

cityscene

What's happening in the City of Fairfax

SEPTEMBER 2020



CAR FREE DAY

On September 22, park your car and try an alternative mode of transportation — or, if you're able, try teleworking. Take the pledge at carfreemetrodc.org.

KEEPING FAIRFAX CITY MOVING

The public health crisis is real and should be taken seriously. But if there has been a silver lining to the dark cloud that descended on the city in March, it has been the opportunity to slow down and explore our surroundings. As evidenced by fewer cars on the road, many of those explorations are occurring via walking and biking. Historically, transportation programs have been aimed at improving the transportation network for drivers. This has been changing over the last decade and, now more than ever, we can see the value of a transportation network that balances the needs of all users and facilitates livability.

One of the many joys of living in the City of Fairfax is that it retains many of the desirable qualities of a small town. However, it is important to remember that the city is part of a thriving metropolis. Therefore, in addition to focusing inward to ensure that residents have safe and enjoyable movement around the city, we must also focus outward to ensure the safe and efficient movement of

people into, out of, and through the city.

This article is an opportunity to look at how the city balances local and regional transportation needs and how we are developing a forward-looking transportation program that will stand the test of time.

Transportation projects take a long time to implement. Construction activity visible today is the result of years of planning. Plans being discussed today may not be funded or built for many years. As the population in the city and around the region continues to grow, city planners are looking for ways to improve transportation in the city now and into the future.

The city has prioritized connecting residents to its five designated activity centers, green space, transit, and safe sidewalks and bicycle paths. Projects align with the *2017 Multimodal Plan* and *2035 Comprehensive Plan*. The vast majority of funding for city transportation projects comes from regional, state, and federal sources. Applying for these funds is an endless cycle, with

applications submitted annually and biannually at different times throughout the year.

A key component to the city's transportation planning is input from residents. The city's Two-Year Transportation Program identifies specific city projects that the city wishes to pursue for outside funding over a

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CITY NEWS

Labor Day Closures, September 7

Closed: City government offices, General District Court

Open: Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center

CUE Bus: Saturday schedule

Information: WeCare@fairfaxva.gov, 703-385-7800

Labor Day Refuse and Recycling Collection Schedule

Monday, September 7: No service

Tuesday, September 8: Monday and Tuesday refuse and recycling routes collected

Week of September 7-12: All city neighborhoods may experience yard debris collection delays

Information: RefuseRecycling@fairfaxva.gov, 703-385-7837



Earn \$150 Working on Election Day

The City of Fairfax needs 75 officers to assist voters before and on Election Day (November 3, 2020). Training and PPE are provided. Apply online at fairfaxva.gov/vote.

Information: fairfaxva.gov/vote, 703-385-7891

Contactless Voting - Vote Absentee by Mail!

All registered voters can apply today for an absentee ballot for the November 3 election. Apply online at vote.elections.virginia.gov, or send your completed application to registrar@fairfaxva.gov.

Vote Absentee at City Hall beginning September 18

Park in the designated spot and call the number on the sign, or visit the Office of Elections (City Hall Annex, Room 300). **Bring your ID.** *Information: fairfaxva.gov/vote, 703-385-7891*

Political Signs: What's Permitted

Before posting election signs on your property for candidates in the November 3 election, know the rules about these temporary signs. They may be posted for up to 90 days and must be removed shortly after the election. Signs may be no larger than 10 square feet (residential) or 32 square feet (nonresidential). Political signs must be placed 10 feet from

property lines or on a fence or wall. Property owners who display signs are not required to have permits; however, candidates or candidate organizations that distribute the signs need permits from the Zoning Office on behalf of property owners displaying signs.

Information: fairfaxva.gov (search "temporary sign requirements"), 703-385-7820



Fall for the Book Goes Virtual

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the annual Fall for the Book Festival has gone virtual. A series of events scheduled through fall begins in September. Join in the fun, including "Fall for the Book Fridays," and get the full scoop at fallforthebook.org/virtual-festival.

Arts Grant Applications Due September 25

Fairfax artists, the Commission on the Arts wants you! Apply for the 2020 Commission on the Arts grant. The deadline is 5 p.m. on September 25. This funding year is dedicated to encouraging, envisioning, and building new futures for artistic craft. The commission will accept applications for traditional "live" projects and encourages applications that emphasize artistic creations in virtual environments presented by individual artists or organizations. The commission also encourages applications for outdoor "no-contact" projects that follow public health and safety guidelines.

Information: fairfaxva.gov (search "grant information")

Personal Property Tax Payments Due October 5

Personal property and vehicle registration fee payments are due by October 5. Late payments will incur a 10 percent penalty plus interest. How can you pay your bill?

- Use the secure drop boxes outside City Hall
- Mail must be postmarked by October 5
- Online: click on *How Do I...* on the city homepage and choose "Pay Taxes & Bills"
- An appointment is required to pay in-person: visit fairfaxva.gov, or call 703-385-7900

To request a copy of your bill, call 703-385-7900 (then press 1). To make changes to your bill, call 703-385-7885. Please note: the city will issue decals only for vehicles registered at addresses in Residential Parking Permit Districts.

Information: fairfaxva.gov, search "decals"



CURIOUS CITIZENS

Do I need a permit to remove a tree on my property?

Yes, in most cases a permit is required and usually involves replacement. Trees that have been identified as an immediate hazard by the city's enforcement officer do not require a permit in advance. To apply for a permit, visit fairfaxva.gov (search "tree removal") or call 703-385-7820.



COVID-19 INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

City of Fairfax

fairfaxva.gov/coronavirus

WeCare@fairfaxva.gov

703.385.7800

Text FXCCOVID19 to 888-777 for City of Fairfax-related information and updates (visit fairfaxva.gov/coronavirus for email option)

Fairfax County Health Department

(City's public health services provider)

fairfaxcounty.gov/covid19

703.267.3511

Text FFXCOVID to 888-777 for Fairfax Health District information and updates (visit fairfaxcounty.gov/covid19 for email option)

Virginia Department of Health

vdh.virginia.gov

877.ASK.VDH3

CDC, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

cdc.gov

In case of emergency, dial 911

KEEPING FAIRFAX CITY MOVING

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two-year period. It is critical for residents to engage in the Two-Year Transportation Program development cycle. As Transportation Director Wendy Sanford explains, “We are in a continuous cycle of planning and implementing transportation projects. I encourage residents to help the city identify future transportation needs by participating in the development of the Two-Year Program.”

One of the city’s primary funding partners is the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority. In July 2019, NVTA adopted its latest Six-Year Program, which includes \$14.4 million to advance four multimodal transportation projects in the city. These projects have been designed to reduce congestion and improve the quality of life for both city residents and the region at large. This funding will become available in Fiscal Year 2024. The planning for NVTA’s Six-Year Program began years ago. In order for a project to have been awarded the FY2024 NVTA funding, it must have been included in NVTA’s long range plan known as TransAction. The development of TransAction alone took many years of planning and public engagement prior to the development of the six-year funding program.

A specific example of the timeline for a transportation project is the Old Lee Highway Multimodal Improvement Project. This project has been discussed for more than 20 years. There have been a number of conceptual planning efforts over the years, and the most recent conceptual plan was developed in 2015. Now, five years after the development of the conceptual plan, the city has been able to amass the necessary funding from outside sources to complete this project. However, without deliberate planning and advocacy for this project over the past five-plus years, the city would not have been in a position to compete for the funding. Construction on this long-awaited project is anticipated to begin in 2023.

Looking ahead, there are several unfunded projects that are in the first phase of planning (i.e. the stage at which Old Lee Highway was in 2015). The Country Club Commons Connector Trail is a proposed 650-trail that connects the Country Club Hills Commons neighborhood to Fairfax Boulevard. The trail will provide a non-vehicular connection to the George Snyder Trail, the I-66 trail, Vienna Metrorail Station, and bus routes. If the city is awarded funding, it will be available in 2026, and construction is anticipated to begin in 2028-29.

Another priority project that has been identified is completion of the sidewalk and improvement of the bus stops along Chain Bridge Road between Taba Cove and Warwick Avenue. This project would connect the Old Town and Northfax Activity Centers. If awarded, funding would become available in 2026, and construction would occur in 2028-29.

The city is taking the long view on improving mobility. Each transportation project is designed to help realize the city’s 2035 vision of creating options for residents to easily, safely, and efficiently move within and between neighborhoods by walking, bicycling, taking public transportation, or driving. Look for opportunities to participate in the planning process for these transformative projects. *Information: fairfaxva.gov/transportation, 703-385-7889*



Subscribe to the city's YouTube channel!

www.youtube.com/user/cityoffairfaxva/



Third Annual Fairfax City Restaurant Week, September 13-20

Restaurant Week will be a little different this year, but you can still support your favorite independent dining establishments. The pandemic has made it challenging for local restaurateurs to do what they love most – feed you and make you happy – but our local eateries are following all public health guidelines to create safe, enjoyable dining experiences. This year, you can enjoy the same tasty dishes from the safety and comfort of your home when you place an RW2Go takeout order. Participating restaurants will offer three-course prix fixe dinners for \$35, and \$20 for lunch/brunch. While supplies last, diners who choose the RW2Go option will receive their meal in a branded reusable cooler tote. Take a break from cooking and enjoy a meal or two from your favorite restaurants! *Information: fairfaxcityrestaurantweek.com*



GETTING TO KNOW D. THOMAS ROSS

A 40-year resident of the city is serving his first term on City Council



Why do you want to serve on City Council? I believe in community involvement and service. We live in an exceptional community in an exceptional location. If we wish to see the City of Fairfax continue to be exceptional and a wonderful place to live, we need to give back! With my 40 years of experience being involved, I believe I have a good perspective to face the challenging times we are facing.

What one thing do you want to accomplish during this term? My main priority is to make the right decisions that will ensure our future, not

just for today, but for future generations that will live here. We must have a strong and ongoing economic base to pay for the services we enjoy and maintain a reasonable tax rate.

What do you love most about the city? I love our history, our sense of pride we have about where we live, our concern for one another, and our neighborhoods. We have a sense of place that many communities do not have. Finally, our diversity is our underlying strength; a place where our children meet people of different ethnicities, different economic backgrounds and ages. We value our neighbors and care for one another.

What is one thing you want people to know about you? I work hard at being fair and honest and to listen to all sides of an issue and then to make an informed, educated, and wise decision. As a member of City Council, I will always strive to make my decisions on what I believe is best for the city in the long run. It's easy to make snap decisions but far harder to take the time and learn all the facts and do what is best for the long run.



Renaming Lanier Middle School

The City of Fairfax School Board will accept comments regarding renaming Lanier Middle School through September 10. Visit cityoffairfaxschools.org and click on the "Lanier Middle School Name" button, or email LanierComment@fairfaxva.gov. Comments are accepted through the website, email, or mail. Community members also are welcome to speak at a meeting scheduled at 5 p.m. on September 9. The School Board is scheduled to vote on the matter at its September 14 meeting. Information: cityoffairfaxschools.org

BY THE NUMBERS



The City of Fairfax has been included in *NAFA FLEETSolutions* magazine's list of **The 100 Best Fleets**. The mechanics in the city's Fleet Maintenance Division keep the city's fleet running safely and efficiently!

City of Fairfax Fleet Maintenance

408
vehicles

267
pieces
of equipment

parts in stock
4,489

64
national
certifications



SAFETY, SAVINGS, AND STARS

This year, the City of Fairfax will begin replacing more than 2,600 streetlights with new LED light fixtures. The existing streetlights are inefficient, expensive to maintain, and create a glare that dims the brilliance of the night sky. The new shielded fixtures will prevent light from spilling upward and only illuminate the streets below. This \$550,000 environmental sustainability project will make the city safer, smarter, and more livable.

Once installed, the city's streets will be safer to navigate after dark, and constellations, shooting stars, and passing satellites may be more visible to the naked eye. The new fixtures will emit a warm, white light that falls within the range of color temperature recom-

mended by the International Dark Sky Association. This means people will sleep soundly and nocturnal wildlife won't be disrupted.

Converting to LED lights is expected to save the city up to \$2.2 million over the next decade or two, the lifespan of the lights (which last two to three times longer than older technologies). In addition to reducing utilities costs, the new lights are projected to reduce annual energy use by enough electricity to power 102 homes each year and reduce the city's carbon emissions by 800 metric tons per year! The new light fixtures include hardware that makes it possible for the city to install smart city technology in the future.

Women's Suffrage Centennial Celebration



On August 26, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution granted women the right to vote. Centennial celebrations of this historic event continue in September. *Events, exhibits, and talks are listed at fairfax.va.gov. Search "Suffrage."*

Check out the traveling exhibition, "We Demand: Women's Suffrage in Virginia," at the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center. The exhibition, on loan from The Library of Virginia, reveals how women created two statewide organizations to win the right to vote. Available through September 7. Free admission.

... by the Numbers

3

master mechanics

1

triple master mechanic

33

air brake inspections per month

102

preventative maintenance services per month

Park(ing) Day, September 18

City departments will participate in Park(ing) Day from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on September 18 at Fair City Mall. Come see examples of how urban landscapes can be re-envisioned as public places. Parking spaces will be temporarily transformed into pop-up public spaces. The Economic Development Office's space will have performances by Mason's College of Visual and Performing Arts, as well as free swag.

COUNCIL ACTIONS OF JULY 14, 2020

This regular meeting of the City Council was held electronically pursuant to the law, to undertake essential business of the city.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approved, unanimously, the motions in the staff report: Consideration of a resolution to endorse the city's submission of the Country Club Commons Connector Trail Project to the Virginia Department of Transportation for FY 2026/27 Smart Scale Funding; Consideration of a resolution to endorse the city's submission of the Chain Bridge Road Sidewalk Project (Taba Cove to Warwick Avenue) to the Virginia Department of Transportation for FY 2026/27 Smart Scale Funding; Consideration and action authorizing the Mayor to sign a letter on behalf of the Mayor and City Council requesting the state's plan for a second tranche of CARES Act Funding for local governments.
- Approved, unanimously, and waived the first reading and set the public hearing for July 28, 2020: Introduction of an ordinance authorizing "quick-take" condemnation of a public street dedication and various easements at 10342-10412 Fairfax Boulevard; Introduction of an ordinance authorizing "quick-take" condemnation of a public street dedication and various easements at 10450-10452 Fairfax Boulevard; Introduction of an ordinance authorizing "quick-take" condemnation of various easements at 3541-3545 Chain Bridge Road; Introduction of an ordinance amending City Code Chapter 98 (Traffic and Vehicles): Article II; Article IV, Division 1, Section 98-149; and Chapter 98, Article IV, Division 3, Sections 98-206 (portion) and 98-207; pertaining to local vehicle license taxes (to be renamed as vehicle registration fee), and vehicle license decals and display of the same; and introduction of an ordinance approving and authorizing a license agreement between the City of Fairfax and the City of Fairfax Economic Development Authority for the use of city-owned parking spaces at 10367 Main Street.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Approved, unanimously, based on the public convenience, welfare and good zoning practice, with respect to rezoning application Z-20-00006, which has been filed for the land known as Northfax West at 10516 Orchard Street, 10517 Orchard Street, 3590 Chain Bridge Road, 3580 Chain Bridge Road, 10505 Orchard Street, 3570 Chain Bridge Road, McLean Avenue, 10508 Orchard Street, 10510 Orchard Street, 10512 Orchard Street, 10514 Orchard Street, 10515 Orchard Street, 10507 Orchard Street, 10509 Orchard Street, 10511 Orchard Street, 10509 Orchard Street, and McLean Avenue, the rezoning application Z-20-00006 to rezone the subject property from RM Residential Medium and CR Commercial Retail to PDM Planned Development-Mixed Use, which has been prepared and submitted by the applicant. As part of this approval, consented to permanently vacating, discontinuing, and closing an approximately 13,433-square-foot (0.30838 acre), more or less, portion of a public right-of-way (Orchard Street) within the City of Fairfax, including easements and a dedication of right-of-way, for the realignment of Orchard Street and extension of Farr Avenue consistent with improvements shown on the Master Development Plan and the Statement of Commitments. Consideration of the vacation and dedication shall occur at the same meeting as consideration of the development application. Further moved to adopt a revision to the City of Fairfax Chesapeake Preservation Area Map showing the general location of Chesapeake Bay Preservation Areas within the city, as depicted in that map titled "RPA Map (Post-Development)" in the resource protection area site-specific study prepared by Apex Companies, LLC, for Northfax West and dated February 26, 2020. This revised map shall serve as the referenced map described in Section 4.18.2(A) of the city's zoning ordinance for all purposes thereunder.

- Approved, unanimously, the request for a special use permit to allow for disturbance in the 100-year floodplain boundary for Northfax West at 10516 Orchard Street, 10517 Orchard Street, 3590 Chain Bridge Road, 3580 Chain Bridge Road, 10505 Orchard Street, 3570 Chain Bridge Road, McLean Avenue, 10508 Orchard Street, 10510 Orchard Street, 10512 Orchard Street, 10514 Orchard Street, 10515 Orchard Street, 10507 Orchard Street, 10509 Orchard Street, 10511 Orchard Street, 10513 Orchard Street, and McLean Avenue, with conditions.
- Approved, unanimously, a special exception for disturbance of resource protection area to build a culvert on Northfax West at 10516 Orchard Street, 10517 Orchard Street, 3590 Chain Bridge Road, 3580 Chain Bridge Road, 10505 Orchard Street, 3570 Chain Bridge Road, McLean Avenue, 10508 Orchard Street, 10510 Orchard Street, 10512 Orchard Street, 10507 Orchard Street, 10509 Orchard Street, 10511 Orchard Street, 10513 Orchard Street, and McLean Avenue, with conditions.
- Approved, unanimously, the request for a Certificate of Appropriateness on Northfax West at 10516 Orchard Street, 10517 Orchard Street, 3590 Chain Bridge Road, 3580 Chain Bridge Road, 10505 Orchard Street, 3570 Chain Bridge Road, McLean Avenue, 10508 Orchard Street, 10510 Orchard Street, 10512 Orchard Street, 10514 Orchard Street, 10515 Orchard Street, 10507 Orchard Street, 10509 Orchard Street, and McLean Avenue, subject to conditions (as may be amended by City Council).
- Approved, unanimously, to enact an ordinance vacating a portion of the city's Orchard Street public right-of-way.
- Public hearing on Northfax West Roadway Project. (No action taken.)
- Approved, unanimously, an ordinance partially repealing and amending City Code Chapter 2 (Administration), Article VI, Division 3 pertaining to procurement procedures.

ITEMS NOT REQUIRING A PUBLIC HEARING

- Approved, unanimously, to adopt the City of Fairfax Purchasing Resolution as presented, with any non-material changes that may be made by the city purchasing agent with the approval of the city attorney.
- Approved, unanimously, to adopt a resolution to create a Core Values Statement for the City of Fairfax.
- Approved, unanimously, to authorize the city manager to prepare for a discussion on July 28, 2020, regarding the nomenclature in the city.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

- Appointed Stephen Rogers to the Board of Zoning Appeals.
- Reappointed Brenda Kulhman to the Commission for Women; Roxann Rowley to the Commission for Women; Stacey Hardy-Chandler to the Commission for Women; Sarah Ross to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board; and Andrew Wankum to the Health Systems Agency of Northern Virginia.

Agendas Available on the City Website

Visit the city's homepage and click on "City Meetings" to read minutes from City Council, School Board, and Planning Commission meetings, and to view proposed agendas for upcoming meetings.

Connect2FairfaxCity

Connect to your city leaders and make your voice heard via Connect2FairfaxCity. Learn about agenda items, issues, and projects – and once you've created an account, participate in discussions and offer feedback to the Mayor and City Council. Your comments become part of the public record.



CUE TURNS 40!

The CUE bus has been delivering city residents and George Mason University students to their destinations safely for 40 years. The City University Energysaver (aka CUE) bus system was launched in August 1980 as a joint venture between the City and Mason. At that time, Mason was using the former Paul VI High School as its northern campus. The expensive charter bus service between the two campuses, along with traffic congestion and parking problems, led to the creation of CUE. Service was expanded in 1986 to provide a connection to the Vienna Metro Station, and CUE has evolved to meet the needs of riders ever since, including implementing new sanitization and social distancing protocols to protect riders and drivers during the current pandemic.

One of the reasons riders enjoy riding CUE is because the drivers are City employees who build relationships with their riders. Four of the longest tenured drivers have seen many changes in the city over the years, but the one thing that hasn't changed is their commitment to their riders.

PAUL began his CUE career in 1992. His favorite passenger was a woman he used to carry to work from Kingsbridge to Mason every day. "We liked to talk, chit-chat," he recalls. When she retired, she took a vacation to South America and brought a present home for Paul. Her kind gesture stuck with him. When Chase was on vacation in Ohio, he thought of her when he saw a gift shop in a gas station. He bought her an Ohio State Buckeyes mug. "She really liked it," he says. Paul has seen a lot of new construction in recent years. "But it still feels the same, still friendly," he says.

DEAN drove CUE buses for 20 years and has worked in the office for the past four. He is a people person and driving buses is fun for him. Even though Dean drives a lot less these days, he still knows the bus stops and maintains relationships with some of his old passengers. He has worked all the city's events over the years, even walking in the Fourth of July parade with his church one year. His most interesting passenger was a re-enactor who rode his bus during a Fairfax History Day event. "It was really neat having Abraham Lincoln ride my bus," he says with a smile. Dean says despite the pandemic, a lot of people still call to see if buses are running on their normal schedule. "People are still looking for a ride," he says.

BOB has driven CUE buses for 24 years. "When I walked through the door for the interview in 1995, I knew I was here to stay. I knew I was going to be here 25 to 30 years. I knew that then, that day," he recalls.

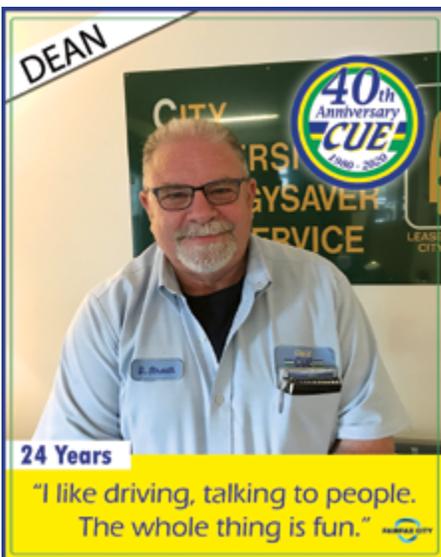
Bob started driving during the Blizzard of '96, a historic three-day winter storm. "People were stepping right off the snowbanks into the bus because we had so much snow and the snowbanks were so high," he says. From behind the wheel, he has watched the city change. "The City of Fairfax has really had a big facelift in the past 20 years. It's really changed. It looks good. It's attractive," he says.



LECIA describes her 25 years with CUE like this: "Family. Community. Good vibes." She says the sense of community among drivers plays out on the road with passengers. Lecia mainly works in the office these days, but she feels it's important to get out on the road, which allows her to keep in touch with drivers, road conditions, and riders' needs. Regarding the changes she's seen over the years, Lecia says, "The city is certainly booming with all the new construction. It's good to see the city being a hive of activity. The hustle and bustle means that there's life here."

"This has been my favorite job. Just being out there, in the community. It's so much fun being behind the wheel of the bus. It doesn't matter if it's raining, cloudy; you see sunsets, sunrises. It's just a lot of fun," she says. "The worse the weather, the bigger the smiles you get when passengers board."

All four drivers had the same message for riders: CUE buses are clean and safe, and the drivers are looking forward to seeing their riders return.



Mayor David L. Meyer (david.meyer@fairfaxva.gov)

City Council

Joseph D. Harmon (joseph.harmon@fairfaxva.gov)

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 • Recorded
 • Braille Cityscene is available in large print, Braille, and audio upon request.

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 본 간헐들과 관련하여 문의 사항이 있으시면
 ☎ 703-385-7800 (모)로 전화 주시기 바랍니다.

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CityofFairfaxVA



HELPING HANDS

The city needs people LIKE YOU to fill vacancies on the Economic Development Authority (EconomicDevelopment@fairfaxva.gov) and the Personnel Advisory Board (alternate). Unless otherwise noted, applicants must have lived in the city for at least one year and be a registered voter at their current address.

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

where. Identifying issues across such a large area can be challenging. He looks for trails blocked by fallen trees and inspects playground equipment for maintenance needs, but reports from park users are always appreciated. "It helps immensely when the community reports these issues and concerns through the city's website along with photos and a good description of where they are located," he explains. Fleming notes that there are many opportunities for volunteers to help keep forests and stream valleys clean, remove invasive plants, or even adopt an area to help maintain. Email parksrec@fairfaxva.gov to learn how you can help.



5 MINUTES WITH ...

CHRISTOPHER FLEMING

ISA CERTIFIED ARBORIST,
PARKS AND RECREATION



Christopher Fleming, a certified arborist and horticulturist, joined the Parks and Recreation Department in March 2019. He's the city's local Lorax, the guy who keeps trees trimmed and landscapes neat and tidy. Fleming grew up near Woodson High School and spent his youth exploring the city's forests and trails. "I love having the opportunity to contribute to the community where I grew up," he says.

Fleming comes from a family of landscapers and thanks his father for teaching him the skills he uses today, and for the appreciation for nature that drives his work. As a city employee, he is responsible for the health and maintenance of the trees and plants growing within the city's parks and green spaces. A typical day for Fleming may include any number of seasonal gardening tasks, such as planting, weeding, pruning, and mulching. Fleming oversees large tree projects and trail maintenance and is always ready to fire up his chainsaw and clear obstructions.

Fleming loves working for the City of Fairfax. "I feel a deep connection to the earth and the natural environment in which we reside," he says, adding, "Every day brings some kind of excitement, whether it be spotting wildlife along the trails, identifying an unusual plant I come across, or simply taking in the colors, shapes, and natural beauty within the landscape."

There is never a lull when it comes to maintaining the city's green spaces. On Fleming's short list is the installation of shade structures at the dog run in Westmore Park. "The project will allow our canine friends and human companions to stay cooler," he says.

Fleming covers a lot of ground each week, but with more than 250 acres of parkland to manage, he can't be every-