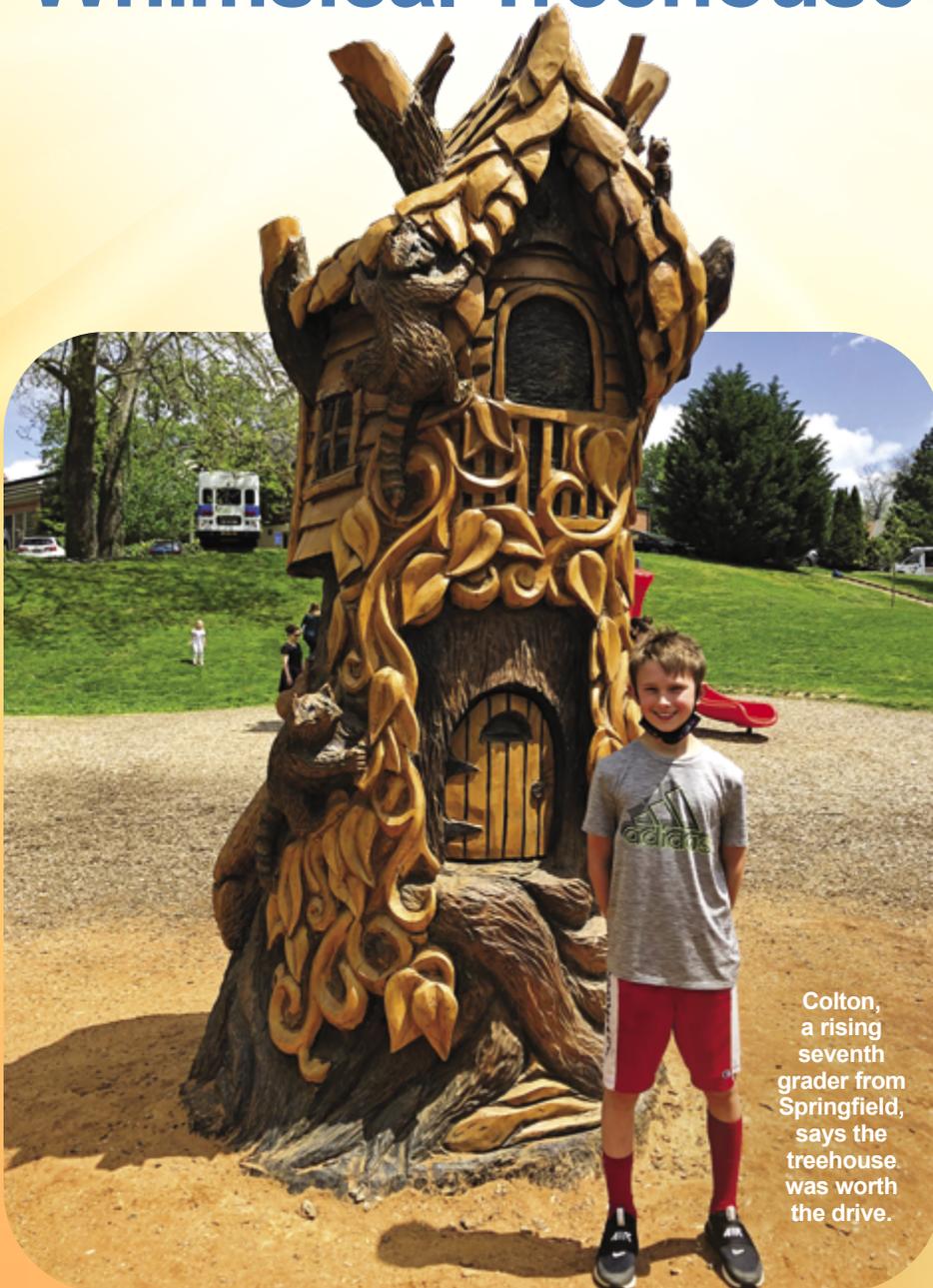


cityscene

What's happening in the City of Fairfax

JUNE 2021

Beloved Sycamore Reborn as Whimsical Treehouse



Colton, a rising seventh grader from Springfield, says the treehouse was worth the drive.

Several forest critters have found a new home in the trunk of an old sycamore tree at Ratcliffe Park. There is no need to be alarmed by the black bear, fox, squirrel, owl, and raccoons, however. The animals are part of a beautiful sculpture created by local chainsaw artist Andrew Mallon.

The tree had provided shade at the playground for many years, and people loved it. When the stately sycamore tree died last fall, Cultural Arts Manager Megan DuBois saw an opportunity to create something special. DuBois was aware of Mallon's work and hired him to create something joyful from the community's loss.

"My first thought was, 'Wow! That's a big tree!'" Mallon says. The artist doesn't sketch his ideas ahead of time; he lets the tree dictate his designs. After assessing the massive trunk, a vision formed in his mind of a whimsical treehouse crawling with woodland creatures.

Mallon is a former carpenter who enjoyed whittling and hand-carving as a hobby. He realized he had the

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CITY NEWS

Three Graduation Celebrations to be Held at Fairfax High School

The city congratulates the Fairfax High School Class of 2021, whose commencement ceremony is at 9 a.m. June 1 in FHS Stalnaker Stadium, 3501 Lion Run. Rain date is June 2. Two other high schools will celebrate their graduations at FHS: Falls Church HS (9 a.m. June 3; rain date June 4) and Justice HS (9 a.m. June 7; rain date June 9). These events may affect traffic in and around the city, so please consider alternate routes as appropriate.

City's Annual Budget Adopted, Published July 1

The city council has adopted the operating budget and Capital Improvements Program (CIP) for fiscal year 2021-22. The budget will be published online by July 1 at fairfaxva.gov/budget, and a limited number of printed copies will be available. *Information: 703-385-7870.*

Solarize NOVA Continues Through June 30

Sign up at solarizeNOVA.org to find out if your home or business is a good candidate for solar energy. You will receive a free solar assessment and may take advantage of discounted prices on solar panels. You also will be eligible for a complimentary home energy assessment. *New this year: installation of battery storage systems, solar arrays, and EV charging stations. Information: SolarizeNOVA.org.*

Real Estate Taxes Due June 21

Payments postmarked later are subject to a penalty and interest charge. Those who directly pay real estate taxes but have not received a bill should call 703-385-7900. Those who receive a bill, even though their mortgage company escrows for the

payment, should forward it to the mortgage company. Sign up for Fairfax City Alert to receive reminders on tax payment dates and more: fairfaxva.gov/fairfaxcityalert.

Museum, Interpretive Center Reopen

Two historic facilities have reopened to the public, with COVID-19 safety guidelines and practices in place.

- **Fairfax Museum & Visitor Center**, 10209 Main Street, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily; 703-385-8414.
- **Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim**, 3610 Old Lee Highway, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, 702-591-0560.
- The museum visitor capacity is 15 people, and visitors are asked to follow COVID-19 safety guidelines.

Community Farmers' Markets, Saturdays and Sundays

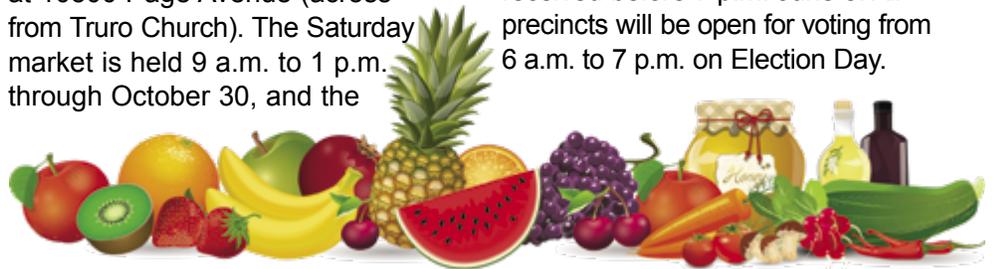
Fresh fruits and vegetables are only part of the many attractions of this twice-weekly market sponsored by the Downtown Fairfax Coalition at 10500 Page Avenue (across from Truro Church). The Saturday market is held 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. through October 30, and the

Sunday market is held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. through October 24. *Information: fairfaxSaturdaymarket.com, fairfaxSundaymarket.com.*



June 8 Democratic Primary Election

The Governor, Lt. Governor, and Attorney General are on the ballot. Absentee voting is 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Saturday at the City Hall Annex, 10455 Armstrong Street. Deadline to absentee vote in person is June 5 at 5 p.m. Mail ballots must be returned in person by 7 p.m. on Election Day or be postmarked by Election Day and received by noon on Friday, June 11. There is a secure ballot drop box with 24-hour access at the curb outside the atrium entrance. There will be a secure ballot drop box at every precinct on Election Day. Ballots returned in person must be received before 7 p.m. June 8. All precincts will be open for voting from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Election Day.



OLD TOWN SQUARE
10415 NORTH STREET

FAIRFAX CITY
THE ROCK BLOCK

4TH FRIDAYS
JUNE-OCTOBER
6:30 - 9:30PM

LIVE MUSIC
BEER GARDEN
FOOD VENDORS

FAIRFAX CITY
Parks & Recreation

COUNCIL REPORTER

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

COUNCIL ACTIONS OF APRIL 20, 2021

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approved, unanimously, after discussion of the second agenda item: Consideration of a resolution setting the allocation percentage for city personal property tax relief for the 2021 tax year at 43.50 percent; Introduction of an ordinance amending City Code Chapter 102 to adjust the rates for wastewater service furnished by the city by 6.0 percent; Introduction of an ordinance amending and readopting City Code Chapter 90 pertaining to classification and taxation of certain real property in the city, to be used for or zoned for commercial and industrial purposes, and to establish a separate tax rate on such real property effective as of January 1, 2021, revenues from which would be used exclusively for transportation purposes that benefit the city; Introduction of an appropriation resolution for the General, Capital, Wastewater, Transit, Stormwater, Cable, Old Town, and Transportation tax funds for the FY 22 budget year; Introduction of a supplemental appropriation resolution for \$941,556 for FY 21 year-end non-discretionary and council-authorized expenditures. *(Councilmember Stehle was absent.)*

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Public hearing of the city manager's proposed FY22 budget. *No action taken; public hearing continued. Budget adoption will be on May 5. (Councilmember Stehle was absent.)*
- Approved, unanimously, an appropriation resolution for \$12,000, allocated to The Safe Children Foundation (Safespot of Fairfax) for \$9,000 and Adaptive Fitness Legion for \$3,000. *(Councilmember Stehle was absent.)*

ITEMS NOT REQUIRING A PUBLIC HEARING

- Approved, unanimously, the release of \$166,868 in general fund expenditures that were appropriated as part of the FY21 adopted budget but held in reserve to accommodate potential losses in revenue due to the economic uncertainty caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

COUNCIL ACTIONS OF APRIL 27, 2021

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Public hearing on the maximum tax rates to be considered for the city manager's FY22 proposed budget: a proposed maximum real estate tax rate of \$1.08 per \$100 of assessed value, based upon an assessment ratio of 100 percent of fair market value; and a proposed maximum personal property and machinery and tools tax rate of \$4.13 per \$100 of assessed value, based upon an assessment ratio of 100 percent trade-in value. The tax rates will be set when the proposed budget is adopted on May 5, 2021.

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

- Approved, unanimously: the appointment of Jean Hower Massie as the Senior Center Advisory Council Representative to the Park and Recreation Advisory Board; and Andre Lee to the Regional Advisory Social Services Board.



Melissa Brown, Cake4Kids

Cake4Kids - Delivering smiles to children, one birthday cake at a time

As adults grow older, birthdays aren't so much celebrated as dreaded – but for children, birthdays are a big deal. On this one special day of the year, their day, they are the center of attention. We celebrate their birthdays with elaborate parties, shower them with gifts, and sing for them as they blow out candles and hope for a wish to come true.



Emma Thompson and Mary Campbell

But what about disadvantaged kids who live in group homes, shelters, in low-income housing with or without a parent, or on the streets? Do birthdays bring the same joy, or are they a sad reminder of the difficult situation in which they find themselves?

When Little River Hills resident and baker Melissa Brown heard about Cake4Kids, an organization dedicated to "delivering smiles to children, one birthday cake at a time," she decided to use her skills to cheer up underserved children. "We aim to raise their self-esteem and confidence with a seemingly simple gift on their special day: *cake*," says Brown.

Since joining Cake4Kids in February 2020, Brown has baked more than 10 cakes. "It is such a wonderful way to give back to the community," she says.

"Melissa is one of our truly dedicated bakers and we are so lucky to have her on our team," says Mary Campbell, ambassador for Cake4Kids's Northern Virginia National Capital Region Chapter. Campbell, who runs the chapter from her home, works with agencies to identify young people in and around

Fairfax City who would benefit from a birthday cake.

Campbell learned of Cake4Kids in an online parenting post from a woman who was baking cakes for foster children. "This was

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Do you know a City Samaritan? Please share their story with us at WeCare@fairfaxva.gov.



GETTING TO KNOW

ROBERT REINSEL

CITY OF FAIRFAX SCHOOL BOARD



Why do you serve on the school board? Serving on the City of Fairfax School Board over the past seven years has been an opportunity for me to learn about how our city schools provide educational opportunities for all of our students. I am continually impressed with the strength of our teachers and administrators and their ability to encourage our kids.

What one thing do you want to accomplish during this term? The City of Fairfax needs to be ready for some significant renovations for our schools in the next few years.

In general, our schools are in good condition, but we are starting to see some programmatic needs, renovation issues, and maintenance requirements that need to be addressed on a larger scale as the buildings age.

What do you love most about city schools and the city? I love seeing our students in class, participating in activities, and generally having a good time while they learn.

What is one thing you want people to know about you? I believe the City of Fairfax Schools provide our

students an amazing opportunity to learn. I think our agreement with FCPS has two major benefits: 1) It gives our students the best opportunities to learn that we can provide, and 2) It does so at a cost that is more reasonable than if we tried to run an independent system with just our four schools.

Independence Day Celebration



T-Shirt Sale

Purchase your commemorative "One Flag. One Hand. One Heart." t-shirt on the front steps of City Hall from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, June 12 and Saturday, June 19. *Information: 703-385-7858 or parksrec@fairfaxva.gov.*

Parade and Fireworks

At press time, no decision has been made regarding the Independence Day Parade — which, if held, would begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday, July 3. Information will be communicated as it becomes available.

The fireworks show will be held as scheduled on Sunday, July 4; however, attendance may be restricted based on current COVID-19 guidelines. If attendance is restricted, then a ticket reservation system will be used. Tickets would be free, reserved through an online ticketing system. Ticketing would start approximately two weeks prior to July 4, and tickets for Fairfax City residents would be available for one week before opening to the public.



Cake4Kids

continued from page 3

something I was definitely interested in,” she says. Campbell’s sons were growing older and her husband had recently retired from the U.S. Navy, so she found herself with free time again. After a year and a half of logistical hurdles, she launched the only Cake4Kids chapter outside California.

The Northern Virginia chapter delivered its first cake in April 2019 and delivered 163 cakes by the end of the first year. “Since then, things have exploded and our chapters are spreading all over the U.S.,” says Campbell.

Campbell says there are many moving examples of how Cake4Kids is making an impact. She has heard from parents who are faced with the impossible choice of paying a bill or buying a birthday cake. “As a mom, I would be so heartbroken if I couldn’t get my child a cake for their birthday,” says Campbell. “When I hear how much the cake not only impacts a child but their parent, it really touches me. For a child who gets their first cake instead of another disappointing birthday, it brings tears to my eyes,” she adds.

Cake4Kids is run entirely by volunteers. Many of the bakers are simply at-home enthusiasts, but the organization boasts a few professional cake bakers who donate their time and cakes. Twelve bakers live in and around Fairfax City, and Cake4Kids is always looking for new members to join its NOVA chapter, which also serves Arlington and Fairfax Counties. Campbell and her team of bakers want to partner with more organizations involved with at-risk youth.

“These cakes affect so many on so many levels,” says Campbell. “It strengthens the bond between a caseworker and a child when a caseworker can give a child a birthday cake. It lets the child know that someone cares about them and it helps parents and families. There is so much positive impact for everyone involved.”

You can’t have candles without a birthday cake, and Cake4Kids is giving children in the city the chance to make their birthday wishes come true. “If you are affiliated with an agency and would like to receive a cake for a child, please



UPDATE

Connecting Fairfax City for All has brought city residents together to participate in a series of reflective conversations that connect current realities with the city’s historical past. The goal of the initiative is to discern what actions may be taken to create a more equitable and inclusive community for all city residents, businesses, and visitors, now and into the future.

Many residents are participating in the city’s racial and social equity initiative. The community listening and learning sessions have been well-attended, and the conversations have been thought-provoking and meaningful. Be sure to share your opinions and ideas on Engage Fairfax. Your feedback will be considered by the stakeholder group as it formulates recommendations to city council.

What is on the Engage Fairfax page?

- View recordings of the virtual listening and learning sessions
- Read comments and share your own
- Watch the documentary *Locked Out: The Fall of Massive Resistance*
- View the Southern Poverty Law Center’s Confederate Iconography Timeline
- Learn the history of the city seal
- Peruse additional resources, such as book talks, podcasts, and webinars

Scan the code with your smartphone to visit Engage Fairfax, or visit engage.fairfaxva.gov to find the next scheduled community listening and learning session.



JOIN US FOR THE ULTIMUTT DAY OUT IN FAIRFAX CITY FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY!

**SATURDAY
JUNE 12
11AM-2PM**

FAIRFAX CITY DOG PARK
11000 BERRY STREET

FIDO FEST

fairfax
FIDO FEST
CITY OF FAIRFAX PARKS & RECREATION

reach out to your caseworker,” says Campbell. “If we are not already working with your agency, please reach out to me so that we can partner with you. Residents are welcome to contact me, too.”

Anyone with baking and decorating skills is invited to volunteer with the local Cake4Kids chapter by registering at cake4kids.org/chapters/northernvirginia.



5 MINUTES WITH ...

JACKIE BURRESS
TRAFFIC SIGNAL AND
COMPUTER TECHNICIAN,
PUBLIC WORKS



How long have you worked for the city? I have worked here for 19 years. I started with the city in a temporary summer position. After a few summers of working with the signal department, I started full-time as a signal helper. I continued to gain the necessary training and certifications to move up to a Level 1, and then to my current position.

What is the “big picture” of your role? Our team installs and maintains signs, signals, and various programs that assist emergency vehicles/personnel, as well as the public, to travel safely throughout the city. We ensure proper signage is posted to help residents and visitors navigate the city to find their destination.

What should residents know about your department? Our job is a lot more complicated than it seems.

Not all jobs can be fixed with just the flip of a switch. Sometimes we have to fix wires that have been chewed by animals, and repair damaged signal cabinets and signal poles from vehicle accidents. We try to make repairs as quickly and safely as possible.

Why do you enjoy your job? I enjoy being able to work in a position that keeps evolving through advances in technology. There is always a new program or piece of equipment that we may add to our system that gives us new things to learn and use. It is nice to see something that you have installed be used daily, such as the new audible pedestrian signal system at Main and West Streets.

Why do you enjoy working for the city? I enjoy meeting curious residents when we are working in the field. Some are blown away when they see all of the equipment inside the traffic signal cabinet, or when they see the actual size of a signal head when we have one on the ground. Most people don't realize how much equipment and training is needed to do our job well.

What are some upcoming projects you're most excited about? I am really excited about getting the new system that will run the signals for the entire city. It will be interesting to see the transition from the old system to when the new one is brought online. There will be a lot to learn with the transition, but I am sure it will make each of us better at our job by seeing every component of the new system being put in.



CURIOUS CITIZENS

Can I board dogs in my home?

Boarding is not an allowed home-based business in Fairfax City. Boarding is considered in the zoning regulations as an ‘animal care facility’ and is expressly prohibited as a home-based business. To confirm if a particular business is permitted as a home-based business, contact the Zoning Office. Business licenses are required for all home-based businesses in the city; contact the Commissioner of the Revenue's Office.

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

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

Beloved Sycamore Reborn as Whimsical Treehouse

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natural ability to carve anything he wanted. But carving with hand tools took too long. After a quick class in which he learned how to carve bears and owls with a chainsaw, he cashed in his change jar and bought his first saw.

Mallon says sycamore is good wood for carving, in-between soft and hard. He uses a large chainsaw to remove big chunks of wood and then uses smaller saws for the details. Once he begins, Mallon can complete a sculpture in less than a week.

Explaining his creative process, Mallon says, "It evolves as I go. It transforms from the blurry vision that's in my head into what it's going to be."

Because his sculpture was carved in a busy public space, people congregated to watch Mallon wield his saws. "They love to watch, love the process," he says. "I got a lot of smiles, a lot of thank-yous. That makes my work not feel like work. I love what I get to do."

Mallon added a range of textures with his smaller saws, and the smooth, shiny sanded and stained areas contrast with the dark areas burned into the design with a blow-torch. The finished sculpture looks as if it were pulled from a children's fantasy story and brought to life.

To fully appreciate the treehouse sculpture, you need to see it in person. The level of detail and the massive size of the transformed trunk are remarkable. Mallon's forest creatures cling to the tree among interlocking leaves. The windows and doors seem like they should open to reveal an interior space. In fact, mesmerized children tentatively reach out and touch the tree in disbelief.

"It's a really imaginative piece, and I hope people use their imaginations when they interact with it," DuBois says.



FAIRFAX CITY MULTI-USE TRAIL MAINTENANCE SCHEDULE



WILCOXON TRAIL



BERRY ST. TRAIL



LAMARE DR. TRAIL



LAYTON HALL DR.



PLANTATION PKWY.



BRECKENRIDGE LN.



ST ANDREWS DR.



TEMPORARY TRAIL CLOSURES MAY OCCUR

QUESTIONS? EMAIL US AT PARKSREC@FAIRFAXVA.GOV



HELPING HANDS

THE CITY NEEDS PEOPLE LIKE YOU

Boards and Commissions Vacancies

Board of Building Code Appeals (one mechanical or plumbing vacancy); **Board of Zoning Appeals** (one vacancy); **Commission on the Arts** (one vacancy); **Community Appearance Committee** (three vacancies: two city residents, one Garden Club representative); **Personnel Advisory Board** (one vacancy).

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



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

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

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

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 ☎ 703-385-7800 (모)로 전화 주시기 바랍니다.

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Kamp Washington Small Area Plan Meeting

Fairfax City has begun a community dialogue about the future of the Kamp Washington Activity Center, a triangular slice of land located in the west end of the city and bounded by Fairfax Boulevard, Lee Highway, and Jermantown Road. Join us at

7 p.m. on Wednesday, June 9, for the first public meeting for the Kamp Washington Small Area Plan.

Small area plans are neighborhood-level plans intended to provide the city with guidance on each of its five activity centers defined in the 2035 Comprehensive Plan. They provide specific guidance for a desired mix of uses, residential density, building density, design aesthetic, street locations, multi-modal connections, infrastructure improvements, parking, and open space.

Kamp Washington has the potential to become an exciting mixed-use destination, and city planners want to hear your ideas. For more meeting details and information about the Kamp Washington Small Area Plan, please visit engage.fairfaxva.gov/kamp-washington-small-area-plan.



4-H Stream Cleanup

The Fairfax City 4-H Community Club collected a couple hundred pounds of trash at Pat Rodio Park during a cleanup event in April. The group has adopted the park for more than a dozen years and meets twice a year to remove litter and debris from the creek. Their efforts are supported by the Parks and Recreation and Public Works departments.