

city scene

MARCH 2024

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Willard-Sherwood Health and Community Center Update



Two meetings were held in January to gather feedback on two proposed designs for the coming Willard-Sherwood Health and Community Center. The designs are based on previous rounds of public input.

If you haven't heard, Fairfax City and Fairfax County are redeveloping the Joseph Willard Health Center, located at the corner of Layton Hall Drive and Blenheim Boulevard, into a single destination for health, wellness, fitness, childcare, and the arts. City-sponsored activities currently available at the Green Acres Center

will move into the new facility. The new building will connect to the Sherwood Center and parking will be available in an underground garage.

Construction is slated to begin in fall 2025 and will take approximately two and half years to complete. Health programs and services currently available at the Willard Center will be moved to temporary locations during construction. The new facility will not include a swimming pool as Fairfax City and the surrounding area is served by indoor pools at Oakmont and Providence RECcenters.

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COMMISSION FOR WOMEN TURNS 40 EVENTS PLANNED



The City of Fairfax Commission for Women has a special reason to celebrate Women's History Month this year. The commission, established on Feb. 14, 1984, turns 40 in 2024!

To honor the anniversary, the commission invites the community — especially past members of the commission — to the Commission for Women Equali-Tea, a reception from 6-7 p.m. March 12 at Fairfax City Hall.

Following the reception, the public is invited to stay for the City Council meeting, at which the Commission for Women will receive a proclamation honoring their work and legacy.

The community also is invited to a women author's roundtable, The Women Who Write the Stories, at 2 p.m. March 10 at the City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St. The event is jointly sponsored by the Commission for Women, the Fairfax City Office of Historic Resources, and the City of Fairfax Regional Library. Free. *Info: fairfaxva.gov/visitors (choose "Historic Tours & Programs")*

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CITY NEWS



Dual Party Primary Election March 5

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, March 2. The final day to vote early in person is March 2. 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*



St. Patrick's Day Ceili, March 10

Celebrate St. Patrick's Day early with Irish social dancing. From 3-5:30 p.m. March 10, dancers of all levels are invited to step onto the Sherwood Center's dance floor to live music by the Shepherd's 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 for adults and \$6 for youths (must be accompanied by an adult). *Info: 703-385-7858*

Vendor Opportunities Abound for City Events

Visit fairfaxva.gov/specialevents for a complete list of vendor opportunities and associated deadlines. Please note: **applications are due March 14** for Fall Festival arts, crafts, and business vendors, and Holiday Craft Show arts and crafts vendors.



Experience the most interesting mashup of 19th-century history and 21st-century environmental activities from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on April 27 (Earth Day!). Historic Blenheim is located at 3610 Blenheim Blvd. Free admission.



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 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30. Bagged leaves are not collected in April. *Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "leaves"), 703-385-7995*

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. 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. Tax and rent relief applications are available from the Finance Department; please call for an appointment. Applications are due by April 15. *Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "tax rent relief"), 703-359-2486*



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*

Free Income Tax Preparation, Filing Options

Qualified Fairfax City residents have options for free tax preparation and filing.

VITA — Households that earned less than \$64,000 in 2023 may qualify for free tax preparation service from the Volunteer Tax Assistance program. Sponsored by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), VITA helps households maximize their tax returns and avoid the fees businesses charge to prepare taxes. In-person VITA services are available at several sites in Northern Virginia. Walk-ins are welcome, no appointments needed. *Info: fairfaxcounty.gov, search "VITA," DFSVITA@FairfaxCounty.gov; 703-533-5320 (please leave a message)*

IRS Free File — Qualified taxpayers can prepare and file federal income tax returns online using guided tax preparation software. It's safe, easy, and at no cost to you. Those who don't qualify can still use Free File Fillable Forms. Individual tax filers, regardless of income, can use IRS Free File Fillable Forms. *Info: irs.gov, search "Free File"*

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. 23, 2024

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

- Update on the city's Coordinated Response to Homelessness.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

- Approved, unanimously, the adoption of the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approved, unanimously: Consideration of the Jan. 9, 2024, regular meeting minutes; Consideration of the Jan. 12, 2024, special meeting minutes; Consideration of appointment for boards and commissions; and Consideration of an award of professional services contract for actuarial and consulting services.
- Approved, 5-1, to defer action on consideration of a resolution to endorse the Fair Woods Parkway Neighborway project until March 26, 2024. *(In favor: Councilmembers Bates, Doyle Feingold, Greenfield, Lim, and Stehle. Opposed: Councilmember Ross.)*

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Approved, 4-3, an ordinance amending portions of articles and sections of City Code Chapter 110 (Zoning), including zoning districts and regulations, site development standards, development review, and definitions. Amendments included: deleting referenced amendments to the floodplain and research and development because their amendments were enacted by a separate ordinance; striking the words "Establishments that provide for the consumption or distribution of controlled substances or of alcohol shall not be considered social service delivery, minor;" striking the amendments that delete standards for social service delivery neighborhood impact mitigation; and adding a subsection on written notification requirements to owners of property located within 1,000 feet of the property containing the planned use for social service delivery prior to the issuance of a zoning permit. *(In favor: Councilmembers Bates, Stehle, Ross, and Mayor Read. Opposed: Councilmembers Doyle Feingold, Greenfield, and Lim.)*

ITEMS NOT REQUIRING A PUBLIC HEARING

- Due to a lack of council action on the consideration of a resolution to cancel or modify the approved George Snyder Trail project, the project will move forward as previously approved.

CITY MANAGER ROBERT A. STALZER RETIRES

Fairfax City Manager Robert A. Stalzer retired March 1 after presenting the proposed FY2025 budget and FY2025-2029 CIP on Feb. 27. Stalzer was appointed to the city manager position in late 2018. Prior to his time with Fairfax City, he served as deputy county executive in Fairfax County for 18 and a half years, town manager of Herndon for 12 years, and planning director for Roanoke County for five and a half years.



Under Stalzer's leadership, the Economic Development Office grew (physically and through staff) and he prioritized economic development as a leading force in the city and Northern Virginia. He provided enormous support for the EDO and the creation of a strategic plan, as well as mentorship and thought leadership.

Stalzer led the city through the worst of the global COVID-19 pandemic, thoughtfully administering federal CARES Act and ARPA funding to help residents, the business community, and nonprofit partners while the city remained fully operational.

Following the summer of 2020, when racial tensions were running high in cities across the country, Stalzer oversaw *Connecting Fairfax City for All*, an initiative that addressed legacy Confederate nomenclature, broadened the way in which city history is told on monuments and markers, and identified other ways to make the city more equitable and just for residents, business owners, and visitors.

Stalzer transformed the Capital Improvement Program into a realistic plan with attainable, prioritized projects and identified funding sources. The revised CIP provides details about the various funding sources, financing plans, and delivery schedules for each project.

"The opportunity to serve Fairfax City has been immensely rewarding," Stalzer said. "It has been an honor to lead such a talented and passionate staff and to work with an engaged elected body. I am excited to remain part of this amazing community."

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Spring Community Cleanup, April 21

Individuals and groups are invited to participate in the Spring Community Cleanup on Sunday, April 21. Swing by Van Dyck Park between 9 a.m. and noon to pick up snacks and supplies and head off to your assigned cleanup location. Celebrate Earth Day and help keep city parks, forests, and streams clean and clear of harmful debris. Volunteers may earn stormwater utility credit by participating in this event. Scan the QR code to register. Info: fairfaxva.gov/CommunityCleanup, 703-293-1661

Stalzer Retires

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The City Council will appoint Stalzer's successor in March. The new city manager will inherit a professional staff and benefit from the completed small area plans, feasibility studies underway, and the policies and processes adopted by council during Stalzer's tenure.



MAKING History

Traveling Exhibition: Fire and Freedom: Food and Enslavement in Early America, March 11-April 20

Fire and Freedom uses George Washington's Mount Vernon home as a specific example of how meals reveal power exchanges between and among different peoples, races, genders, and classes. The exhibit was produced by the National Library of Medicine, National Institutes of Health, and The Washington Library at George Washington's Mount Vernon. 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 "fire and freedom")

Women Who Write the Stories, March 10

Honor Women's History Month and the 40th anniversary of the City of Fairfax Commission for Women at a women author's roundtable discussion, *Women Who Write the Stories*. The roundtable is jointly sponsored by the Commission for Women, the City of Fairfax Regional Library, and the Fairfax City Office of Historic Resources. The event is at 2 p.m. March 10 at the City of Fairfax Regional Library, 10360 North St. Free. Info: fairfaxva.gov/visitors (choose "Historic Tours & Programs")

Historic Blenheim: Discovery and Preservation, March 23

This program will discuss the preservation and discovery process associated with the Historic Blenheim House: its family, associated enslaved people, and the Federal soldier graffiti on its walls. The event is presented by Andrea Loewenwarter, Fairfax City Historic

Resources staff member. It is co-sponsored by the Civil War Roundtable of the District of Columbia and honors the memory of Burrus "Buzz" Carnahan, a Lincoln scholar, roundtable member, and Historic Blenheim docent. The event is at 2 p.m. March 23 at Historic Blenheim. Free. Info: fairfaxva.gov/visitors (choose "Historic Tours & Programs")

Willard-Sherwood Update

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The new 100,000-square-foot facility will provide integrated services to both city and county residents. The project's sustainability goals include constructing a net-zero energy building and achieving LEED Gold certification.

More information about the project is available at engage.fairfaxva.gov/willard-sherwood-health-and-community-center.

Remembering Former Fairfax City Mayor John Mason



Fairfax City lost a beloved community member, mentor, and friend. Former Mayor John Mason, who died Feb. 7 at the age of 89, served on Fairfax City Council from 1986 to 1990 and as mayor from 1990 to 2002.

In addition to his local leadership, Mason served on many regional

boards and commissions over four decades. His impact was felt well beyond Fairfax City's borders through his leadership of organizations such as the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority and the Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton, Va.

Upon graduation from the University of Massachusetts in 1956, he was commissioned in the United States Army in its Airborne program. Mason served three tours in Vietnam and retired as a colonel.

Following his retirement, he served as vice president at the Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) and as director of the Transportation Policy and Analysis Center. Mason served as executive director of the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority and chief executive officer of the Workhouse Arts Center. He also served on the boards of the American Red Cross,

National Capital Area Chapter; the Boy Scouts of America National Capital Area Council; the Fairfax Symphony; the Arts Council of Fairfax County; Fall for the Book Festival; and Mason Housing, Inc. (George Mason University). He served as chairman of the national board of the American Metropolitan Planning Organization (AMPO) in 2001.

"John Mason lived his values every day and was generous with his time and his commitment to the things he took on," Fairfax City Mayor Catherine Read said. "I see evidence of this all over the City of Fairfax, and I hear it across the region as elected leaders past and present speak of what he contributed to the success of the Northern Virginia region. His investments in the community he loved will reverberate across the generations, and we are the fortunate beneficiaries."

Young at Heart Senior Center Advisory Council
Craft & Vendor Market
At Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center
March 9, 2024
9 AM - 2 PM

VENDORS **FAIRFAX CITY** **SAVE THE DATE**
YOUNG AT HEART SENIOR CENTER

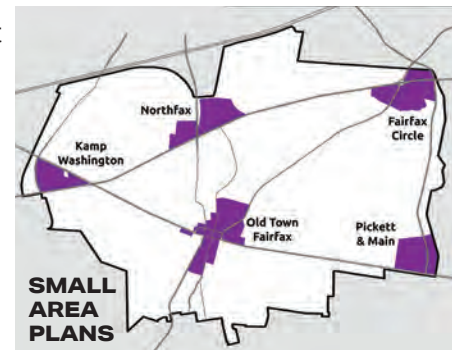
For information:
Mary Fazio at craftv2024@gmail.com
Green Acres Senior Center: 703-273-6090

FAIRFAX CIRCLE SMALL AREA PLAN MEETING, MARCH 21 6 P.M.



Join Community Development and Planning staff and the project consultant team, led by Cunningham Quill Architects, on Thursday, March 21, for a community meeting on updates to the Fairfax Circle Small Area Plan. At this meeting, the consultant team will present their concept plan for the Fairfax Circle study area, and attendees will be able to ask questions and provide feedback on the plan directly to city staff and the consultant team.

The meeting will be held at 6 p.m. in the Fairfax High School Library. For more information about the Fairfax Circle Small Area Plan and to sign up for updates, please visit the Engage Fairfax page at engage.fairfaxva.gov/fairfax-circle-small-area-plan.





LIVE LIFE IN THE ARTS

BONITA LESTINA OLD TOWN HALL PERFORMANCE SERIES

The Mandoleers



(mandolin and guitar orchestra)
8 p.m. March 8, Old Town Hall

James & Victor



(jazz duo with steelpan)
8 p.m. March 22, Old Town Hall

**The Cathedral Brass:
A Day of Brass II Concert**
4 p.m. March 2, Sherwood Center

**Main Street Community Band:
The American Adventure!**
4 p.m. March 3,
Johnson Middle School
Musical selection will include
1607: The Dream Comes Alive.
Please visit fairfaxband.org
for ticket information.

**FAIRFAX ART LEAGUE
Imagination Blooms with FAL Show**
11 a.m. – 3 p.m.,
Monday – Thursday,
March 8 – May 9,
Old Town Hall
Reception: March 14, 7 p.m.
Free.



WOMEN'S STORYTELLING FESTIVAL

March 14 – 17, Old Town Hall

The festival features 21 storytellers performing spoken word stories in a variety of styles, intended for a mature audience. In-person performances will take place at Old Town Hall March 15 – 17, with a special virtual-only showcase premiering on March 14. Please visit bettersaidthandone.com/womens-festival for ticket information.

SPRING FALL FOR THE BOOK "Thrillers, Killers & Wine Chillers"

7 p.m. March 21, Old Town Hall.
Free.

Enjoy a reception, followed by the author conversation. Sponsored by the City of Fairfax.

Friday Morning Music Club
Noon Feb. 15, Old Town Hall. Free.

**City of Fairfax Band:
A Tribute to Veterans**
7:30 p.m. March 23,
Fairfax High School

With conductor Richard Parrell and guest conductor Mark Camhouse, enjoy a musical selection that includes The Fighting 99th Concert March honoring the Tuskegee Airmen. Please visit fairfaxband.org for ticket information.

**CFBA Young Artist
Competition 2024**
7 p.m. March 24, Old Town Hall. Free.

The winner of this musical competition will perform with the City of Fairfax Band at their May concert.

FY25 Budget Review, Discussion Continue

The mayor and city council are reviewing and discussing the proposed budget for fiscal year 2024-2025, and your input is vital. Here are some ways you can participate in this important process.

- Download your copy of the proposed budget, posted online at fairfaxva.gov/budget.
- Watch the city manager's presentation at the Feb. 27 City Council meeting. (Watch the archived video on fairfaxva.gov; click on "City Meetings.")
- The city continues to seek public input until the city council adopts the final budget May 7. Attend meetings or email We.Care@fairfaxva.gov.
- 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.
- Educate yourself on the city budget: it is a detailed description of how taxpayer money is spent. It explains the city's goals, proposed programs, and activities for that fiscal year. *Info:* fairfaxva.gov/budget; 703-385-7870

FY25 Budget Review Schedule

- 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, budget work session, introduction of proposed C&I, wastewater, stormwater utility, and Old Town Service District rates
- 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



5 MINUTES WITH ...

ADDIE AUFFORTH

STORMWATER PROGRAM SPECIALIST



CITY OF FAIRFAX
STORMWATER
MANAGEMENT



I have been with the City of Fairfax for a little over a year now. In college, I knew I wanted my work to focus on water quality and protecting local waterways. Since then, I have worked for

several government organizations working toward providing clean drinking water and protecting local watersheds.

My primary role is overseeing the annual inspection of more than 450 publicly and privately owned stormwater for Best Management Practices. I work with private property owners to ensure they complete all the required BMP maintenance and coordinate the maintenance schedule for the public BMPs. It is crucial to ensure that BMPs are properly maintained to help prevent localized flooding and to keep our local waterways clean.

I am excited to test my project management skills on an upcoming project. The project will include installing a small section of curb

and gutter on a residential street. The new curb will divert runoff to a stormwater inlet and help alleviate some drainage issues on private property. This project will benefit the residents in the area who have been experiencing persistent drainage issues for a while.

Simple things residents can do to improve stormwater include picking up trash and cleaning up pet waste. Doing these little tasks around your home or neighborhood helps to keep these things from getting carried into our local streams whenever it rains.

We are here to help our community. We are happy to work with residents to try and find solutions for any stormwater problems they may be experiencing.



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** (two vacancies, one for city resident and one for business representative); **Commission on Aging** (one vacancy); **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); **Historic Fairfax City, Inc.** (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.

CITY OF FAIRFAX
**VOTER STICKER
CONTEST**
FOR K-12 STUDENTS

I VOTED

YOUR
DESIGN
HERE!

city of
fairfax
FUTURE
VOTER

ENTRIES ARE DUE APRIL 12

OFFICIAL RULES: www.fairfaxva.gov/government/parks-recreation/cultural-arts/2024-election-sticker-contest
Or scan QR code above.

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

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- Large Print
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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.

Para solicitar ayuda con servicios de la ciudad o preguntas sobre esta publicación, por favor llame al 703-385-7800 (TTY: 711).

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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](https://www.fairfaxva.gov).

City of Fairfax
Commission on the Arts

For ages fourth grade to adults
WINNERS RECEIVE CASH PRIZES

SCAN FOR CONTEST DETAILS, RULES & HOW TO ENTER
[fairfaxva.gov](https://www.fairfaxva.gov) (search "Language Arts")

DEADLINE:
6 P.M. MARCH 29, 2024

LANGUAGE ARTS 123
COMPETITION
TOPIC: FORGIVENESS
BOTH FICTION AND NONFICTION ENTRIES ACCEPTED
2024