

cityscene

FEBRUARY 2023

Make your plans to attend the Chocolate Lovers Festival!
chocolatefestival.net Feb. 2-4

TOP FIVE REASONS TO VISIT THE CHOCOLATE LOVERS FESTIVAL

In Fairfax City, chocolate is serious fun. For more than 30 years, the city has dedicated a weekend in early February to reveling in this ancient treat. Every year has a new theme, new flavors, and new adventures. Whether you're new to the festival or a longtime fan, there's plenty of fun to be had for chocolate lovers of all ages. Here are five reasons to come to Old Town Fairfax Feb. 2-4.

1 CIRCUS FUN. Circus performers will roam Old Town Fairfax, weather permitting, during the festival. Stilt walkers and costumed performers will interact with festival participants and entertain with a variety of mini-performances.

2 TASTE OF CHOCOLATE. You may learn a thing or two at The Taste of Chocolate! Vendors from around the region (and beyond) present a wide range of chocolate wares. Whether you dip a strawberry into a flowing chocolate fountain, eat rich and decadent chocolate ice cream, or select sweet treats to share later with friends and family, you'll find something to tempt your chocolate-loving soul.

3 ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES. Chocolate Lovers Festival offers sweet activities for everyone from infants to boomers. Construct a cupcake, watch a puppet show, and sit with a bard telling tall tales and enchanting stories. Sit on the jury deciding the fate of Little Miss Muffet v. The Village of Tree Tops. Discover Fairfax City history and how chocolate has shaped our city. Enjoy a free folk music festival by a renowned musical group and enjoy chocolate libations with friends in a heated tent.

EVENT MAP

Map Key:
 [Red Box] Event Location
 [P] Public Parking

Event Locations

1. Musical Cakes • Old Town Square • 10415 North Street
2. City of Fairfax Regional Library • 10360 North Street
3. Fairfax Museum & Visitor Center • 10209 Main Street
4. Historic Fairfax County Courthouse • 4110 Chain Bridge Road
5. Liquid Chocolate • Old Town Square • 10415 North Street
6. Ratcliffe- Allison-Pozer House • 10386 Main St.
7. Taste of Chocolate • Old Town Hall • 3999 University Drive
8. Construct a Cupcake • Fairfax Ace Hardware • 10310 B Main Street

4 MUSICAL CAKES. Festival-goers can take a chance at winning a cake as delicious as it is beautiful. Wander through the selection and marvel at their artistry, and enter the game to potentially win a cake.

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CITY NEWS

Holiday Closure and Service Information

Monday, Feb. 19: President's Day

- Closed: city government offices, DMV Select, General District Court
- Open: Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center
- CUE Bus: Modified weekday service

Holiday Refuse and Recycling Collection Schedule

- Feb. 19: no service
- Feb. 20: Monday and Tuesday routes collected

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

General District Court Services: Feb. 20

On Feb. 20, Fairfax City General District Court will not hold court, but court offices will be open in Fairfax City Hall. *Info: 703-385-7866*

Friday Morning Speaker Series, Feb. 23

The inaugural event of Fairfax Village in the City's quarterly Friday Morning Speaker Series will be held at 9:30 a.m. Feb. 23 at the Sherwood Center. The featured speaker is Steve Gurney, publisher of the *Positive Aging Sourcebook*. *Info: fairfaxva.gov/village*

Budget Review Begins Feb. 27

Help the mayor and city council determine the city's financial priorities by participating in the annual budget review. The review begins when City Manager Rob Stalzer presents the FY 2025 proposed budget for during the Feb. 27 city council meeting.

Following the presentation, the budget will be available online. The city continues to seek public input until council adopts the final budget May 7. The current year budget is available at fairfaxva.gov/budget

FY25 Budget Review Schedule

Feb. 27: FY 2025 proposed budget presentation

March 5: Budget work session

March 12: Budget public hearing; consideration of real estate tax rate to be advertised

March 26: Budget public hearing

April 2: Budget work session

April 9: Budget public hearing; introduction of proposed C&I, wastewater, stormwater utility, and Old Town Service District rates; budget work session

April 30: Public hearing for proposed real estate tax rate, C&I, wastewater, stormwater utility, and Old Town Service District rates; introduction of the FY 2025 proposed budget appropriations, budget work session

May 7: Public hearing on proposed FY 2025 budget appropriations; budget adoption

Nominate Fairfax City Women for Recognition

The City of Fairfax Commission for Women is seeking nominations through March 1 for the 2024 Women of Influence Award. Take this opportunity to recognize and celebrate outstanding women who live in the city and have made a significant impact on the lives of city residents. *Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "Women of Influence")*

2023 Business Recycling Report Due March 1

Fairfax City business annual commercial recycling reports are due March 1 via a form on the city website. The report details actual or estimated weight or volume of recycled materials provided by the business' recycling vendors. *Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "Commercial Recycling Report")*

Home Heating Assistance Available Through March 15

City residents who need help with heating bills this winter may apply for Fairfax County Family Services Crisis Assistance through March 15. Crisis assistance can be used

to pay bills for utilities that are in danger of being disconnected. *Info: fairfaxcounty.gov/familyservices/public-assistance-employment-services*

Engage with the Homelessness Task Force

The City of Fairfax Homelessness Task Force seeks to engage with city residents and business owners. Point your smartphone or tablet to this QR Code to reach the task force's Engage Fairfax page (engage.fairfaxva.gov).



On Engage Fairfax, you may share your comments and ideas, review recommended resources, and subscribe to the Homelessness Task Force e-newsletter. Engage Fairfax also includes information on task force meetings, held on the first Wednesday and fourth Thursday of the month in Fairfax City Hall.



Dual Party Primary Election Early Voting Continues through March 2



The city will hold a Republican Party Presidential Primary Election and a Democratic Party Presidential Primary Election on Tuesday, March 5, to select candidates for the office of the President of the United States.

Early voting continues in Fairfax City Hall. **Please bring your ID.**

The 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, Feb. 24, and Saturday, March 2. The final day to vote early in person is March 2.

Request your by-mail ballot by 5 p.m. Feb. 23 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).

Sample ballots are available at fairfaxva.gov/vote. *Info: fairfaxva.gov/vote, 703-385-7891*

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 DEC. 12, 2023

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

- Presentation of a proclamation acknowledging the Hon. John T. Frey for his 32 years of service as Clerk of the Fairfax Circuit Court.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

- Approved, unanimously, the adoption of the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approved, 5-0-1, consideration of the Nov. 28, 2023, regular meeting minutes. (*In favor: Councilmembers Bates, Doyle Feingold, Lim, Stehle, and Ross. Abstained: Councilmember Greenfield.*)
- Approved, unanimously: Consideration of the Dec. 5, 2023, special meeting minutes; Consideration of appointments to boards and commissions; Consideration of approval of a proposed agreement for transfer of the ownership of Fire State #3 building and property from the Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department to the City of Fairfax; and Consideration of an award of construction contract for Grefe Drive drainage improvements.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Approved, unanimously, the request for a special use permit to allow keeping of chickens at 3818 Egan Drive, with conditions.
- Approved, unanimously, the request for a special use permit for an indoor recreation at 10390 Willard Way, with conditions.
- Approved, unanimously, an appropriation resolution for \$4,063,600 to fund the FY 2024 fall recommended supplemental expenditures.

ITEMS NOT REQUIRING A PUBLIC HEARING

- Approved, unanimously, the adoption of the *City of Fairfax 2024 Legislative Program* as presented.
- Approved, unanimously, acceptance of the *City of Fairfax FY 2023 Annual Comprehensive Financial Report*.

COUNCIL ACTIONS OF JAN. 9, 2024

CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER

- Approved, 5-0, for remote participation by Councilmember Greenfield.

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

- Presentation and proclamation acknowledging Jan. 9, 2024, as National Law Enforcement Day in the City of Fairfax.
- Presentation from the Public Safety Community Meeting.

ILLUMINATE FAIRFAX!



FREE!

ENDS FEB. 10

DON'T MISS!

The four outdoor light installations of the the **Illuminate Fairfax Artistic Light Experience** are open from 5-10 p.m. Thursday through Sunday.

1 JOI DE VIE
Old Town Plaza, 3950 University Dr., Suite 211

2 FIREFLIES AND HEARTBEATS
Old Town Square, Drapers Steak & Seafood Restaurant, 3936 Blenheim Blvd.

3 SWELL NO. 1
Ratcliffe-Allison-Pozer House, 10386 Main St.

4 PINTOY MEDITATION WALL
Commonwealth Brewing Company, 10426 Main St.

For a map and descriptions of the artwork, visit fairfaxspotlight.org/illuminate-fairfax.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

- Approved, unanimously, the adoption of the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approved, unanimously: Consideration of the Dec. 12, 2023, regular council meeting minutes; Consideration of appointment for boards and commissions; Consideration of a resolution to approve the city's submission to the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority for \$1M in FY25-30 Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funding.
- Approved, unanimously, to authorize a renewal of the pilot program for shared mobility devices through June 30, 2024, subject to the terms and conditions adopted May 14, 2019; renewed May 26, 2020, Dec. 8, 2020, Dec. 14, 2021, and Dec. 13, 2022; and subject to adjustments deemed necessary or appropriate by staff in consultation with the city attorney.

Wander In Opens in Old Town Fairfax

Wander In, a new retail store featuring unique gifts and treasures from local makers and entrepreneurs, opened in the heart of Old Town Fairfax on Dec. 30, 2023. The new store located at 3950 University Drive was made possible by a partnership with Kimco Realty and Mason Small Business Development Center.

“Wander In offers a retail boutique showcasing over 30 of our area’s many talented artisans,” said Mayor Catherine S. Read. “Located next to a free parking garage, on the plaza next to great Fairfax City restaurants, this will offer residents and visitors a fun browsing experience.



This is a great resource for those unique items we all look for at festivals and fairs, only now we can find them all year round.”

In addition to shopping, Wander In customers can participate in special workshops, classes, and events. Customers can soon participate in maker art classes and meet contributing artists and authors.



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5 COMMUNITY SUPPORT.

The event is organized by a committee comprised of local community and nonprofit organization members. Proceeds of the event support many organizations, including the Independence Day Celebration Committee, Kiwanis Club of Fairfax, Friends of the City of Fairfax Regional Library, and the Fairfax Bar Association.

Even sweeter, a portion of the proceeds is donated to nonprofit organizations that directly benefit city residents. Past recipients include Britepaths, SafeSpot Children’s Advocacy Center of Fairfax, Ronald McDonald House, and the Heart Leaf Center.

Fairfax City Parks and Recreation Director Completes Virginia Women’s Municipal Leadership Institute

Stacey Sommerfield, parks and recreation director for the City of Fairfax, recently completed the Virginia Women’s Municipal Leadership Institute, a partnership between Virginia Women Leading Government and the Virginia Tech Roanoke Center to provide women aspiring to become local government leaders with connections, content, tools, and opportunities to further develop their skills and broaden their network.

Through this program, Sommerfield and 24 other high-potential women from across the commonwealth attended sessions designed to develop both their skills and confidence to pursue positions as community leaders.

In Virginia, women hold only 17% of the top chief administrative appointments for local government, according to Local Gov Diversity Dashboard (diversitydashboard.org).

That number is unacceptable to institute coordinator Bonnie Svrcek, the first female city manager of Lynchburg, Va., before her retirement in 2020.

“It is critical for communities to have leadership that reflects the demographic of their towns, cities, and counties. Inclusive leadership makes for better decision-making and therefore stronger communities,” Svrcek said. “In the private sector, research has shown that companies with mixed-gender leadership have better profit margins. There is no doubt that mixed gender leadership in local government leadership yields stronger communities.”

The women participated in eight monthly gatherings, alternating between virtual and in-person sessions around the state. Virginia Tech faculty members and other



Stacey Sommerfield, parks and recreation director for the City of Fairfax, recently completed the Virginia Women’s Municipal Leadership Institute.

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FAIRFAX CITY CELEBRATES

BLACK HISTORY MONTH



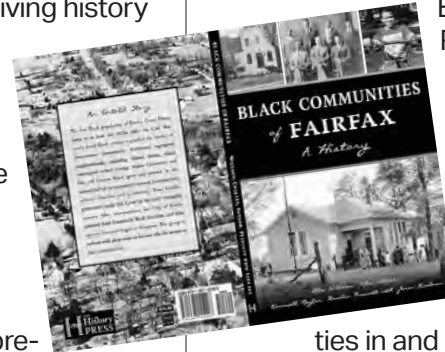
MAKING *History*

Traveling Exhibition: Frederick Douglass: Advocate for Equality, Feb. 5 – March 1

Learn about Frederick Douglass' escape from slavery, his work as an abolitionist, and his tireless fight for equality. Explore his impact and life through his words, as well as photographs and documents, in this banner exhibit from the collection of the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. The exhibit is at the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, open from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily (excluding some holidays). Free. Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "Douglass")

Meet Frederick Douglass as Portrayed by Nathan M. Richardson, Feb. 11

A historic legend comes to life through Nathan M. Richardson, an author, performance poet, and historian. Richardson's living history performance of Frederick Douglass captures completely the physical, spiritual, and intellectual essence of the former slave, writer, orator, and abolitionist. The event will be at 2 p.m. Feb. 11 at the Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim. Free. Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "Douglass")



Book Talk and Signing: Black Communities of Fairfax: A History, Feb. 24

Join local authors for a panel discussion of their book, *Black Communities of Fairfax: A History*.

Etta Willson, Rita Colbert, Linneall Naylor, Rondia Prescott, with Jenee Lindner will share their deep-rooted stories from the communities in and around present-day Fairfax City. Following the panel discussion, the audience will be invited to share their personal stories. Book sales and signing will follow. The event, co-sponsored by the Historical Society of Fairfax County, will be at 2 p.m. Feb. 24 at the Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim. Free. Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "Black Communities")

Subscribe to see what you're missing!
www.youtube.com/user/cityoffairfaxva

Stacey Sommerfield

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experts presented workshops on topics incorporating both technical duties such as budgeting and soft skills such as public speaking and life as an executive woman

in local government.

"In addition to great course materials and presentations, the greatest thing I took away from the VWMLI was the relationships I created with women leaders across the state," Sommerfield said. "One year ago, I arrived in Virginia with limited profes-

sional connections. Following my participation in the VWMLI, I have a network of professional colleagues across the state. These are women I can reach out to, bounce ideas off of, and whose mentorship has changed my life. This is an incredible program I am proud to have participated in."



LIVE LIFE IN THE ARTS

BONITA LESTINA OLD TOWN HALL PERFORMANCE SERIES

Kadencia

8 p.m. Feb. 2

Stacy C. Sherwood Center



Kadencia, a 13-piece orchestra, uses bomba, plena, and salsa to promulgate Puerto Rican culture.

This performance is partially supported by funding from the Virginia Commission for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Matt Trkula

8 p.m. Feb. 16, Old Town Hall



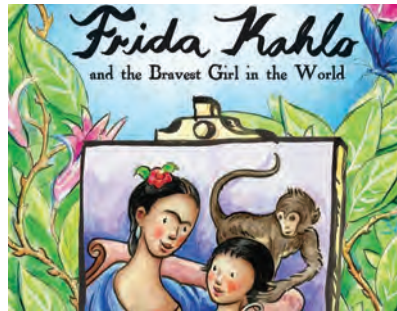
Join guitarist Matt Trkula and special guests cellist Ethan Miller and the Loudoun County High School Guitar Quartet for an evening of classic pieces from the Spanish masters.

VA OPERA: INTRODUCING OPERA TO CHILDREN

Frida Kahlo and the Bravest Girl in the World

2-3 p.m. Feb. 11

Stacy C. Sherwood Center. Free



This interactive 35-minute bilingual opera tells the real-life story of Mariana Morillo Safa, a young girl living in Mexico City and her friendship with famed painter, Frida Kahlo.

ARTScreen

"A Great Day in Harlem"

7:30 p.m. Feb. 23

Stacy C. Sherwood Center. Free (1994) Not Rated.



The documentary compiles interviews of all the top jazz musicians in NYC in the year 1958, for *Esquire* magazine. Inspired by the iconic photograph by Art Kane.

CITY OF FAIRFAX THEATRE COMPANY

POTUS: Or, Behind Every Great Dumb*** Are Seven Women Trying to Keep Him Alive



Feb. 2-11

Katherine Johnson Middle School
Fridays, Saturdays, 7:30 p.m.
Saturdays, 2 p.m.; Sundays 3 p.m.
Tickets: fairfaxcitytheatre.org

FAIRFAX ACADEMY'S MUSICAL THEATRE & ACTORS STUDIO

Cry-Baby the Musical

Feb. 2-3; Feb. 8-10

Fairfax High School

Thursday - Sundays, 7 p.m.

Feb. 4 at 2 p.m.

\$15 at the door; \$12 advanced
<https://mtasacademy.weebly.com/cry-baby-the-musical.html>



Based on the cult classic 1990 John Waters film, this jumping, jiving Tony nominee is a rebellious teen comedy event! It's *Romeo and Juliet* meets *High School Hellcats*.

Artist in Conversation: Cotton

7 p.m. Feb. 6, Old Town Hall

Co-presented by the City of Fairfax and the Center for the Arts at George Mason University

Free admission

Registration required

at cfa.gmu.edu.



Part of Virginia Opera's second annual Pride in Black Voices program, this event features a performance of composer Damien Geter's moving song cycle inspired by the haunting "Cotton" photography of acclaimed artist John Dowell. Each song features the poetry of Black American poets, and explores the Black American journey seen through the lens of the cotton industry. Geter will participate in a talkback following the performance.

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)

HELPING HANDS

THE CITY NEEDS PEOPLE LIKE YOU SERVE ON CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Board of Building Code Appeals (two vacancies; one mechanical or plumbing vacancy and one city resident); **Board of Zoning Appeals** (one vacancy for city residents); **Commission on the Arts** (three vacancies for city residents); **Environmental Sustainability Committee** (one vacancy for city resident); **Fairfax Village in the City Advisory Board** (one vacancy for at-large member); **George Mason University Fairfax Campus Advisory Board** (one vacancy); **Health Systems Agency** (one vacancy); **Human Services Committee** (one vacancy); **Personnel Advisory Board** (one vacancy); **Planning Commission** (one vacancy for city residents).

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

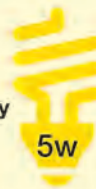
Protecting the night sky starts with YOU!

1 Light only what you need



2

Use energy efficient bulbs and only as bright as you need



3 Shield lights and direct them down



4



Only use light when you need it

5

Choose warm white light bulbs



6 Join IDA!

We need your help to continue the fight against light pollution.



Brighter Doesn't Mean Better

Outdoor lighting can improve your neighborhood, but installing unshielded light fixtures can be detrimental to wildlife, your neighbors' night sky viewing, your electricity bill, and your safety.

The bulbs in your light fixtures may be too bright and may shine into neighboring bedroom windows and backyards, which could negatively impact sleep habits, stargazing, and wildlife patterns. A simple solution to reduce glare and light spill is to install shielded fixtures which direct light downward to areas in need of illumination.

Shielding a lamp usually requires using a lower wattage bulb, which – in and of itself – is a big money saver. Shielding also reduces glare that can be dangerous and unsafe. Glare can be blinding and create harsh shadows where "bad guys" can hide. Shielded lighting provides real security, not just the illusion of security.

There are several other ways to improve lighting and still be safe.

1. Motion sensors alert you if someone is in your yard after dark and reduce electric bills by keeping the lights off when they're not needed.
2. Timers are another way to save money because these devices turn off your lights when they're not needed, for example, when you retire for the night.

Visit darksky.org to learn how improved outdoor lighting can benefit your safety, budget, and the night sky.

FREE EVENTS



Friday Morning Speaker Series
coffee, learning, companionship

Steve Gurney
publisher of the
Positive Aging Sourcebook

TOPIC: Solo Aging
February 23, 2024

HomeFit by AARP
June 14, 2024

VICAP Medicare 101 Workshop
November 1, 2024

All events held at the
Sherwood Center
9:30am - coffee
9:45am - presentation

Register by contacting
The Village
at 703-385-5738
or email at
village@fairfaxva.gov

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

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

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- Large Print
 - Recorded
 - Braille
- 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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 본 간행물과 관련하여 문의 사항이 있으시면
 ☎ 703-385-7800 (TTY: 711) (으)로 전화 주시기 바랍니다.

Follow us:
 @CityofFairfaxVA



To report a problem or request a service, please use Fairfax City Resolve. Look for the "Report" button on fairfaxva.gov.

Young at Heart Senior Center Advisory Council

Craft & Vendor Market

At Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center

March 9, 2024

9 AM - 2 PM

VENDORS

SAVE THE DATE

FAIRFAX CITY YOUNG AT HEART SENIOR CENTER

For information: Mary Fazio at craftv2024@gmail.com
Green Acres Senior Center: 703-273-6090

Make Your Event Memorable

Fairfax City's four rental venues — **Sherwood Community Center, Green Acres Center, Old Town Hall,** and **Historic Blenheim** — offer attractive locations and wonderful staff and can accommodate any function, small or large.

More than 20 rentable spaces, including formal banquet halls and outdoor play areas!

RentalsInFairfax.com
RentalVenues@FairfaxVa.gov
703-385-7858