportation Program, adopted by City Council on June 13, 2023.

Fern Street Neighborhood Connection

This project constructs a new biking and walking connection between Main Street/Route 29 and Park Road in the Westmore neighborhood. The path and landscaping improvements will be installed in the grassy area owned by the city, adjacent to the Fairfax Junction shopping center parking lot. This connection was recommended in the Kamp Washington Small Area Plan, which was approved by City Council on Oct. 25, 2022.

Chain Bridge Road Shared Use Path

This project constructs a missing link of path on the west side of Chain Bridge Road between Assembly Drive and Northfax Street (formerly Orchard Street). The new trail section connects north to the shared-use path being constructed as part of the Eaton Place/Chain Bridge Road intersection improvements. The trail connects west to the on-road bicycle lanes being constructed on Northfax Street and south to the new path being constructed as part of the site redevelopment. A shared use path in this location was recommended in the Northfax Small Area Plan, which was approved by City Council on June 23, 2020.





Put down your keys and get there differently. Car Free Day is Sept. 23, but Fairfax City is celebrating "Get There Differently" throughout September. Try an alternative to driving alone in your car, such as our fare-free CUE Bus, Metrorail, Capital Bikeshare, e-scooter, carpooling, or even walking.

Post a selfie of yourself using an alternative form of transportation and tag the city on Facebook, X, or Instagram using @cityoffairfaxva for a chance to win a \$50 Flex Card redeemable at participating city businesses! Use this hashtag in your social media posts: #FFXGetThereDifferently.

Visit bit.ly/FFXGetThereDifferently for more information and start planning your car-free trip today! Find more information about prizes, promotions, and other ways to participate.



Meet Our New Climate and Energy Manager

Sonia Succar Ferré began her role with the city as the climate and energy manager on July 15. She brings to the city a wealth of experience and expertise in environmental management, sustainable development, climate policy, and engagement. With more than 15 years of experience in both the public and private sectors, Succar Ferré has worked continued on page 2

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CITY NEWS X V O I E

City Government Offices Holiday Closures

Monday, Sept. 2, Labor Day

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

Holiday Refuse and Recycling Collection Schedule

- Sept. 2: no service
- Sept. 3: Monday and Tuesday routes collected

Please note: there may be a delay in yard debris collection citywide Sept. 2-7. Please leave items at the curb until they are collected. Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "Refuse Holiday"), 703-385-7837

Public Safety Classes, Sept. 7, Oct. 5, Nov. 2

Take a free public safety class offered by the Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department with the Fairfax City Fire Department. Classes are offered at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. on the first Saturday of the month through November at Fire Station 3. Topics include hands-only CPR/AED, stop the bleed, stroke awareness, fire extinguisher and smoke detector use, and more. Enrollment is limited, so sign up today. Info: 703-385-7940, fairfaxva.gov/news

Arts Grant Applications, Sept. 13

Fairfax artists: apply for the Commission on the Arts grant! Grant applications are accepted for projects or events that occur between July 1, 2024, and June 30, 2025. Grant funds may be applied only to direct costs, not general operating expenses. Deadline is 5 p.m. Sept. 13. Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "grant"), 703-273-6097

Early Voting, Sept. 20

Early voting for the Nov. 5 General Election begins Sept. 20 in the Office of Elections (City Hall Annex). Please bring your ID. Office of Elections is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays (excluding holidays), and 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays Oct. 26 and Nov. 2. The final day to vote early in person is Nov. 2. Sample ballots are available 45 days before the date of the election.

Request by-mail ballots by 5 p.m. on Oct. 25 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). Info: fairvaxva.gov/vote, 703-385-7890

SWU Credit Applications, Oct. 1

Property owners who are assessed a stormwater utility fee may apply for stormwater utility credits to reduce their fees. Credit opportunities include structural and non-structural activity-based options. Stormwater utility credit applications and supporting documentation are due Oct. 1. Info: fairfaxva.gov/stormwaterutility

Personal Property Tax Payments, Due Oct. 7

Personal property and vehicle registration fee payments are due by Oct. 7. Late payments will incur a 10% penalty, plus interest. Payment options:

- Secure drop box outside City Hall (circular drive on Armstrong Street)
- Mail checks only (and early)
- Online via the Payments button on the city homepage
- **By phone** (703-385-7900, option 5)
- In person at Fairfax City Hall (8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays)

Confirm tax payments online via fairfaxva.gov/mytaxes. To request a copy of your bill, call 703-385-7900 (then press 1). To make changes to your bill, call 703-385-7885. Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "Personal Property Tax")

Public Meeting, Sept. 10

Ox Hill Companies is hosting a town hall meeting 7-8 p.m. Sept. 10 at the Sherwood Center. The team will provide detailed insights about the proposed project, The Ox, Fairfax, and address any inquiries attendees have.

FHS Class of '74 Reunion. Oct.. 26

Fairfax High School Class of 1974 will celebrate their 50th reunion Oct. 26 at the American Legion Post



177, 3939 Oak St. Info: FHS74class@outlook.com or join the Facebook page at facebook.com/groups/ 252908521091774.

Climate and Energy Manager

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with esteemed organizations such as the Atlantic Council, the Nature Conservancy, the City of Coral Gables, Fla., and the City of Miami.

In her new role, she will work on climate and energy initiatives, develop and implement strategies to reduce our environmental impact, foster partnerships, collaborate with the George Mason University Virginia Climate Center, and promote sustainable practices across city operations. Her passion for sustainability and innovative ideas will help the city achieve its environmental and sustainability goals.

COUNCIL REPORT



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

COUNCIL ACTIONS OF JULY 2, 2024

Convened a closed meeting to discuss personnel matters, conduct interviews for boards and commissions, and discuss appointments to boards and commissions.

COUNCIL ACTIONS OF JULY 9, 2024

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

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

Mayor Catherine Read proclaimed July 22, 2024, as Fragile X Day in the City of Fairfax and acknowledged the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission's 60th anniversary.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approved, unanimously, the Virginia Career Works-Northern Region (Area #11) Consortium Agreement. The consortium agreement was approved to meet the requirements of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, which provides federal funds for employment services and job training for adults, dislocated workers, and eligible youth
- City Council appointed Manisha Maskay to the Commission on Aging, Kevin Cao to the Commission on the Arts, and Hedit Tirjan to the Commission for Women, and reappointed Johnelle Brown to the Commission for Women.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Approved, 4-1, a request to redevelop 10306 Eaton Place (N29 Apartments, WillowWood Phase I) into a mixed-use building with 260 apartments, 5,000 square feet of ground floor retail, and a 10-level parking garage, with one level below grade. (In favor: Councilmembers Bates, Lim, Ross, and Stehle. Opposed: Councilmember Greenfield.)
- Heard feedback on the proposed Chain Bridge Road sidewalk and bus stop improvements project to construct 1,850 linear feet of new sidewalk and improve bus stops on the west side of Chain Bridge Road between Taba Cove Court and Warwick Avenue.
- Approved, unanimously, amendments to zoning ordinance provisions for erosion and sediment control, storm drainage facilities, and Chesapeake Bay preservation, which allows the city to maintain compliance with its municipal stormwater permit and

the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act. The revised ordinance allows the city to apply new standards for stormwater pollution control, water quality compliance, and tree preservation.

WORK SESSION

Discussions on potential zoning text amendments regarding urban agriculture, and recommendations from the Homelessness Task Force.

(Councilmember Doyle Feingold was absent from the meeting.)

COUNCIL ACTIONS OF JULY 23, 2024

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

- Fire Chief John O'Neal acknowledged the fire department for achieving the American Heart Association Mission: Lifeline EMS Recognition Award for cardiac and stroke care.
- Mayor Catherine Read proclaimed the month of July as Disability Pride Month and the week of July 25-31 as Shop Local Week.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approved, unanimously, the creation of the Housing and Healthy Communities Advisory Board. This new 17-member board will advise and assist the city council and city staff on strategies, policies, practices, programs, services, and budget allocations to address housing, homelessness, and a healthy community. Learn more and apply online.
- Adopted, unanimously, a resolution approving the city's participation in the proposed settlement of opioid-related claims against Kroger and its related entities and authorizing and directing the execution of any documentation necessary to effectuate the city's participation in the settlements. The city, along with more than 75 other Virginia localities, has been engaged in litigation against various entities involved in the manufacturing chain, sale, and distribution of opioid products.
- Approved, unanimously, the introduction of an ordinance amending Chapter 2 (Administration) of the City Code pertaining to the position of acting city manager.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Approved, 4-2, the Fairfax Circle Small Area Plan. (In favor: Councilmembers Bates, Lim, Ross, and Stehle. Opposed: Councilmembers Doyle Feingold and Greenfield.)

ITEMS NOT REQUIRING A PUBLIC HEARING

Approved, unanimously, a resolution approving the purchase of the GMUF Commerce Buildings, LLC, located at 4085-4087 University Drive, in connection with the planned relocation of Fire Station 3.

WORK SESSION

Discussions on the development of the city's green building policy, composting program scope of work, and the zoning for accessory dwelling units.



City of Fairfax Theatre Company: Much Ado About Nothing

7 p.m. Sept. 5-8, 12-15. Veterans Amphitheater. Adults/\$25; children/\$15. "Pay What You Can Night" for both shows. fairfaxcitytheatre.org

Better Said than Done Presents

Mirrors & Magic: True Stories of Wonder 7 p.m. Sept. 12. Old Town Hall. Free admission. Join storytellers Carol Moore, Laura Packer and Jessica Robinson for a night of storytelling that will take you on a journey from reality to beyond. Stories intended for a mature audience. Registration and livestream details at bettersaidthandone.com/storytelling-shows.

ArtScreen: Best in Show

7 p.m. Sept. 13. Sherwood Center. Free movie and refreshments.

National Dance Day

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sept. 21. Old Town Square. Free admission. This family-friendly event will showcase different dance groups from the surrounding area. We'll top off the event with an opportunity for everyone to join us onstage as we learn and perform the official dance of National Dance Day 2024!

Fiesta Fairfax!

2-7 p.m. Oct. 5. Old Town Square. Free admission. Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month through cultural performances, music, food, and educational exhibits. The Old Town Square stage will host folkloric dance performances from various countries as well as a salsa dance demonstration and class followed by a live band. Vendors from around the area will share flavors from across Latin America. Area nonprofit organizations will also be on-site to share information about services and opportunities to work with our growing Latino community.











School Bond Referendum Explained

City Council approved an ordinance requesting the Fairfax Circuit Court to order a special election on the question of issuing general obligation school bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$220,000,000 and the below statement is a plain language explanation of the public school bonds. Additional information can be found by accessing the school website cityoffairfaxschools.org.

PUBLIC SCHOOL BONDS EXPLANATION

Ballot Question

PUBLIC SCHOOL BONDS

Shall the City of Fairfax, Virginia, contract a debt, borrow money, and issue its general obligation bonds in the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$220,000,000 to provide funds, together with other funds, to undertake a program of capital improvement projects for the public school system of the City, and to fund the cost of issuing such bonds?

Explanation

This referendum asks City of Fairfax voters whether the City government should be authorized to contract a debt and issue bonds in the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$220,000,000 for capital improvements to the City's public schools. If a majority of voters approves this referendum, then the City would be allowed to issue bonds to fund school improvements as described in the ballot question. The bonds can only be issued for the purpose(s) described in the ballot question.

Virginia law permits the City government to borrow money to acquire land, plan, design, and construct projects by issuing general obligation bonds, which are sold to investors and repaid over time with City revenues. However, the City Charter requires that before the City may incur a general obligation debt, City voters must authorize the City to borrow those funds. Bond proceeds are used as a source of funding for many municipal and public school facilities. Bond financing allows the cost of a facility to be spread over a number of years so that each generation of taxpayers contributes a proportionate share toward these long-term assets. Bonds authorized by a referendum may be issued up to eight years after the date of the referendum, a period that may be extended for two additional years by court order.

The City plans for the proceeds of bonds authorized by this referendum to be used to fund school improvements in accordance with the City School Board's Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The CIP currently anticipates using the bond funds to plan, design, and renovate the two City elementary schools, and a roof replacement at the high school. Project planning and actual construction are usually completed in phases over a period of years. The various phases are typically paid from sequential bond issues to allow timely implementation of the projects and avoid issuing bonds, and incurring debt, earlier than necessary to pay related construction costs.

Renovation projects are generally intended to upgrade the life safety, environmental, electrical, security, and telecommunications systems of school buildings, and to bring aging school facilities into full compliance with legal requirements such as the Americans with Disabilities Act as well as federal and state storm water quality and quantity requirements. The proposed improvements will provide updated site features including, where practicable, additional parking, recreational fields, accessibility, site lighting, and improved traffic patterns. Upgrades also seek to increase energy efficiency and overall environmental sustainability of school facilities.





10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Old Town Fairfax.

More than 400 vendors, food, three stages of entertainment, three beer gardens, children's rides and activities, and more! After Fest Concert featuring **Sudden M Pac** from 5:30-8:30 p.m. in Old Town Square, 10415 North St.



Ayse Alexander, Grievance Panel Board Member

Ayse Alexander is serving her second term on the Grievance Panel Board. She has lived in the city since 2017.

After living in Okinawa for six years, we chose Fairfax City for its smalltown charm in the middle of a busy urban area. The city is quiet and serene yet accessible to destinations around the region.

When I looked for additional engagements during the pandemic, I reviewed options in the Cityscene,

and the Grievance Panel Board appealed to me. It aligns with my existing skills and allows me to give back to my community. It was exciting but nerve-wracking to interview with the entire city council, and I was thrilled at my appointment.

The main objective of the Grievance Panel Board is to hear city employee grievances as the final step of their grievance process. The panel has been called to convene twice since I was appointed, and issues in these cases have been resolved without further involvement. I'm proud to be part of a community that provides city employees with a conflict resolution process that includes independent third parties who are city residents.

Volunteer work is very fulfilling. Doing good for others and my community gives me a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction. Volunteering allows me to collaborate and develop skills that connect my personal beliefs of integrity, service, and community with those core values in my professional life. I'm an engaged and active citizen working to make a difference. I encourage my fellow city residents to explore volunteer opportunities in Fairfax City that align with their strengths and interests. There are so many!

Sandy Spring PREMIER SPONSOR PRESENTING SPONSOR ARTS by George! features student showcases from George Mason University's College of Visual and Performing Arts, a buffet dinner, a performance by Tony Award winner and Disney Legend Lea Salonga, and a champagne reception on stage after the show! All proceeds support student scholarships and community arts programs. Join us Saturday, September 28, 2024 at 5 p.m. George Mason University, Center for the Arts Tickets and sponsorships are on sale now! Individual tickets are \$350 (Each ticket includes \$200 in benefits) Visit artsbygeorge.gmu.edu to register or contact Hannah Ruth Wellons at hwellon@gmu.edu

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

Board of Building Code Appeals: Acts on appeals from building official decisions. (Two vacancies: one mechanical or plumbing vacancy and one for city resident)

Board of Zoning Appeals: Decides on special exceptions and requests for variances from the requirements of the zoning ordinance. (One vacancy for city resident)

City Grievance Panel: Hears grievances of city employees as the final step of the grievance procedure. (Seven vacancies for city residents)

Commission on the Arts: Encourages and provides opportunities for artistic expression within the city. (One vacancy for George Mason University representative)

Economic Development Authority: Fosters and promotes economic development and redevelopment in the city. (One vacancy for city resident)

Environmental Sustainability Committee: Advises City Council and city boards and commissions on environmental and energy conservation issues. (One vacancy for city resident)

Housing and Healthy Communities Advisory Board: Advises and assists City Council and city staff to address issues relating to housing, homelessness, and a healthy community. (17 vacancies, including three vacancies for city residents; see the complete list on the city website)

Human Services Committee: Addresses the city's emerging trends and unmet human services needs. (One vacancy for city resident)

Northern Virginia Workforce Investment Board: Determines the procedures for the development of job training programs and selects grant recipients and administrative entities. (One vacancy for city resident)

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board: Advises City Council and makes recommendations on park and recreation facilities and programs. (One vacancy for city resident)

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



5 MINUTES WITH ... **SOPHIA CHAPIN**

STEWARDSHIP COORDINATOR



I've lived in Fairfax County for the last seven years and grew up in the area between family moves, so it's full circle for me to be working in the city. I graduated from George Mason University, and my first tree planting project was on the Fairfax campus right off University Drive.

I started in early July 2024 to support a new urban and community forestry initiative SPROUT (Stewarding, Planting, Restoring Our Urban Trees). The program was awarded \$1M by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service. SPROUT will develop and implement the city's first 20-year policy for managing its urban forest, invest in invasive plant management, plant trees on public property, identify and engage an urban forest stewardship network, and provide environmental education and awareness to residents.

My role is to help community members plant, care for, and learn about the trees that make up our urban forest. Trees provide so many benefits to our health and well-being, from places to play and lower energy bills to cleaner air and water. Through SPROUT, I'll engage residents in critical stewardship activities that help ensure these quality-of-life benefits can be

enjoyed by all Fairfax City residents for years to come. Examples include volunteer tree planting and invasive plant removal events, free tree giveaways, and establishing a city tree nursery.

The city's urban forestry team is small but mighty and currently resides in the Community Development and Planning Department. We work closely with other city departments, the Environmental Sustainability Committee, and the community to manage the city's urban forest in sustainable, equitable, and resilient way.

We are so excited for the fall season, which brings with it our annual Arbor Day celebration, tree plantings and giveaways, and more opportunities for residents to engage with the city's Urban Forest Master Plan process. I encourage all residents to get involved with SPROUT and the Urban Forest Master Plan at engage.fairfaxva. gov/urbanforestmasterplan.

MAKING

Book Talk: The Byrd Machine in Virginia, Sept. 22

Join author Michael Pope for a talk on The Byrd Machine in Virginia: The Rise and Fall of a Conservative Political Organization. Learn about how the Byrd "political machine," named for Virginia politician Harry F. Byrd, ran Virginia politics and enforced racial segregation from the 1920s through the mid-1960s. The event will be at 2 p.m. Sept. 22 at the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St. Free; books will be available for purchase. Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "Byrd")

Traveling Exhibition: Who Can Vote: A Brief History of Voting Rights in the U.S., through Oct. 11

This traveling banner exhibition from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History examines voting rights with an emphasis on the role of the U.S. Constitution and the interplay between the states and federal government in determining who is allowed to vote. Free at the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center. 10209 Main St. Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "Who Can Vote")

Historic Tours

Old Town Fairfax Guided Walking Tours, Sept. 28, Oct. 26 Take an hour-long tour of Old Town Fairfax with a knowledgeable guide. Tours step off at 11 a.m. from the Fairfax Courthouse, 4000 Chain Bridge Road. Free, but space is limited. Reserve your place through Eventbrite or call 703-385-8414.

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

Ratcliffe-Allison-Pozer House Guided Tours, Saturdays

Take a 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 through September. Free. Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "Pozer")





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

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

본 간행물과 관련하여 문의 사항이 있으시면 228 703-385-7800 (TTY: 711) (으)로 전화 주시기 바랍니다.

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To report a problem or request a service, please use Fairfax City Resolve. Look for the "Report" button on fairfaxva.gov.



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FAIR, SEPT. 8

Emergencies happen, but you can weather them better when you are prepared with help from the city's Office of Emergency Management, fire department, and police department. Bring your family and friends of all ages to the free Emergency Preparedness Fair from noon to 4 p.m. Sept. 8 at the Sherwood Community Center. Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "fair")

