

What's New with CUE?

Fairfax City residents have been riding CUE Bus for more than 40 years, but newer residents may be unfamiliar with the city's free bus service. Cityscene sat down with transit manager Ryan Visci to learn what's new with CUE.

Riding CUE Bus is an easy way to help reduce traffic, greenhouse gas emissions, accidents, and money spent on fuel and vehicle maintenance – and the bus is free to ride! With 200 stops in the city, CUE is a convenient way to connect to local destinations. Connecting to regional destinations is easy, too, with stops at the Vienna/Fairfax-GMU Metrorail Station and stops shared with other bus services.

Visci joined the city in March 2021. Prior to being selected as the city's transit manager, he worked for a company that provided public transit for universities and governments. He got his start in public transit as a bus

driver at the University of Connecticut, where he gained experience in transit planning and was eventually promoted to manage the entire system. Visci understands how public transit connects a community and how important bus service is to riders.

Zero-Fare Pilot Program. During the height of the pandemic, when everyone was advised to stay home, CUE still provided 500 trips a day. "That told us there's a core group of people in the city who have no alternative to public transit," said Visci. "So being able to provide bus service to them is really impactful."

A bus trip before COVID cost \$1.75. That adds up to more than \$1,000 a year in transportation costs for frequent riders. At its Jan. 25, 2022, meeting, Fairfax City Council endorsed a four-year pilot program to provide free rides. "Fare free means

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12 BUSES



200 BUS STOPS

55 MILES ON 4 ROUTES

1 METRORAIL STATION SERVED



35 DRIVERS

GEORGE MASON CAMPUS

FAIRFAX CIRCLE



RYAN VISCI, TRANSIT MANAGER

COST TO RIDE FREE

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CITY NEWS

2022 Business Recycling Report Due March 1

City business owners must submit their annual commercial recycling reports to the city electronically between Jan. 1 and March 1 using a form on the city website. *Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "Commercial Recycling Report")*

Sunday Irish Social Dance at Sherwood Center

On March 12, celebrate St. Patrick's Day with Irish social dancing. From 3-6 p.m., dancers of all levels are invited to step onto the Sherwood Center's dance floor to live music by the Shepherds Pie Ceili Band. Experienced dancers will be on hand to guide beginners. Please wear light shoes (*no tap shoes*). Small desserts to share are welcome. Cost is \$12/adults, \$6/youths (must be accompanied by an adult). *Info: parksrec@fairfaxva.gov, 703-385-7858*

Senior Center Craft and Flea Market, March 4

Discover a treasure — or sell one of your own — at the 2023 Craft & Flea Market, which will be held from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. March 4 at the Sherwood Center. *Info: fairfaxva.gov/seniorcenter, 703-273-6090*

Real Estate Tax Relief, Rent Relief Applications Due April 17

The City of Fairfax provides real estate tax relief and rent relief for senior citizens and city residents with permanent and total disabilities. Tax and rent relief applications are available from the Finance Department in Fairfax City Hall Room 312. Applications are due by April 17. *Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "tax rent relief"), 703-359-2486*

Communications Survey

The Communications and Marketing Office is conducting a survey to gauge what information is most important to you and the best way to deliver it. The survey is available online at engage.fairfaxva.gov/communications-survey

Women of Influence Award Ceremony, March 28

Come celebrate Fairfax City's 2023 Women of Influence at a special award ceremony held by the Commission for Women. The ceremony will be held at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, March 28. *Info: 703-385-7894*

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 4, 11, 18, 25. Bagged leaves are not collected in April. *Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "leaves"), 703-385-7995*

Yard Waste Curbside Collection Rules Enforced

It is the law in Fairfax City: when placing yard waste at the curb for disposal, residents must use paper bags, twine, or refuse receptacles for curbside yard waste debris. **Items placed in plastic bags will not be collected curbside.** *Info: refuserecycling@fairfaxva.gov, 703-385-7837*

Home for Life 2023 Expo

Join us and meet local agencies and service providers to learn safe and successful aging in place practices. Visit with exhibitors and listen to guest speaker at this free event from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 31 at the Sherwood Center. Presented by Fairfax Village in the City. *Info: fairfaxva.gov/village, 703-385-5738*

New Career Opportunities at Mason

Apply to join George Mason University's vibrant academic and professional community. Mason offers a robust benefits package, a commitment to flexible work/life options, and personal and professional development opportunities. Visit jobs.gmu.edu/ to explore career opportunities.

FAIRFAX CITY CLIPS

It's easier than ever to subscribe to Fairfax City's e-newsletters. Text keyword to 888-492-1526. Keywords for popular e-newsletters:

CityNews

(news and videos)

CitySchools

(CloseUp)

Sustainability

(environmental sustainability)

CityArts

(arts, performances, concerts)

CityPD

(arrests and crime reports)

Transportation

(transportation projects and news)

Museum

(exhibits, programs)

MARCH 26

SPRING community CLEANUP

Individuals and groups are invited to participate in the Spring Community Cleanup at 9 a.m. March 26. Help keep city parks, forests, and streams clean and clear of harmful debris. Volunteers may earn stormwater utility credit by participating in this event. Swing by Van Dyck Park between 9 a.m. and noon to pick up snacks and supplies. Speak with city staff to discover how to improve environmental health and the well-being of local ecosystems.

fairfaxva.gov/CommunityCleanup
703-293-1661

COUNCIL REPORTER



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

COUNCIL ACTIONS OF JAN. 10, 2023

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

- Presentation by Christopher Kehde, Principle/ Managing Director with FMG Architects, Inc., of an award to the city fire department for the Firehouse Station Design Gold Award for Fire Station #33.
- Presentation of a proclamation acknowledging Brian Knapp for his 20 years of service on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and NOVA Parks.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

- Approved, unanimously, the adoption of the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approved, 4-0-2, the consent agenda. *(In favor: Councilmembers Bates, Lim, Ross, and Stehle. Abstained: Councilmembers Doyle Feingold and Greenfield.)*

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Withdrawn as resolved: public hearing and Council action on an ordinance authorizing "quick-take" condemnation of a right-of-way dedication and various easements at 4040 Jermantown Rd.

ITEMS NOT REQUIRING A PUBLIC HEARING

- Approved, unanimously, to amend the City Council Rules of Procedures resolution to add "A Moment of Silence" to the City Council agenda.
- Approved, unanimously, the City Council 2023-24 term resolutions.

CLOSED MEETING TO DISCUSS PERSONNEL MATTERS AND APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

- Approved, unanimously, to go into closed meeting to discuss personnel matters and appointments to boards and commissions.

CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS TO THE VIRGINIA MUNICIPAL LEAGUE (VML) AND METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (COG) BOARDS AND COMMITTEES

- No action taken.

COUNCIL ACTIONS OF JAN. 24, 2023

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

- Approved, unanimously the adoption of the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approved, unanimously: Consideration of the Nov. 29, 2022, Regular Meeting minutes; Consideration of the Dec. 6, 2022, Special Meeting minutes; Consideration on a resolution of the City Council appointments to the Virginia Municipal League (VML), Metropolitan Washington Council of Government (COG), and other regional and city boards and committees; Consideration of a non-resident purchase of up to two City Cemetery sites; Consideration of a resolution to approve the city's submission to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority for FY24-29 Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Funding; Consideration of a resolution authorizing the city manager to sign transportation funding agreements.
- Approved, 5-1, to introduce an appropriation resolution for \$3.4M to fund the FY23 second quarter recommended supplemental expenditures. Further moved to waive the first reading and set the public hearing for Feb. 14, 2023. *(In favor: Councilmembers Bates, Doyle Feingold, Greenfield, Ross, and Stehle. Opposed: Councilmember Lim.)*

ITEMS NOT REQUIRING A PUBLIC HEARING

- Approved, unanimously, a resolution to endorse the city's submission to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Solid Waste Infrastructure for recycling grant program as presented and authorize the city manager to execute all necessary grant documents.

CLOSED MEETING TO DISCUSS BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

- Approved, unanimously, to go into closed meeting to discuss appointments to boards and commissions.



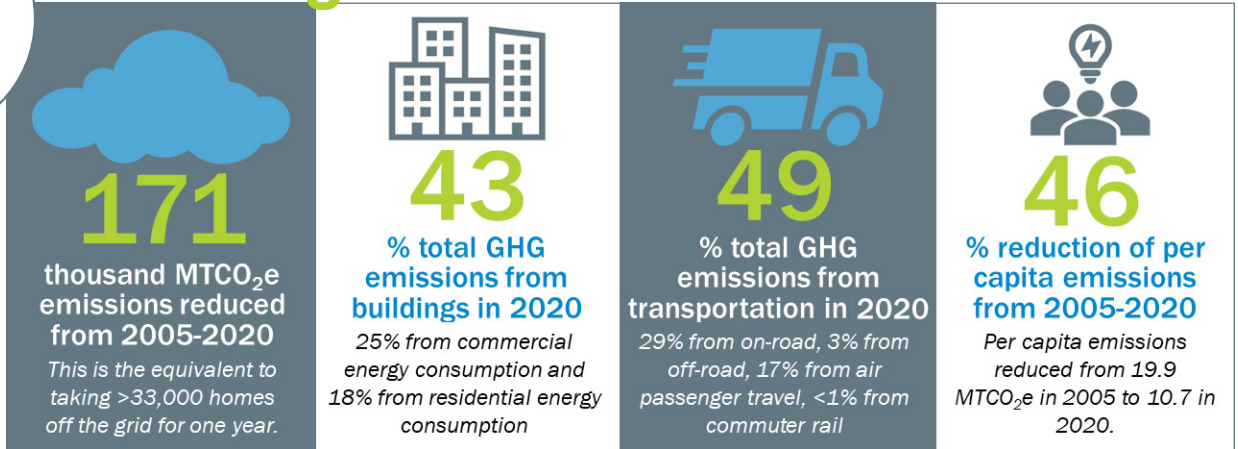
FAIRFAX CITY RESTAURANT WEEK

IS BACK ON MARCH 6

FAIRFAXCITYRESTAURANTWEEK.COM



Declining Greenhouse Gas Emissions



The 2020 community-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory for the City of Fairfax was conducted by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. The city's GHG emissions decreased by 39% between 2005 and 2020, despite a 14% growth in population. The main drivers for the reduction in emissions are a cleaner grid, decreased commercial electricity energy intensity, and reduced passenger air travel. Emissions from buildings and transportation saw a greater reduction than anticipated due to the 2020 pandemic.

The city committed to reduce GHG emissions 20% from 2005 levels by 2020, and 80% from 2005 levels by 2050. We have exceeded our 2020 reduction goal by 19%; however, we still have a lot of work to do to meet our 2050 GHG reduction goal.



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

LIVE LIFE IN THE ARTS

Bonita Lestina Old Town Hall Performance Series: Gerson Lanza



8 p.m. March 3, Old Town Hall

Originally from La Ceiba, Honduras, Gerson Lanza grew up around a culture of vibrant music and rhythms. He first encountered

tap dance after moving to Harlem in 2001. Lanza and his jazz quintet are committed to delivering an unforgettable performance.

ArtScreen: West Side Story (2021)

7:30 p.m. March 10, Sherwood Center

U.S. Air Force Band Ensemble

8 p.m. March 17, Old Town Hall

Women's Storytelling Festival

Mar 24-26, Old Town Hall

Join Better Said Than Done for the 4th Annual Women's Storytelling Festival.



The festival features performances by 27 storytellers and will be in-person, in front of a live audience, as well as streamed online. Visit bettersaidthandone.com/womens-festival.

City of Fairfax Band Association:

"The Magic of John Williams"

7:30 p.m. Mar 25, Fairfax High School

Fall for the Book: Story Sprint

7 p.m. Mar 30, Old Town Hall

In this evening of off-the-cuff writing, three authors will be given one line with which to start a story, one with which to end it, and 20 minutes to do it. Mystery writer Laura Ellen Scott will emcee the festivities.



Language Arts 123 Competition for residents and students in 4th -12th grade and adults.

Write your thoughts on the use of cursive. Deadline March 31. Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "Language Arts")



Katie MacCammon Promoted to Recreation Manager



The City of Fairfax Parks and Recreation Department is excited to announce the promotion of Katherine (Katie) MacCammon to the position of recreation manager. Katie is a lifelong resident of the city. She attended city camps as a kid and worked as a camp counselor for the city throughout college while attending Radford University, where she completed a degree in health and human promotion with a concentration in sports administration.

Katie has gained experience in all areas of the Parks and Recreation Department. She played a major role in continuing youth programming throughout the pandemic, and she designs and manages the creation of the *Parks and Rec Connected Magazine*. Her holistic knowledge of the department will be a tremendous asset as she transitions into her new role.

Katie received the 2020 Virginia Recreation and Parks Society Outstanding New Professional Award. In 2022, after holding several other leadership positions with the National Recreation and Park Association Young Professional Network, she was elected chair.

ANNOUNCING THE 2023 INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION LOGO AND THEME!



Applications to participate in the 2023 Fourth of July Parade are officially open and listed on our website. Apply to have your group carry a balloon or the "Walking Flag," decorate a float, sing, dance, or march your way down the streets of Historic Old Town Fairfax!
Visit fairfaxva.gov/vendors.



CALLING ALL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KIDS!

NEW THIS YEAR we are including a Wagon Decorating Contest to our Parade! Decorate your wagon, and march in the parade for a chance to win in your grade level!

Annual Budget Review Begins

The annual budget review begins after City Manager Rob Stalzer presents the proposed budget during the Feb. 28 City Council meeting. Help the mayor and city council determine the city's financial priorities by participating in the review. City Council work sessions and public hearings are scheduled through May 2.

Meetings begin at 7 p.m. in City Hall and are cablecast on Channel 12 (Cox and Verizon) and livestreamed on the city website. Copies of the proposed budget are available after Feb. 28 at fairfaxva.gov/budget. A limited number of printed copies are available upon request; call 703-385-7870.

What's New with CUE?

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everyone has equitable access to transportation, access to opportunities for work, or just to live their lives, run errands, and make it to medical appointments," said Visci.

A study completed in the fall of 2021 found removing bus fares would increase ridership, improve operating efficiency, and improve access to state funding. "People have this apprehension about getting on the bus for the first time. They don't know how to pay the fare or if they need exact change or a certain card to ride. The free-fare program eliminates those barriers. Anyone walking down the street and sees a bus coming can just hop on without having to worry about those things," Visci explained.

New Routes and Growing Ridership

Before the pandemic disrupted transit plans around the globe, CUE was providing 2,500 trips a day. It has taken a while to reach fall 2019 numbers, but CUE did so last spring. By last fall, ridership had rebounded and grown to 120-130% of 2019 ridership numbers. "In public transit, this is huge!" Visci exclaimed.

CUE recently updated a route to provide better service to residents of the Layton Hall Drive Apartments and the new Flats on University student housing development.

Taken together, the two bus stops are the fourth busiest in the system. "A lot of new residents in the city are using CUE to get to Mason, and it's taking a lot of stress off our roads." In describing the benefit of reducing single occupant vehicles, Visci says bus riders "share those emissions."

CUE rolled out six new buses last year, with modernized interiors, new seating that is more comfortable and resilient, non-slip flooring, and yellow powder-coated handlebars that are easier to see for people with visual impairments. More exterior lighting was added to make it easier for people to see when boarding.

Visci believes adding shelters at bus stops will make riding CUE more appealing for riders who are considering taking the bus. Of the 200 bus stops in the system, 40-45 have shelters. "We are using grant money from the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission through the I-66 Commuter Choice program to install more shelters," Visci said. "We're doing fieldwork to decide where those bus shelters will be placed. It's kind of a puzzle between the physical space we have and requirements for things like easements and right-of-way. We're trying to install as many shelters as we can with that money, probably between five and 10 new shelters, in addition to the three new shelters serving the updated route."

Buses will have a new look soon.

A branding study was conducted last year with input from the community. CUE will soon roll out buses with new colors, a new logo, and new signs at stops. "I really hope our new look will get people's attention and get them to give us a try if they haven't already," said Visci.

The best place to learn more about CUE is online at cuebus.org, where the TransLoc app is available to download on smartphones. "You can use your location to find where you are, and TransLoc will tell you the best route to take and when to wait for the bus. It gives you real-time information about when the next bus is arriving," explained Visci. Printed schedules are available throughout the city and online.

"I'm really excited about where CUE is going in the future. CUE has been a great asset for the city for more than 40 years, and I'm really excited for more people to try riding with us."

Hop On! Visci's message to anyone who is apprehensive about trying transit: "Hop on and take a ride! CUE travels in a loop and you'll end up back where you started in an hour. Our friendly drivers will answer questions and get you where you need to go."

CUE service is available 5:15 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday-Friday; 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday; and 9:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Sunday. (No bus service on New Year's Day, Independence Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.)

Help Shape the City's Title VI Program (Survey)

The City of Fairfax is committed to ensuring that projects, programs, and services are performed without discrimination, under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and its related authorities. Title VI and its related authorities provide that no person shall on the ground of race, color, national origin, sex, or disabilities be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal funds.

The city is establishing a Title VI Program to formalize this commitment and to recognize its responsibility

to provide fairness and equity in all its programs, services, and activities.

In the early part of this process, we're looking for your insights so we can ensure the final program is rooted in the specific needs of our city's residents.

We're looking to learn about:

- Any experience you have participating in the city's services, programs, and activities
- Where you go to receive information about the city and/or community activities
- Your interests and aspirations related to the city's transportation

and transit planning and services

- Primary issues and concerns relevant to the city's current public engagement efforts
- Insights for educating community members about their rights under Title VI

Visit engage.fairfaxva.gov to learn more and to share your feedback. This survey will take you less than 15 minutes to complete. The survey will remain open through March 31.





HELPING HANDS

THE CITY NEEDS PEOPLE LIKE YOU

SERVE ON CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Board of Architectural Review, (one vacancy for a business representative, and one for a city resident); **Board of Building Code Appeals** (one mechanical or plumbing vacancy); **Board of Zoning Appeals** (one vacancy); **Commission for Women** (one vacancy); **Commission on the Arts** (one vacancy for city resident); **Environmental Sustainability Committee** (one vacancy for city business representative); **Economic Development Authority** (one vacancy for city resident); **Fairfax Area Disability Services Board** (one vacancy); **Historic Fairfax City, Inc.** (one vacancy); **Human Services Committee** (one vacancy); and the **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board** (one vacancy).

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

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FAIRFAX CITY RESTAURANT WEEK

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YouTube

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www.youtube.com/user/cityoffairfaxva

Schedule a Free In-Home Safety Survey

Have you, a loved one, or a friend experienced a fall at home?

Twenty-five percent of adults older than age 65 report falling at least one time in any given year. Falling is a serious risk to Fairfax City residents and the number two cause of injury requiring emergency medical care by the City of Fairfax Fire Department. Our paramedics transport several hundred patients to the hospital every year who have been injured in a fall. We are working hard to reduce that number!

The fire department is offering in-home safety surveys to residents interested in learning how to

reduce the risk of falls.

During a scheduled 30-60-minute appointment a member of the fire department's fall reduction team will walk through your home with you and review common hazards and remedies. While assessing fall risks, the team will also evaluate fire safety in your home and make recommendations if needed.

Here are some examples of items we assess and considerations for your safety in the meantime:

- Ensure you have a clear walking path through all rooms
- Remove rugs or secure them with anti-slip mats
- Keep cords out of walking areas
- Use a sturdy step stool for hard-to-reach areas
- Install anti-slip mat or adhesive strips in the shower or bathtub

Schedule your free home safety survey today by calling 703-273-6272 or emailing FallReduction@fairfaxva.gov.



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

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Cityscene is mailed to city residents and businesses by the first of the month and published on the city website. It is published by the Communications and Marketing Office to inform the public of government actions and events of interest in the city. Information is subject to change after publication.

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

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MAKING *History*

How Women Compete On and Off the Field: The Impact of Title IX March 12

The Fairfax City Commission for Women recognizes Women's History Month 2023 with a free talk titled *How Women Compete On and Off the Field: The Impact of Title IX*. The talk will be held from 2-4 p.m. March 12 in the Fairfax City Hall Council Chamber. Opening remarks will be provided by Mayor Catherine Read, and a reception will follow the talk. This free event is co-sponsored by the city Office of Historic Resources. *Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "Title IX")*

Bread or Blood: 1863 Richmond Women's Bread Riots March 25

Learn about the Richmond Bread Riot of April 2, 1863, with Kelly Hancock, director of programs at the American Civil War Museum. Meet the women involved in orchestrating the riot and explore the controversy over who ended it. The free event begins at 2 p.m. March 25 at Historic Blenheim. *Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "Bread")*

Traveling Exhibition: A Material World: Photographs of the 1980s Through May 7

Photographs from the *Richmond Times-Dispatch* featured in this exhibition on loan from the Virginia Museum of History and Culture help us understand today's culture, which is being shaped by '80s kids who are bringing back that decade's values, worldviews, and attitudes. See this exhibit for free at the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, open 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. *Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "Material World")*



Discover HisTree Day April 22

Discover the past and invest in our future at *HisTree Day*, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Saturday, April 22, at Historic Blenheim, 3610 Blenheim Blvd. This new city event will combine living history presenters and music with learning and exploratory activities celebrating both Fairfax history and Earth Day. Free admission. *Info: fairfaxva.gov/visitors, 703-591-0560*

