

# **Three Nonprofits Receive Chocolate Grants**

adly, last month's Chocolate Lovers Festival was canceled due to public health concerns. But, on a positive note, the Chocolate Lovers Festival Committee was able to use some of the money budgeted for the event to award grants to three local nonprofit organizations. (Typically, all participating vendors donate 15% of their proceeds to the grant fund.)

The 2022 grant recipients are SafeSpot
Children's Advocacy Center
Chocolate
Lovers
of Fairfax;
Festival
Opportunities,
Alternatives
& Resources
(OAR); and the
Regratifying Foundation. Each

**SafeSpot** supports child victims of sexual and severe physical abuse. All services are designed to reduce present trauma, better navigate the systems involved, and promote healing.

organization received \$500 to help

fund the services they provide, and

each will receive additional grant

funding after next year's festival.

Opportunities, Alternatives & Resources (OAR) helps offenders who are, or have been, incarcerated and wish to assume productive

roles in the community. Their families also are assisted in various ways as they cope with the crisis of arrest and incarceration. "This grant is important to OAR and the community we serve because it shows that the community cares!" said OAR Executive Director Derwin Overton. "Thank you Chocolate Lovers Festival!"

### The Regratifying Foundation

helps youth in foster care continue their education, learn about professional careers, and set future personal and career goals before they leave foster care.

"We are passionate about supporting foster youth because they have persevered through and continue to face extreme obstacles that a young person should not have to experience. We want to make sure they have the opportunity to have a successful future just like anyone else," said Ramon Montes, Regratifying Foundation founder and CEO.

The Chocolate Lovers Festival
Committee is made up of members
representing the Fairfax Bar Association, Friends of the City of Fairfax
Regional Library, City of Fairfax
Regional Library, Independence Day
Celebration Committee, Kiwanis Club
of Fairfax, Fairfax VA Chapter of Harley Owners Group, Woman's Club of
Fairfax, and the City of Fairfax.



### FAIRFAX HISTORY DAY

April 23

On April 23, step back in time and discover the Fairfax City of the past. Fairfax History Day features period music, living history presenters, wagon rides, historic tours, food, and plenty of family-friendly activities from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the expansive grounds of Historic Blenheim. Plus, get a glimpse at a truly unique historic artifact: graffiti drawn on the walls of a home that housed Federal troops during the U.S. Civil War. *Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "History Day")* 

### **INSIDE CITYSCENE**

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# **CITY NEWS**

### FY23 Budget Review, **Discussion Continues**

City Manager Rob Stalzer introduced the proposed budget for fiscal year 2022-23 on Feb. 22. The city budget is a detailed description of how taxpayer money is spent to achieve the city's goals, proposed programs, and activities for that fiscal year. Here are some ways you can participate in this important process. Info: fairfaxva.gov/ budget: 703-385-7870

- Download your copy of the proposed budget, posted online at fairfaxva.gov/ budget. (Limited numbers of printed copies are available; call 703-385-7870.)
- Watch the city manager's presentation at the Feb. 22 City Council meeting. (Watch the archived video on fairfaxva. gov; click on "City Meetings.")
- Engage on the budget at engage.fairfaxva.gov. The city continues to seek public input until the city council adopts the final budget May 11.
- Watch upcoming city council meetings and work sessions on the budget, televised on cable Channel 12 and livestreamed on the city website. Use the eComment feature on the city website.

### Ride CUE Bus For Free

CUE Bus has launched a three-year pilot program through June 2025 to extend fare-free rides for all. Now it's easier than ever to hop on and take your CUE! Take your CUE to destinations in the city — parks, schools, restaurants, shopping centers — as well as to George Mason University and the City of Vienna/Fairfax-GMU Metrorail Station. Visit *cuebus.org* for live bus arrival information, a route map, schedule, and more. Info: cuebus.org, 703-385-7859

### Real Estate Tax Relief, Rent Relief **Applications Due April 15**

The City of Fairfax provides real estate tax relief and rent relief for senior citizens and city residents with permanent and total disabilities. Different types of relief are granted on a sliding-scale and based on income. Qualified homeowners may choose basic tax relief, tax deferral, tax freeze, or combination tax freeze and deferral. Rent relief is available for senior citizens or renters with permanent and total disabilities. Virginia offers a real estate tax exemption for the primary residence of certain disabled veterans and their surviving spouses. Pick up applications from the Finance Department. Submission deadline is April 15.

Info: fairfaxv,gov (search "tax rent relief"). 703-359-2486

### **Curbside Leaf Collection Provided Tuesdays in April**

On Tuesdays in April, vacuum trucks will collect loose leaves raked to the curb in residential neighborhoods that receive city curbside refuse collection service. Please rake leaves to the curb by 7 a.m. on collection days: April 5, 12, 19, and 26. Bagged leaves are not collected in April. Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "leaves"), 703 -385 -7995

### Yard Waste: Collection Changes **Begin March 1**

City Council passed a law last June banning the use of plastic bags for yard waste disposal. Instead, please use paper bags, twine, or refuse receptacles for curbside vard waste debris.

Info: refuserecycling@fairfaxva.gov, 703-385-7837





Civic participation is key to the success of Fairfax City. The mayor, city council, city leadership, and staff value your opinion, and there are several ways to make your voice heard. You may speak at a meeting, submit e-comments, or send an email. Selected projects are presented on **Engaged Fairfax specifically to** gather feedback from residents and other stakeholders. If you are unfamiliar with Engage Fairfax, simply click on the "engage" button on the city homepage, or visit engage.fairfaxva.gov.



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## 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 JANUARY 11, 2022**

### PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

COVID-19 vaccine update from the city manager.

### ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Approved, unanimously, the adoption of the agenda.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Approved, unanimously: Consideration of an award of construction contract for the Stafford Drive Park Turf Field Replacement Project; Consideration of an updated resolution to endorse the city's submission to the Virginia Department of Transportation for FY 23 and FY24 Revenue Sharing funding; Introduction of a supplemental appropriation resolution for \$590,000 for construction of Phase 1 for the Old Town Hall Rehabilitation (approved after discussion); Consideration of a resolution to approve the city's submission to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority for FY 23-28 Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funding.

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- Approved, unanimously, the request for a special use permit to allow an animal care facility in the CR Commercial Retail Zoning District and Architectural Control Overlay District at 11035, 11037 and 11039 Lee Highway, subject to conditions.
- Approved, unanimously, to approve the request form for a special exception to modify the distance requirement of an animal care facility from the nearest residential use as required, on the premises at 11035, 11037 and 11039 Lee Highway, subject to conditions.
- Approved, 4-2, to defer action to Feb. 22 on the public hearing and Council action on an ordinance permanently vacating, discontinuing, and closing a portion of city public rights-of-way (part of Cedar Avenue and Walnut Street). (In favor: Councilmembers Harmon. Lim, Ross, and Stehle. Opposed: Councilmembers Miller and Yi.) Public hearing closed.
- Approved, 4-2, to defer action to Feb. 22 on the public hearing and Council action on a request for consideration of a Zoning Map Amendment (Rezoning) from RH Residential High, RMF Multifamily and CR Commercial Retail to PD-M Planned Development-Mixed Use, while retaining the Architectural Control Overlay District (ACOD), and approval of a Master Development Plan with modifications and commitments (Planned Development Districts); to allow the development of townhouses and multifamily, and a future commercial development phase; and for a Major Certificate of Appropriateness for architecture and landscaping on the premises identified as the Breezeway Motel at 10807 Cedar Avenue, 10829 Fairfax

- Boulevard, 3930 Oak Street, 3932 Oak Street, 3934 Oak Street, and 3937 Walnut Street. (In favor: Councilmembers Harmon, Lim, Ross, and Stehle. Opposed: Councilmembers Miller and Yi.)
- Public hearing for the Pickett Road Connector Trail. (VDOT required public hearing)
- Approved, 5-0, to enact an ordinance approving and authorizing a license agreement between the City of Fairfax and New Cingular Wireless PCS, LLC for the placement of wireless communication facilities on certain existing joint use utility poles in the public right-of-way. (Councilmember Yi recused himself.)

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approved, unanimously: the November 9, 2021, regular meeting minutes; the November 30, 2021, special meeting minutes; and the December 14, 2021, regular meeting minutes.

### **COUNCIL ACTIONS OF JANUARY 25, 2022**

### PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

- COVID-19 vaccine update from the city manager.
- Chief financial officer's presentation of the FY22 Quarter 2 budget update.

### ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Approved, unanimously, the adoption of the agenda.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Approved, unanimously: Consideration of a contract amendment for professional design services for the George T. Snyder Trail (deferred by staff to Feb. 8); Introduction of a supplemental appropriation resolution in the amount of \$864,633 for the second guarter FY22 non-discretionary and Council-authorized expenditures.

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Approved, unanimously, a supplemental appropriation resolution in the amount of \$590,000 to fund construction of Phase I of the Old Town Hall Rehabilitation Program.

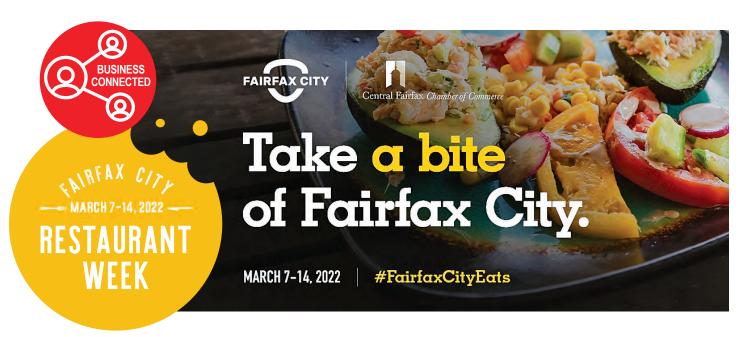
### ITEMS NOT REQUIRING A PUBLIC HEARING

- Approved, unanimously, to authorize the purchasing agent to award a contract in the amount of \$510,472 to Kadcon Corporation for Old Town Hall Phase I construction services.
- Discussion with the Planning Commission and consideration of recommended FY23-28 CIP to be included in the FY23 proposed budget.
- Approved, unanimously, to endorse a three-year zerofare pilot program for CUE Bus and further endorse the application to the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation's Transit Ridership Incentive Program.
- Introduction of an ordinance to amend the wastewater rates (deferred by staff to Feb. 8); no Council action required.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approved, unanimously the January 11, 2022, regular meeting minutes.

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Fairfax City restaurants will once again open their doors for Fairfax City Restaurant Week. This year the city will celebrate Restaurant Week twice – in winter *and* summer! Plan on eating at your favorite restaurants (or try someplace new) March 7-14.

In addition to expanding Fairfax City's celebration of its restaurant community, restaurants will once again offer amazing meals and deals during the weeklong winter event. Participating restaurants are offering

three-course prix fixe menus of \$20 for lunch/brunch and \$35 for dinner per person, with couple and family meal options available. New this year, specialty restaurants will offer a *Two for \$10 Deal* providing foodlovers the opportunity to further explore the global kitchens found across city neighborhoods.

Participating restaurants this year include some of Fairfax City's finest eating destinations, such as Coyote Grille & Cantina, Ornery Beer Com-

pany, Marumen, The Wine House, The Auld Shebeen, Dolce Vita Italian Kitchen and Wine Bar, Capital Ale House, Earp's Ordinary, Patriots Pub & Grill, Bellissimo Restaurant, Anita's New Mexico Style Mexican Food, Epicure Café, Hamrock's Restaurant, and Bollywood Bistro.

Diners are encouraged to follow @FairfaxCityRestaurantWeek on Instagram and Facebook and tag #FairfaxCityEats.

Info: fairfaxcityrestaurantweek.com



# Tax Exemptions for Solar Power

If you've been thinking about harnessing the power of the sun at your home or business, now is the time to act. The city now provides a 10-year tax exemption for qualifying solar equipment installed in 2022 or later. Qualifying equipment and systems include:

- passive solar space heat
- active solar water heat
- active solar space heat
- thermal electricity
- and photovoltaics

As an additional incentive to install clean solar energy systems, the city will waive its building and electrical permit fees for these systems.

To qualify for the tax exemption, property owners must provide the following documentation:

- Completed application for Solar Energy Equipment, Facilities or Devices Certification for Real Property Tax Exemption
- Copy of the plans, specifications, and drawings of the solar energy equipment
- Brief description of the function of the solar energy equipment (rated capacity of installation, intended performance levels, and estimated energy and cost savings)
- Documentation of the cost of the installed solar energy equipment

(materials and labor)

Submit permit and certification applications and supporting documentation to CodeAdministration @fairfava.gov.

Once the equipment is installed and all required inspections are approved, the Code Administration Office will transmit the certified application to the Real Estate Assessments Office.

The Real Estate Assessments
Office will review the application,
calculate the value of the tax
exemption, and issue a letter to
the applicant. The city will apply the
tax exemption to the the property's

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### COUNCIL REPORTER

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### APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

- Approved, unanimously, to reappoint: Timothy Killian to the **Environmental Sustainability** Committee; Marian Carroll to the **Environmental Sustainability** Committee; Carolyn Sutterfield to the Fairfax Commission on Aging; and Diana Gibson to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.
- Approved, unanimously to appoint: Michael Borash to the Fairfax County Alcohol Safety Action Program Policy Board; Stephen Hoyle to Historic Fairfax City, Inc.; Charles Paceley as the Senior Center Advisory Council representative to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board; James Feather as the Planning Commission representative to the Board of Architectural Review; and Matthew Rice as the Planning Commission representative to the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board.

### Solar Power continued from page 4

tax bill every year for 10 years.

The federal government provides a 26% tax credit for solar systems installed in 2020-2022. When combined with the city's tax exemption (approx. 10% savings), property owners can save approximately 36% on their solar energy system through 2022.

For questions about the application, qualifying equipment, the permitting process, or inspections, please contact the Code Administration Office at CodeAdministration@ fairfaxva.gov, 703-385-7830.

Thinking about installing a solar photovoltaic system at your home or business? Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "energy").



### THE CITY NEEDS **PEOPLE LIKE YOU**

City Council made the following appointments and reappointments at its Jan. 25 meeting.

- Board of Equalization: Myron Maslowsky
- Environmental Sustainability Committee: Timothy Killian and Marian Carroll
- Fairfax County Alcohol Safety Action Program Policy Board: Michael Borash
- Fairfax Commission on Aging: Carolyn Sutterfield
- Historic Fairfax City, Inc.: Stephen Hoyle
- Park and Recreation Advisory Board: Diana Gibson and Charles Paceley (Senior Center Advisor Council Representative)
- Planning Commission Representative on the Board of Architectural Review: James Feather

### **BOARD AND COMMISSION VACANCIES**

Board of Architectural Review (two vacancies: one business representative and one city resident), Board of **Building Code Appeals** (one mechanical or plumbing vacancy), Board of Equalization (two vacancies: one alternate member and one member), Commission on the Arts (two vacancies: one city resident and one George Mason University representative), Fairfax Village in the City Advisory Board (three vacancies), Personnel Advisory Board (one vacancy).

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



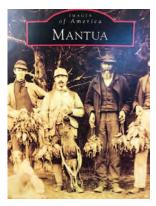
### **HISTORY PROGRAMS**

The Search for Maria Lewis. Black Female Trooper of the 8th NY Cavalry, March 26



Join Dr. Anita Henderson as she discusses her research on Maria Lewis, a black woman who disguised herself as a cavalryman and rode with the Union Army in the U.S. Civil War. Dr. Henderson will describe her search for Lewis focusing on the methodology of her research, including documentation from the diary of Julia Wilbur, a Quaker abolitionist. The free history talk begins at 2 p.m. at the Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Old Lee Highway. Masks are required. Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "Maria Lewis")

### **Uncovering the History** of Mantua, March 27



Join author and historian Sue Kovach Shuman as she discusses her new book on Mantua. a mid-20th century suburban

community with long historical roots. Book sales and signing will follow the free talk, which begins at 2 p.m. at the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St. Audience limited to 25 people; please preregister at 703-385-8414. Masks are required. Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "Mantua")

# Keeping the Stormwater Flowing

Stormwater management facilities require maintenance to ensure they provide the water quality and quantity benefits for which they were designed. Sometimes it's as simple as unblocking a drain, but oftentimes more intensive work is needed. The city recently completed annual inspection of 41 city-owned stormwater management facilities (BMPs), of which 16 required maintenance.

The rain garden at the Pickett Road Trail underpass is a good example. This BMP treats 0.35 acres (0.12 acres of impervious surfaces). Workers removed overgrown vegetation, sediment, debris, and litter; tended or replaced planting; erosion damage was reseeded in bare areas; and applied a fresh layer of mulch.

Another example is the detention pond at Providence Park, which treats 4.18 acres (1.4 acres of impervious surfaces). In addition to removing overgrown vegetation, fixing eroded areas, and removing debris, crews cleared the low-flow area of the inlet and trash rack to allow stormwater to flow through the facility at the designed rate.

Maintaining these facilities reduces the risk of flooding; prevents stream-BEFORE bank erosion by reducing the velocity of runoff entering our streams; removes pollutants from runoff; and keeps the city in compliance with its Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Permit.

Remember: litter, pet waste, excess fertilizer and winter salt, and other pollutants wash directly into city streams, untreated. BMPs can only do so much. We all need to do our part to protect water quality. Everyone in Fairfax – city and county – drinks water from the Potomac River or the

Occoquan Reservoir, and every

stream in our area drains into one of these waterbodies.
(These pollutants also can contaminate private wells.)

AFTER
PICKETT TRAIL UNDERPASS

### **FLOOD SAFETY**

Floods are the most common natural disaster in the United States. Are you prepared? Review the tips below to make sure! Sign up for Fairfax City Alert at fairfaxva.gov (search "city alert")

### **BEFORE THE FLOOD**

- Sign up for Fairfax City Alert to be notified about impending floods.
   Visit PlanetReady.com/FairfaxCity and take the flood preparedness exercise.
- If flash flooding is a risk in your location, stay aware during heavy rainstorms.
- Learn and practice evacuation routes, shelter plans, and flash flood response.
- If you own a home, obtain flood insurance. If you rent, also consider flood insurance if not included in your renter's insurance.
- Keep important documents in a waterproof container and move valued items to higher levels.

### **DURING THE FLOOD**

- Go to a safe location you have identified and, if you are told to evacuate, do so immediately.
- Do NOT walk, swim, or drive through flood waters of any depth.
- Stay off bridges over fast-moving water, and if your vehicle is trapped in rapidly moving water, stay inside. If water is rising inside the vehicle, seek refuge on the roof.
- If trapped in a building, go to its highest level. Do not climb into a closed attic because you may become trapped by rising floodwater. Instead, go on the roof only if necessary and signal for help.

### AFTER THE FLOOD

- Listen to city officials for information and instructions.
- Avoid driving, except in emergencies. Call 911 for assistance.
- Be aware that snakes and other animals may be inside buildings on your property. Wear heavy gloves and boots during cleanup.
- When in use, position your generator or other gasolinepowered machine outdoors and away from windows.
- Be aware of the risk of electrocution. Do not touch electrical equipment if it is wet or if you are standing in water.



# VE LIFE THE ARTS

**Upcoming programs and** performances are listed in the events calendar at fairfaxva.gov.

**Bonita Lestina Old Town Hall** Performance Series (Sponsored by the Commission on the Arts)

Zachary Smith and the Dixie Power Trio. 8 p.m. March 4, Sherwood

Alma Ensemble. 8 p.m. March 11, Old Town Hall

t.l.a.o.o. 8 p.m. March 25, Old Town Hall

### ArtScreen (Sponsored by the Commission on the Arts)

Art and Craft. 7:30 p.m. March 18, Sherwood. Doors open at 7 p.m.

### Mason Arts at Old Town Hall

George Mason University School of Dance. 7 p.m. March 9, Old Town Hall

### Women's Storytelling Festival March 18-20



Join Better Said Than Done in March for the Third Annual Women's Storytelling Festival, both in-person at Old Town Hall and live streaming online!

Visit bettersaidthandone.com/ womens-festival to purchase tickets and for the latest information.

### WHICH IS THE MOST FIT COMMUNITY?









Parks and Recreation

### COMPETITION DETAILS & REGISTRATION:

www.viennava.gov/registration **Activity Number:** #453707-A1 (Free) #453701-B1 (\$5 T-shirt Fee)

### **COMPETITION DETAILS &** REGISTRATION:

www.fairfaxva.gov/communityevent for the registration links. **Active Net:** #14169 (Free) #14170 (\$5 T-shirt Fee)

### **COMPETITION DETAILS &** REGISTRATION:

www.fallschurchva.gov/register **Activity Number:** #230001-A (Free) #230001-B (\$5 T-Shirt Fee)

Registration with your city or town is required

### **Apply Online for Tree Removal Permit**

As with any municipality, permits are required for a wide range of activities in Fairfax City. A common task that requires a permit from the city is removing a tree from private property. A new website has been launched to make applying for city permits more convenient.

If you plan to remove a tree,

start at fairfaxva.gov/onlinepermits. You can apply for a permit, make payments, and track your application – all without making a trip to City Hall. More permits will be available online soon.

Scan the QR code below to watch a video to learn how to apply for a tree removal permit on the new website.







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

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

Matthew Kaiser, Communications & Marketing Director Communications & Marketing Office: 703-385-7855 (TTY: 711) City Manager, Mayor, and City Council: 703-385-7850 (TTY: 711)

Mayor David L. Meyer

(david.meyer@fairfaxva.gov)

City Council

Joseph D. Harmon (joseph.harmon@fairfaxva.gov) So P. Lim (so.lim@fairfaxva.gov) Janice B. Miller (janice.miller@fairfaxva.gov) D. Thomas Ross (tom.ross@fairfaxva.gov) Jon R. Stehle Jr. (jon.stehle@fairfaxva.gov) Sang H. Yi (sang.yi@fairfaxva.gov)

contact us WeCare@fairfaxva.gov

City Manager Rob Stalzer (rob.stalzer@fairfaxva.gov)

Large Print

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

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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.



For general, ongoing registration, or to register and buy a t-shirt (\$5), please visit fairfaxva.gov/communityevent for the registration links. The registration deadline to buy a t-shirt is MARCH 1.



specialevents@fairfaxva.gov

8 | Live Life Connected