

**on THE
trail**

QUICK RESPONSE REOPENS TRAIL



**LIMB ON
BRIDGE**



DURING REPAIR



REPAIRED BRIDGE

On July 23, following a stormy night in the city, a resident reported damage to the Mathy Park footbridge that connects Sager Avenue and Main Street.

Upon arrival, the Parks and Recreation crew discovered a massive branch from a silver maple tree with a diameter of more than six feet had broken off and crushed the elevated walkway.

An entire section of railing was on the stream valley floor, and the wooden decking was damaged, making the bridge impassable.

Residents who use the trail to reach Main Street Marketplace didn't have to wait long for the route to reopen. Over two and a half days, the crew removed the fallen limb, repaired the trusses and planking, constructed a temporary railing, and ensured the bridge was safe and usable. A contractor was hired to install the permanent metal railing. Hats off to a great job!

**Movies
UNDER THE
Moon**

**SEPT
11**



**The Secret
Life of Pets**

8 p.m. Sept. 11.
Kutner Park
3901 Jermantown Rd.
*The movie begins
when it's dark enough
to see the screen.*

SPONSORED BY



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CITY NEWS

City Government Offices Holiday Closures

Monday, Sept. 7, Labor Day

- Closed: City government offices, DMV Select services, General District Court
- CUE Bus: Saturday service

Holiday Refuse & Recycling Collection Schedule

- Sept. 7: no service
- Sept. 8: Monday and Tuesday routes collected. Yard debris collection may be delayed city-wide. Leave items at the curb until they are collected. *Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "Refuse Holiday"), 703-385-7837*

Life-Saving Classes, Sept. 12, 16

Learn life-saving skills at free public safety training offered September through November at Fire Station 3, taught by members of the Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department. The next classes will be offered at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. Sept. 12, Oct. 3, and Nov. 7; and at 7 p.m. Sept. 16 and Oct. 14. Saturday classes cover hands-only CPR/AED, stop the bleed, stroke awareness, fire extinguisher use, smoke alarm basics, and more. Wednesday classes cover hands-only CPR/AED, stop the bleed, stroke awareness, and opioid emergencies and severe allergic reactions. Enrollment is limited, so sign up today. *Info: fairfaxva.gov/lifesaving*

Keeping Sidewalks Clear for Pedestrian, Driver Safety

Fairfax City crews have been cutting, pruning, and removing all vegetation from public walkways to improve visibility and keep both pedestrians and drivers safe. To meet ADA accessibility standards, all plants that encroach on the public right of way will be removed or trimmed. The city maintains a clearance of four feet wide and eight feet high. Property owners should ensure trees, shrubs, and other vegetation along their property do not obstruct sidewalks or walkways. *Info: 703-385-7810*



General and Special Elections, Nov. 3

Sample ballots are available 46 days before the election. *Info: fairfaxva.gov/vote, 703-385-7890*

■ Sept. 18-Oct. 31:

In-person early voting:

- **Weekdays**, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. excluding holidays
- **Saturdays**, Oct. 24 and 31, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Sundays**, Oct. 18 and 25, noon to 5 p.m.

- By-mail ballot applications are due by 5 p.m. Oct. 23.

- Deadline to register to vote or update registration information: Oct. 23 (5 p.m. in person, 11:59 p.m. online; applications submitted by mail must be postmarked by the deadline).

■ Nov. 3:

- **Election Day.** Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m., and voters

must vote in their designated polling locations. Voters in line by 7 p.m. can cast their votes.

- **By-mail ballots** must be returned by 7 p.m. in person by the voter or to the ballot drop box available at every Fairfax City polling location. Ballots returned by mail must be postmarked by Nov. 3 and received by noon Nov. 6 to be counted.

What's On the Ballot?

- U.S. Senate
- U.S. House of Representatives
- Local Offices (Mayor, City Council, and City School Board)
- Proposed Constitutional Amendments 1-3
- 1% Sales Tax Referendum

Please be sure to complete the entire double-sided ballot. (Sample ballot unavailable at press time.)

Personal Property Tax Payments, Oct. 5

Personal property and vehicle registration fee payments are due by Monday, Oct. 5. 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:**
 - **First time?** Visit fairfaxva.gov/makeapayment (strongly recommend; brief directions for new users).
 - **Existing account?** Visit fairfaxva.gov/mytaxes.
- **By phone:** 703-385-7900.
- **In person:** 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.

New Stormwater Utility Credit Application Deadline, Dec. 4

Property owners who are assessed a stormwater utility fee may apply for stormwater utility credits to reduce their fees — and beginning this year, the deadline to submit credit applications has changed to the first Friday in December. Credit opportunities include structural and non-structural activity-based options. In 2026, stormwater utility credit applications and the supporting documentation are due to the city by Dec. 4. *Info: fairfaxva.gov/stormwaterutility*



COUNCIL REPORTER



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 14, 2026

CONSENT AGENDA

- Appointed Douglas Skiba and George McAndrews to the Grievance Panel Board and Thomas Davis to Historic Fairfax City, Inc.

PUBLIC HEARING NOT REQUIRED

- Adopted a resolution requesting that the Fairfax Circuit Court order a special election to be held on Nov. 3, 2026, on the question of authorizing the City of Fairfax to levy a general retail sales tax at a rate not to exceed 1%, with revenues to be used solely for capital projects for schools and/or public transportation purposes, in accordance with Virginia Code 58.1-605.1.

COUNCIL ACTIONS OF JULY 28, 2026

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

- Mayor Catherine Read presented a proclamation acknowledging July as Parks and Recreation Month and presented a commendation certificate acknowledging Katherine MacCammon for her creativity and design of the city's VA 250 logo.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approved a contract award to Brailsford & Dunlavey, Inc. to serve as an owner's representative for school construction projects including but not limited to the renovation and additions to Providence Elementary School, Daniels Run Elementary School, and the roof replacement at Fairfax High School. Work includes assisting City of Fairfax Schools in managing projects through pre-design, design, and construction phases.
- Appointed the following applicants to city boards and commissions: Sucha Khamsuwan to the Board of Architectural Review as the architect and business representative; Amini Bonane to the Commission for Women; Brenda Kuhlman to the Commission for Women; Kirk Knoll to the Commission on the Arts; Manisha Maskay to the Fairfax Commission on Aging; and Suzanne Levy to the Fairfax County Public Library Board of Trustees.

PUBLIC HEARING

- Approved an ordinance amending Chapter 110 (Zoning), to amend portions of articles and sections contained therein, including introductory provisions, zoning districts and regulations, and definitions relating to detached accessory dwelling units. (Councilmembers Hall and McQuillen opposed).



Government Center Parkway Extension



Northfax West Road Network

CELEBRATING COMPLETED PROJECTS

1. Government Center Parkway Extension

A brief ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of the Government Center Parkway Extension Project will be held at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 10. The ceremony will take place near the intersection of Jermantown Road and Government Center Parkway, in

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City Council Meetings Now Accessible in 70 Languages

Language should not be a barrier for residents to understand what their elected leaders are discussing. With that in mind, the city is providing a service that translates city council meetings and work sessions in real-time.

Residents can now follow city council meetings in their preferred language on a smartphone. Conversations are translated and presented on the screen. Some languages have an audio option. Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "translation")



1% SALES TAX REFERENDUM

Ballot Question

Should the City of Fairfax be authorized to levy a general retail sales tax at a rate not to exceed one percent (1%), as determined by the City Council, to provide revenues solely for: (i) capital projects for new construction or renovation of schools serving the City, including bond and loan financing costs related to such needs; or (ii) public transportation purposes serving the City, including bond and loan financing costs related to such needs; or (iii) both capital projects for new construction or renovation of schools serving the City and public transportation purposes serving the City?

Explanation

This ballot question asks whether voters want to give the City of Fairfax the authority to add up to a 1% local retail sales tax. Approval of the ballot question does not automatically impose the tax. Instead, it gives the City Council the legal authority to determine whether to adopt the tax and, if so, at what rate (up to 1%).

If the tax is adopted, all revenue generated must be used only for specific capital purposes. Such revenue cannot be used for the City's day-to-day operating expenses, employee salaries, or other general government services. State law limits the use of the tax revenue to fund:

- Capital projects for schools, including constructing new schools, renovating existing schools, and paying the costs of bonds or loans used to finance those projects;



- Public transportation projects that serve the City, including the costs of bonds or loans used to finance those projects; or
- A combination of both school capital projects and public transportation projects.

The ballot question does not identify specific projects or determine how the revenue would be divided between schools and transportation. Those decisions would be made by the City Council if the referendum is approved and the tax is later adopted.

A "YES" vote authorizes the City Council to levy a local retail sales tax of up to 1% and dedicate the proceeds solely to eligible school capital projects, public transportation projects, or both.

A "NO" vote does not authorize the City Council to levy this additional local retail sales tax. As a result, this funding option would not be available for these purposes.

Info: cityoffairfaxschools.org



PUB SCHOLARS

HOSTED BY FAIRFAX CITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Experience the energy of Fairfax City's innovation scene at Pub Scholars

Hosted by Fairfax City Economic Development, this signature event brings together George Mason University faculty and other thought leaders with the community to share cutting-edge ideas in technology, science, and business. Engage in a relaxed setting, over beverages and light refreshments.

Sign up for FCED's monthly newsletter for updates by scanning the QR code.





ACORN COLLECTION IS BACK!

DROP OFF YOUR ACORNS AT CITY HALL

Sept. 1 - Oct. 15

FAIRFAX CITY
Urban Forestry

"Acorn Station" Bin
City Hall Composting Center
10455 Armstrong St

INFO: FAIRFAXVA.GOV/TREES

September is the start of the city's seed collection season.

Help our friends at the Virginia Department of Forestry grow future forests by donating acorns and nuts to the city's drop-off location at the City Hall Composting Center through Oct. 15. Last year, we donated more than 1,600 lbs.! For detailed instructions and a list of accepted donations, visit fairfaxva.gov/trees (or scan QR code above).



LIVE LIFE IN THE ARTS

THE CITY OF FAIRFAX EARLY CHILDHOOD ARTS PROGRAM

Focusing on a variety of art genres including literary, music, dance, and specialty arts programs, this is a perfect opportunity to unplug and enjoy the arts. Class size is limited; pre-registration required.

For children ages 2-5, plus adult caregiver. 10:30-11:15 a.m., two Mondays per month. Location: Sherwood Center, Sept.-Dec.;

Old Town Hall, Jan.- May.

Sponsored by the City of Fairfax Commission on the Arts.

Info: fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts

FREE DANCE WORKSHOPS IN OLD TOWN SQUARE!

6:30-8:30 p.m. Thursdays in September. Everyone's invited! Local dance professionals will teach a different dance style each night, followed by an hour of open dance to a vibrant mix of musical genres! Fun for all ages!

Info: fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH PROCLAMATION

Sept. 22 at City Hall. 6 p.m.: Reception and entertainment by Maria Isolina; 7 p.m.: Proclamation (during city council meeting).

FAIRFAX ART LEAGUE ART EXHIBITION & SALE

8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays at City Hall (excluding holidays). Viewing is free!

AB EX FFX - AN EXHIBITION OF ABSTRACT EXPRESSIONIST ARTWORK

Sept. 21-Dec. 18.

Rotary Art Gallery at the Sherwood Center. A reception will be held 5:30-7:30 p.m. Oct. 14. A powerful exhibition dedicated solely to the raw energy and profound emotional depth of abstract expressionism. Free and open to the public.

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

FEMA's "Ready Campaign" has observed National Preparedness Month in September since 2004 to encourage Americans to prepare for



emergencies. The month is a great time to take small steps to make a big difference in being prepared.

Read the Office of Emergency Management's newsletter to learn seasonal safety tips and steps you can take to be prepared in the event of an emergency. Info: fairfaxva.gov/oem



Fiesta Fairfax!

**SATURDAY
OCTOBER 3
2-7:30pm**

www.fiestafairfaxva.com

MAKING *History*

250th Anniversary Reflection and Activity Room, through Sept. 9
Explore 250 years of Virginia history in an interactive gallery space designed for hands-on, self-guided discovery. Through engaging activities, interpretive content, and opportunities for reflection, visitors can learn how we got here and where we're going. Free. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday-Monday. Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center. Info: fairfaxva.gov/visitors

Indigenous Perspectives, Sept. 14 - Oct. 24

Discover "Indigenous Perspectives," an eight-panel traveling exhibition from the Library of Virginia that invites visitors to explore powerful themes of sovereignty, environment, identity, community, language, and future through an interactive kiosk and touchscreen experience.

By centering the voices of Virginia's tribal communities, the exhibition brings their stories and perspectives to the forefront, creating a meaningful dialogue around the past and present. This ongoing partnership honors the vital role Indigenous peoples have played — and continue to play — in shaping Virginia's history, culture, and future.

Old Town Fairfax Walking Tours, Sept. 26, Oct. 31

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. Free. 11 a.m. Fairfax Courthouse, 4000 Chain Bridge Road. Space is limited; reserve your place through Eventbrite or visit historicfairfax.org/events.

6 | Live Life Connected



CURIOUS CITIZENS

Who maintains my utilities?

The City of Fairfax government maintains public roads, storm-water and wastewater infrastructure, parks, and municipal buildings and properties. Utility companies provide services like water, electricity, cable TV/ internet, and natural gas.

These companies offer a variety of ways for customers to report problems and receive notifications when scheduled or emergency work is happening near your home.

Residents are encouraged to subscribe to utility companies' alerts, download their smart-phone apps, and bookmark their webpages. This is a simple action you can take now before an emergency occurs. Info: fairfaxva.gov/utilities



HELPING HANDS

THE CITY NEEDS PEOPLE LIKE YOU SERVE ON A CITY BOARD OR COMMISSION

Board of Architectural Review (one vacancy for city resident with experience in historic preservation, architecture, and planning); **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 Zoning Appeals** (two vacancies for city residents); **Commission on the Arts** (one vacancy for city resident); **Commission for Women** (four vacancies for city residents); **Environmental Sustainability Committee** (one vacancy for business representative); **George Mason University Fairfax Campus Advisory Board** (one vacancy for city resident); **Grievance Panel Board** (three vacancies for city residents); **Housing and Healthy Communities Advisory Board** (several openings); **Historic Fairfax City, Inc.** (one vacancy for city resident); **Human Services Committee** (one vacancy for city resident); **Park and Recreation Advisory Board** (one vacancy for city resident); **Planning Commission** (one vacancy for city resident); **Regional – Fairfax Area Disability Services Board** (one vacancy for city resident).

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



Treasurer's Office Renews Accreditation

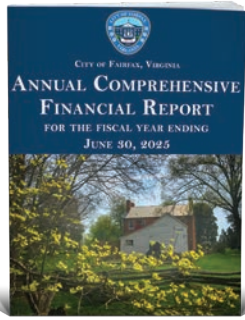
The City of Fairfax Treasurer's Office renewed its accreditation from the Treasurers' Association of Virginia on July 1, 2026. The Office Accreditation program is a voluntary professional certificate program that requires annual renewal and is overseen by the Treasurers' Association of Virginia.

Seventy-seven treasurer's offices received accreditation this year.

While it is not required for any treasurer's office to be accredited, receiving accreditation acknowledges that the office meets statewide best practices for performance in treasury management.



Treasurer Tom Scibilia and Chief Deputy Treasurer Becky McNaughton



Finance Department Earns Financial Reporting Award

The Government Finance Officers Association has once again recognized the City of Fairfax for excellence in financial reporting. The Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2025, was awarded the **Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting**.

The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting. Earning this distinction reflects the city's continued commitment to transparency, accountability, and the highest standards of financial reporting. This year marks the **45th consecutive year** that the city has received this prestigious award, an accomplishment achieved by only a select group of governments nationwide.

To receive this recognition, an ACFR must effectively communicate the city's financial story in a clear, comprehensive, and understandable manner. Reports are evaluated for technical accuracy, compliance with generally accepted accounting principles, organization, readability, and a strong commitment to full disclosure.



YouTube

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what you're missing!

youtube.com/user/cityoffairfaxva



ANNUAL LABOR DAY CAR SHOW

OLD TOWN FAIRFAX
4081 UNIVERSITY DRIVE

SEPT
7
8AM-2PM



labordaycarshow.org

Visit the website for more information and to register your vehicle.

CELEBRATING COMPLETED PROJECTS

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the grassy area located in the northeastern corner of the Lowe's parking lot.

This project, funded by the Virginia Department of Transportation and the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, provides a new east-west roadway connection between Fairfax County and Fairfax City. The project also includes sidewalks, crosswalks, on-road bike lanes, lighting, and landscaping.

2. Northfax West Road Network

A ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of the new road network in Northfax West will be held at 3:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 24, on Farr Avenue between BrightView Northfax and the Safford Mazda building. This project was a partnership among the city, the Virginia Department of Transportation, the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, and adjacent property owners. It creates an important new connection between Chain Bridge Road and Fairfax Boulevard. The ceremony will be held on Farr Avenue between BrightView and the Safford Mazda building.

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

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

City Manager Daniel Alexander (CityManagementStaff@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.

Follow us: @CityofFairfaxVA



ZONING ORDINANCE UPDATE

Over the past 18 months, the city has been working on a project to update the zoning ordinance to better align with the guidance provided in the small area plans. There have been several community meetings throughout the process where community members, property owners, and boards and commissions have provided feedback and ideas that have been incorporated in the draft amendments.

Now the project team is refining the final draft, and we need your input again. Join us for a community meeting any time between 5 and 8 p.m. Sept. 2 at the Sherwood Community Center. See the draft amendments, review the changes since the last draft, and provide feedback.

The target for the final consideration of the amendments by the planning commission and the city council is this fall.

To preview the draft, learn more, or provide feedback, visit the Engage Fairfax page by scanning the QR code.



Detached Accessory Dwelling Units

Effective July 28, 2026, the City of Fairfax adopted text amendments that permit detached accessory dwelling units (ADUs).

Previously, the city permitted ADUs only when attached to a house. The amendments enable property owners to utilize ADUs that are detached from the main house as well.

All ADUs — whether attached or detached — are considered permitted uses in the RL, RM, and RH zoning districts, and are subject to certain standards. In addition to the prior standards for attached ADUs, detached ADUs must meet certain height and setback standards as specified by the city council. Additionally, any property containing an ADU must have at least two off-street parking spaces, which is the minimum parking requirement for detached and duplex homes.

For the full text of the Fairfax City Zoning Ordinance, visit fairfaxva.gov/government/city-codes and select "Chapter 110 Zoning Ordinance."

To apply for the permits needed for new construction, visit fairfaxva.gov (search "permit and license"). For questions, call the Department of Community Development and Planning at 703-385-7820.