

Fairfax High School Band Celebrates 75th Anniversary

ounded in 1948, Fairfax High School Band has developed a strong reputation throughout the region for its excellence in concert bands, marching band, color guard, drumline, and jazz band.

"The Fairfax High School Band is the heartbeat within our school and community. There is nothing more exciting than hearing the 'Roar' of instruments take to the field on a Friday night and being entertained with their dynamic and showstopping halftime performance," said Georgina Aye, FHS principal. "On game days you enter FHS to the beats and vibrations of our band 'waking us up' with spirited songs and a march through the halls. Our FHS band is committed to serving our community and also performs at local area events and parades, sharing their talents, each cadence along the way. Our Marching Lions' commitment and dedication to music arts education, our school, and their bandmates do not go unnoticed as they provide the 'sounds of music' that touch so many. Celebrating 75 years of this culture, pride, and tradition is very exciting!"

MEMORIES FROM CURRENT AND FORMER BAND MEMBERS

Lynn Ready Madigan, Class of 1974, oboe: Being in the hand was

Being in the band was an awesome experience. We got to go to all the other schools to march for football games and other



competitions. The "Band Wallys," as Director Matt Hynes called us, was a great group of kids. I have great memories of going to New York; Needham, Mass.; and Raleigh, N.C., for trips. I still have several friends who were in the band with me that I am still in contact with today.

I started in the old high school (band room with no air conditioning) and finished at the new school. We were so happy to move to the new school. My mother, Thelma Ready, and next-door neighbor Shirley Gibbs ran the Ham and Oyster Dinner fundraiser for years as my siblings and I filtered through school. I have many happy memories of selling candy bars to raise money. One year, we marched in a total downpour at the Apple Blossom Festival in Winchester, Va., which soaked the uniforms and bearskin hats. Everyone and everything were blue on the bus trip home.

I think participation in band is a great thing for all kids. You learn to be part of a team and how to perform in public. Music is such an important part of our lives.

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CITY NEWS

City Government Offices Holiday Closures

Monday, Sept. 4, Labor Day

- Closed: City government offices, DMV Select services, General District Court
- Open: Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center
- CUE Bus: Saturday service

Holiday Refuse and Recycling Collection Schedule

- Sept. 4: no service
- Sept. 5: Monday and Tuesday routes collected

Please note: there may be a delay in yard debris collection citywide Sept. 4-9. Please leave items at the curb until they are collected. Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "Refuse Holiday"), 703-385-7837

Early Voting, Sept. 22

Early voting for the Nov. 7 General Election begins Sept. 22 in the Office of Elections (City Hall Annex, Room 300). Please bring your ID.

Office of Elections is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays (excluding holidays), as well as from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 28, and Saturday, Nov. 4. The final day to vote early in person is Nov. 4.

Request by-mail ballots by 5 p.m. Oct. 27 via elections.virginia.gov/vote. By-mail ballots may be returned by mail, in person by the voter, or in the secure ballot drop box at the City Hall Atrium main entrance (facing George Mason Boulevard).

Offices on the Nov. 7 General Election ballot are the Virginia Senate (District 37), Virginia House of Delegates (District 11), and three elected positions shared with Fairfax County: Clerk of Court, Commonwealth's Attorney, and Sheriff. Sample ballots are available 45 days before the date of the election.

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

EVERYONE NEEDS HELP: YOU'RE NOT ALONE

The National Suicide & Crisis Lifeline is available 24/7 for those experiencing emotional distress or in crisis. Whether it's you or someone you know, you can get help: CALL OR TEXT 988, or chat online at 988LIFELINE.ORG. Service members, veterans. and their families can connect to the VETERANS CRISIS LINE VIA 988. BY TEXTING 838255. or chat online via VETERANSCRISISLINE.NET

Arts Grant Applications, Sept. 22

Fairfax artists: you may apply for the Commission on the Arts grant! Grant applications are accepted for projects or events that occur between July 1, 2023, and June 30, 2024. Grant funds may be applied only to direct costs, not general operating expenses. Deadline is 5 p.m. Sept. 22. Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "grant"), 703-273-6097

Personal Property Tax Payments, Oct. 5

Personal property and vehicle registration fee payments are due by Oct. 5. Late payments will incur a 10% penalty, plus interest. Payment options:

- Secure drop box outside City Hall (circular drive on Armstrong Street)
- Mail checks only (and early)
- Online via the Payments button on the city homepage

Confirm tax payments online via fairfaxva.gov/mytaxes.

To request a copy of your bill. call 703-385-7900 (then press 1). To make changes to your bill, call 703-385-7885.

Reminder: decals are issued only for vehicles registered at addresses in Residential Parking Permit Districts. Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "Personal Property Tax")

Library Provides Homework Resources for Students

Fairfax City students can find online resources through the Fairfax County Public Library, including Homework Help Online, Find a Tutor, Test Preparation, FCPS Technology Support, Life After High School, and more. Additionally, students may check out library materials even if they do not yet have a library card. FCPL cards are free and available for all who live, work, and own property in the city. Info: fairfaxcounty.gov/library

Fairfax County Judicial Complex Public Hearings

The Judicial Complex Plan amendment will consider the expansion of existing and new judicial and public safety operations for the county, and the addition of affordable and supportive housing, as well as potential other uses supportive of the Judicial Complex Master Plan. This plan amendment will be reviewed concurrently with a rezoning application. Public hearing dates:

- Planning Commission: 7:30 p.m. Sept. 20
- Board of Supervisors: 4 p.m. Oct. 10

Info: fairfaxcounty.gov/planningdevelopment/plan-amendments/ judicial-complex

Reapply for Stormwater Utility Credits

Stormwater Utility credits approved in 2022 or 2023 for non-structural activities, except for tree canopy expansion and nutrient management plans, will expire on Dec. 31. Property owners may reapply for these credits for the 2024 billing cycle by submitting an application by Oct. 1. Info: fairfaxva.gov/stormwaterutility

COUNCIL REPORTER



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

COUNCIL ACTIONS OF JULY 11, 2023

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

Presentation of a proclamation acknowledging the month of July as Disability Pride Month in the City of Fairfax.



ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Approved, unanimously, the adoption of the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

Approved, unanimously: Consideration of the June 27, 2023, regular meeting minutes; Consideration of non-resident purchase of up to four cemetery sites; Consideration of an award of construction contract for milling and paving services; Consideration of professional services contract for transportation planning, professional engineering, and project management services; Consideration of an award of professional services contract for stormwater and wastewater engineering services; Consideration of a resolution of the City of Fairfax to support and participate in the Virginia 250 Commemoration.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Approved, 5-1, the following for the City Centre West at 10501 Main St., 1515 Main St., and 10523 Main St.: the Zoning Map Amendment, General Development Plan, and proffers; a special use permit for a bank with a drive-through with conditions; special exceptions with conditions to height, density, build-to line, inter-parcel vehicular connection and sidewalks on both sides of a street; deferment of consideration of the affordable dwelling unit modification to February 27, 2024; and a Major Certificate of Appropriateness with conditions. The development would replace a former 3,721-square-foot bank with a drive-through, a former 4,408-square-foot restaurant, and an 11,340-square-foot office building with 79 multifamily condominium units, a bank with a drive-thru facility, general offices, medical offices, retail uses, and restaurants. (In favor: Councilmembers Bates, Doyle Feingold, Lim, Ross, and Stehle. Opposed: Councilmember Greenfield.)

CLOSED MEETING

Approved, unanimously, the closed meeting to discuss personnel matters and the acquisition of property for public purposes.



National Preparedness Month, observed annually in September, serves as a reminder for all of us to take proactive steps to protect ourselves, our families, and our communities. Here are five key areas to focus on during this National Preparedness Month.

NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

Ensure all family members are aware of evacuation routes, emergency contacts, and meeting points. Update your emergency kit with essential supplies like food, water, medications, flashlights, and batteries. Remember provisions for any specific needs, such as baby supplies or pet care.

Ensure you have multiple means of communication. including mobile phones, landlines, and alternative methods such as two-way radios or satellite phones. Stay informed through local authorities and

news sources.

Build an emergency fund that can cover at least three months of essential expenses. Maintain important documents in a secure location.

Get involved with local organizations to strengthen community resilience. Attend local workshops and training sessions to enhance your skills in first aid, CPR, or disaster response.

Educate yourself and your family on cybersecurity best practices to mitigate risks associated with phishing, malware, and online scams.



LIVE LIFE IN THE ARTS

2023 ARTS by George! Renée Elise Goldsberry in Concert

8:30 p.m. Sept. 30 George Mason University Center for the Arts \$100, \$75, \$50

Goldsberry is best known for her award-winning portrayal of Angelica Schuyler in Hamilton. In addition to her Broadway appearances, audiences will also recognize her for many television roles on shows including One Life to Live. The Good Wife, Girls5eva, and She-Hulk: Attorney at Law.

National Dance Day

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 16 Old Town Square Free

ArtScreen The King's Speech (Rated R)

7:30 p.m. Sept. 29 **Sherwood Center** Free Doors open at 7 p.m.

Art Walk on Main

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sept. 30 Old Town Fairfax Free

FIESTA FAIRFAX



CULTURA & CUISINE

3:30 - 8 p.m. Sept. 23 Old Town Square Free

Fiesta Fairfax celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month through cultural performances, music, food, and educational exhibits highlighting the contributions and experiences of the Hispanic, Latino, and Latinx communities. Area non-profit organizations will share information about services and opportunities to work with our growing Latino community.

MAKING

We Are Your Children Too: Black Students, White Supremacists, and the Battle for America's Schools in Prince Edward County, Virginia, Sept. 10

Author P. O'Connell Pearson takes the reader through 13 years of



struggle as students demanded equality and county leaders chose to destroy public education rather than desegregate their schools. Books will be available

for purchase, and book signing will follow the talk. Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center. Free. Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "O'Connell")

Traveling Exhibition: Planned Communities of the D.C. Metro Area, through Nov. 5

View historic documents and learn how the founding principles of communities in Reston, Va., and Columbia and Greenbelt, Md., developed and shaped these areas to become those we know today. This exhibit was created by the Reston Museum, Greenbelt Museum, and Columbia Association. Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center. Free. Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "planned communities")

HISTORIC TOURS

Tour Old Town Fairfax with historians from Historic Fairfax City, Inc. Meet your guide at 11 a.m. Sept. 30 and Oct. 28 in front of the Historic Fairfax County Courthouse, 4000 Chain Bridge Rd., for an hourlong tour. Groups are limited to 15 people. Free. Reservations, weather cancellations: 703-385-8414.

On Saturdays through October, take a quided tour of the Ratcliffe-Allison-Pozer House, the oldest residence in the city, from noon to 3 p.m. at 10386 Main St. Free. Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "Ratcliffe")

Explore the 1799 Fairfax Courthouse and Historic Records Center with a guided tour at 3 p.m. Fridays (excluding holidays and other court closures). Meet at the entrance to the 1799 Courthouse, 4000 Chain Bridge Rd. Free. Info: 703-246-4168

Take a self-guided walking tour of Old Town Fairfax with a brochure available on the city website. Free. Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "Map of History")





Stormwater management has evolved over time. Development projects, such as subdivisions and shopping centers, were required to meet the standards in place at the time they were built. Now, newer construction projects must meet greater water quality and quantity control standards than older ones did. Newer methods of slowing and storing stormwater runoff are improving water quality in our streams, but some of our streams need restoration.





The stream segment behind Daniels Run Elementary was restored in 2016. By July 2023, trees and shrubs have matured into a healthy resource protection area.

When older neighborhoods were built in the city, stormwater runoff was directed to the nearest culvert as quickly as possible after rainstorms to prevent flooding on private property. Runoff flows downhill through pipes to the nearest stream. Over time, the force and velocity of fast-flowing runoff have caused severe erosion in our stream channels.

Erosion negatively impacts stream valleys in several ways. Tree roots hold soil in place. Trees growing along the banks fall into the stream as the banks erode away. This

causes root exposure, which washes additional soil downstream. Fast moving water also scours the bottom of the streambed, which sends more sediment downstream and deepens the channel. Deeper stream channels prevent streams from overflowing into the floodplain where the water would normally be absorbed by plants and trees. These deeper channels also cause water to flow faster, and faster flows increase erosion. Additionally, as streambanks erode, the channels shift, often cutting into private property and impacting underground infrastructure.



Eroded banks are unstable and susceptible to continued erosion during strong storm events. Erosion can cause stream channels to shift, often impacting private properties and utilities near the stream corridor.

Mixed in with the loose sediment are excess nutrients from lawn fertilizer, pet waste, and winter salt. These nutrients (phosphorous and nitrogen) feed algae blooms and cause other problems for local aquatic life - and for the Chesapeake Bay. The city is responsible for the quality of its water and must meet strict standards under the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act.

Fairfax City is a small, urbanized jurisdiction with limited options for meeting our Chesapeake Bay pollutant reduction requirements. The city's diversified compliance strategy includes stream restoration, stormwater facility retrofits, outfall restoration, and consideration of additional nutrient credit purchases. Stream restoration provides the most credit and the biggest benefit to local water quality.

There are alternatives to stream restoration that can generate pollutant reductions, but not at the scale necessary to meet requirements on their own. For example, the city uses stormwater management facility retrofits as part of the city's compliance strategy, but it would take the equivalent of 354 City Hall pond-size retrofit projects to earn the required Chesapeake Bay credits by the 2028 deadline.

Another alternative is to purchase nutrient credits from environmental projects outside of the city but within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. With many stream segments and outfalls in need of restoration, focusing most of our funding on local infrastructure improvements provides the most benefit to the community.

Protecting the Chesapeake Bay

Stream restoration projects are designed to reduce the amount of pollutants - nitrogen, phosphorous, and sediment - that reach the Chesapeake Bay. There are three ways stream restoration projects help reduce pollutants:

- 1. Reshaping the stream channel makes it more resistant to erosion, which reduces the amount of sediment carried downstream.
- 2. Vegetation planted in the stream corridor filters water and removes pollutants before they reach the stream and promotes water infiltration into the ground.
- 3. Reconnecting the floodplain involves reshaping a stream corridor to allow water to spread across a wider area. Sediment is trapped and new pools support wetlands that absorb excess nutrients.

Stream Restoration is Effective

Restored areas are inspected and maintained by the city each year. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and the Department of Conservation & Recreation have adopted methods approved by the Chesapeake Bay Program's Urban Stormwater Workgroup to calculate the amount of nutrients a project is credited for removing. These methods are accepted by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Every locality in Virginia within

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Fairfax City's Streams

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the Chesapeake Bay watershed evaluates the effectiveness of environmental projects using these calculation methods. Stormwater management is a constantly evolving science, and how nutrient reductions are calculated have changed and will continue to change over time, generally trending toward being more stringent and precise.

Following Natural Channel Design Principles

Natural Channel Design is the practice of designing stream restoration projects to mimic stable conditions of a natural stream. Impacts on trees and property are minimized to the extent possible. The use of stone is limited to areas where it is necessary to control erosion, such as at outfalls.

Preserving Trees Where Possible

The scale of a stream restoration project and the resulting tree removal is dictated by the physical attributes of the existing stream and constraints of the project area. Streams that are deeply incised and stream corridors that have filled with sediment over time often require a wider area to construct the restoration. Every effort is made to preserve healthy trees. A comprehensive replanting plan is part of every stream restoration project.

Rewarding Patience

During a stream restoration project, the area will look like a construction site. Planting can take several weeks to establish. The appearance will improve substantially by the following growing season. The site will continue to repair itself over the next several months. After two years it can be difficult to tell that the area was disturbed at all.

Restoring city streams requires detailed planning, proper environmental permitting, careful construction, replanting, and regular maintenance. The result of a well-executed stream restoration is a stable stream, a fully functioning floodplain, and far fewer pollutants flowing toward the Chesapeake Bay. Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "stream restoration FAQ")

Fairfax High School Band

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Vishal Bhatia, Class of 1996, drumline captain, current **FHS Band Booster treasurer:**

I started in percussion in the fourth grade in a colonial marching band called the Northern Virginia Patriots. I learned a lot there, but it wasn't until I was in the FHS Marching Band that I really "learned to play." Music was only part of the lesson. I still attribute much of who I am today to that program and our band director, Mary Ulrey. It was hard to realize it as a teenager, but as I look back, I learned numerous life lessons in the FHS Band and from Ms. Ulrey. "To be early is to be on time...to be on time is to be late...to be late is to be left behind" is a lesson I learned *numerous* times from Ms. Ulrey — a lesson that ensures I'm never late to a work meeting as an adult! In addition to an appreciation of music, the FHS Band program teaches respect for yourself and others, responsibility, discipline, hard work, dependability, and dedication. I'm thankful for my time there and for the friendships made then. FHS Band embodies the definition of friendship and family. Lifelong connections are nurtured and developed.

The FHS Band has meant and will continue to mean a great deal to me and to my family. I have musically, physically, and mentally benefited from being a part of the program. Now my kids have realized, and will continue to realize, the same benefits. I love this band. I always have and I always will.

Kevin Greata, Class of 1994, drumline captain, current FHS assistant principal:

It is hard for me to imagine who I would be without my experiences in the Fairfax High School Band. During my time, our director was Mary Ulrey, who was masterful at building young leaders and a strong program. I

learned more about character and integrity than I did about music, and I learned a lot about music. The lessons I learned about teamwork are the basis for almost everything I do in my professional life. My fellow bandmates have all gone on to tremendous success in life; they are a testament to the importance of the band program. What did it mean

to me? It provided me with my measuring stick of success, most importantly that it is achieved as a team.

Jake Bae, Class of 2023. trombone/drum major:

The Fairfax HS Band program has always meant more to me than just making music. It taught us the value of overcoming adversity in order to see the "why" behind our actions as musicians, peers, and humans. The band program is proof that excellence is a byproduct of mutual respect for each other and growth as a collective unit, rather than as individuals. It showed that hard work and fun can go hand in hand and that excellent music is only one result of a community driven by empathy, kindness, and perseverance.



Noah Freeman, FHS band director:

Teaching band at Fairfax High School is special. Band is all about working together and building relationships, and the Fairfax community is outstanding.

View photos submitted by former band members at fhsbands.org/75th.

> This fall, catch the marching band show. The Witch's Heart, at any of the FHS home football games.



HELPING HANDS

THE CITY NEEDS PEOPLE LIKE YOU

SERVE ON CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Board of Building Code Appeals (one mechanical or plumbing vacancy); Board of Zoning Appeals (one vacancy); Commission on the Arts (two vacancies for city residents); **Economic Development Authority** (one vacancy for city resident or business owner); Fairfax Area Disability Services Board (one vacancy); Fairfax Village in the City Advisory Board (one vacancy for at-large member); **Health Systems** Agency representative (one vacancy); Historic Fairfax City, Inc. (one vacancy); Human Services Committee (one vacancy); Personnel Advisory Board (one vacancy); Planning Commission (one vacancy for city resident/ real property owner); Regional -Continuum of Care Board (one vacancy for city representative).

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

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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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OCTOBER 14

10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

400+ VENDORS

LIVE MUSIC & ENTERTAINMENT, CHILDREN'S RIDES & ACTIVITIES BEER GARDENS

AND MORE!

After-Fest Concert 5:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Old Town Square

FairfaxFallFestival.com

SEPT. 29 - OCT. 1