



WELCOME OUR NEW CITY MANAGER



Update: Fairfax County Judicial Complex



The Judicial Complex is a 47.8-acre portion of Fairfax County surrounded by the City of Fairfax. A new master plan was completed in January 2021 to provide the county with a 20-year roadmap for future growth and development of the site.

The master plan included an assessment of priority county uses for the site, including future criminal justice, public safety, and human services needs, as well as coordination with the City of Fairfax and George Mason University.

Based on the recommendations in the plan, the following projects are currently underway:

- **Building One:** Design of a 170,000-sf four-story building with one level of underground parking for Judicial Complex staff
- **Campus Entitlement:** Zoning entitlements for the entire 47.8-acre site
- **Demolition of the non-historic wings of the Historic Courthouse**

Phase three of the project includes building workforce housing at the current Burkholder Building site. Learn more at [fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/capital-projects/massey-complex-master-plan-project](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/capital-projects/massey-complex-master-plan-project).

Fairfax City Council selected Laszlo Palko to serve as the new city manager. Palko will begin employment with the city April 29. Deputy City Manager Valmarie Turner will serve as acting city manager until Palko's arrival.

Palko has served as the city manager of Manassas Park, Va., since June 2017. He has more than 10 years of public and private sector management experience including previously serving as the Town Manager of Lovettsville, Va., as a financial consultant for IBM, and as a management consultant for Booz Allen Hamilton.

Palko served as an Army officer from 2005-2010. He earned the rank of captain and was awarded the Bronze Star, serving two tours of duty in Afghanistan as part of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division.

A public reception will be held 5 to 7 p.m. May 2 at the Sherwood Center.



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CITY NEWS

Kids Activities and Crafts, April 1

The City of Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center has activities planned for the Fairfax County Public School student holiday on April 1. From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., drop by the museum, 10209 Main Street, for free activities and crafts, and check out the museum's latest exhibitions. *Info: 703-385-8414*

Women of Influence Award Ceremony, April 2

Come celebrate Fairfax City's 2024 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, April 2, in the council chamber in Fairfax City Hall. A reception will follow. *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 am 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*

Yard Waste Curbside Collection Rules Enforced

When placing yard waste at the curb for disposal, Fairfax City residents must use paper bags, twine, or refuse receptacles for curbside yard waste debris. **Yard waste debris in plastic bags will not be collected curbside.** *Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "curbside"), refuserecycling@fairfaxva.gov, 703-385-7837*

Report Potholes to Public Works

Report potholes to the Public Works Department via Fairfax City Resolve ("Report" button on fairfaxva.gov) or the free Ready311 app.

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. Relief is granted on a sliding scale based on income. 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*

Free Income Tax Preparation, Filing Options

Qualified Fairfax City residents have options for free tax preparation and filing. In-person Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sponsored by the Internal Revenue Service is available at several sites in Northern Virginia. Walk-ins welcome. *Info: fairfaxcounty.gov (search "VITA"), 703-533-5320 (leave a message)*

File online IRS Free File. *Info: irs.gov, choose "file your taxes for free"*

Drug Take Back Day, April 24

Bring unwanted or expired prescription and over-the-counter drugs to the City of Fairfax Police Department from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 24. Pills, ointments, and liquids in sealed containers are accepted. (No needles, syringes, or Epi-Pens.) Drop-off is anonymous; no ID or prescription information is required. *Info: fairfaxva.gov, 703-385-7829*

Real Estate Values Increase in 2024

Fairfax City's overall real property values grew 3.35%. On average, residential single-family, townhouse, and duplex assessments increased 2.98%, residential multifamily assessments increased 6.62%, commercial/industrial assessments increased 6.62%, and commercial and industrial land increased 10%.

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*)

Assessment notices were mailed March 1. *Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "assessment") 703-385-7840*

Real estate revenues are central to the city's budget, accounting for about half of general fund revenues. City council sets the real estate tax rate during the budget process, which determines the amount of real estate taxes paid. *Info: fairfaxva.gov/budget*

You Need a Permit for That

If you're considering interior or exterior home improvement projects, make sure you know if a city permit is required for your planned project. Whether you're installing a pool or a portable storage unit, resurfacing a driveway or building a shed, you'll need a permit from the city. Please visit fairfaxva.gov/zoning to learn which permits you need and how to obtain them. Please remember: short-term rentals are not allowed in Fairfax City, and removing a tree and building a deck both require a permit.

DIY or Contractor Work: It Makes a Difference in Disposal

When repairs and home improvement projects require labor and resources from additional, non-residential assistants (paid or unpaid), they become contracted work, and the city will not collect that debris from the curb. *Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "curbside"), 703-385-7810*

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 FEB. 13, 2024

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

- Presentation of a proclamation acknowledging February as Black History Month in the City of Fairfax.
- Presentation of a proclamation acknowledging Restaurant Week Feb. 26 - March 3 in the City of Fairfax.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

- Approved, unanimously, the adoption of the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approved, unanimously: Consideration of the Jan. 19, 2024, special meeting minutes; Consideration of the Jan. 23, 2024, special meeting minutes; Consideration of the Jan. 23, 2024, regular meeting minutes; Consideration of appointment for boards and commissions; Introduction on a supplemental appropriation resolution for \$54,375 for FY 2024 non-discretionary and Council-authorized expenditures; Introduction of an ordinance amending City Code Chapter 66 (Personnel) regarding modifications to certain definitions and other general provisions thereof, including amendments to the city's employee discipline and grievance procedures for applicable employees.
- Approved, 4-0-2, consideration of the Jan. 30, 2024, special meeting minutes. *(In favor: Councilmembers Bates, Lim, Ross, and Stehle. Abstained: Councilmembers Doyle Feingold and Greenfield.)*
- Approved, 5-0-1, consideration of the Feb. 6, 2024, special meeting minutes. *(In favor: Councilmembers Bates, Doyle Feingold, Greenfield, Ross, and Stehle. Abstained: Councilmember Lim.)*

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Approved, 4-2, denial of the request of two special exceptions — to modify the maximum building height within the Old Town Fairfax Historic Overlay District and to waive the requirement to provide cross access — to develop an assisted living facility at 10460, 10450, and 10440 Main St. because the proposal is not consistent with the purposes and intent of the City Code and the Comprehensive Plan. *(In favor: Councilmembers Doyle Feingold, Greenfield, Lim, and Stehle. Opposed: Councilmembers Bates and Ross).*
- Approved, 4-2, denial of the request for a certificate of appropriateness at 10460, 10450, and 10440 Main St. because the proposal is not consistent with the applicable provision of the City Code or City of Fairfax Design Guidelines. *(In favor: Councilmembers Doyle*

Feingold, Greenfield, Lim, and Stehle. Opposed: Councilmembers Bates and Ross),

ITEMS NOT REQUIRING A PUBLIC HEARING

- Approved, unanimously, adoption of a resolution reaffirming the city's commitment to the joint city/county redevelopment of the Sherwood Community Center and the Willard Health Center Complex, and authorized and directed city staff to proceed to the design development phase of the proposed project, including the potential performing arts addition to the Sherwood Community Center.

CLOSED MEETING

- Convened a closed meeting to discuss personnel matters.

COUNCIL ACTIONS OF FEB. 27, 2024

CLOSED MEETING

- Convened a closed meeting to discuss personnel matters.

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

- Presentation of a proclamation honoring former Mayor John Mason for his years of public service to the City of Fairfax.
- Presentation of a proclamation acknowledging City Manager Rob Stalzer and the philosophy of municipal government employees, "We Build Communities and Improve Lives."

ACTIONS OUT OF CLOSED MEETING

- Approved, unanimously, the appointment of Laszlo A. Palko as city manager of the City of Fairfax, effective April 29, 2024, on the terms and conditions discussed in a closed meeting. Authorized Councilmembers Doyle Feingold and Greenfield, together with the city attorney, to finalize an employment agreement with Mr. Palko, incorporating approved terms and conditions. Authorized the mayor to execute the final employment agreement on behalf of the city.
- Approved, unanimously, the appointment of Deputy City Manager Valmarie Turner as the acting city manager of the City of Fairfax, effective March 1, 2024, on the terms and conditions discussed in a closed meeting. Authorized the city attorney to finalize a memorandum of understanding with Ms. Turner, incorporating approved terms and conditions. Authorized the mayor to execute the final employment agreement on behalf of the city.
- Approved, unanimously, the City Council's concurrence with the city manager's appointment of Jing Li as the city's Chief Information Officer/Director of Information Technology.
- Presentation of the city manager's proposed FY 2025 Budget.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

- Approved, unanimously, the adoption of the agenda with the following amendments: deferred until March 12, 2024, the public hearing and council action on an ordinance amending City Code Chapter 66 (Personnel) regarding modifications to certain definitions and other

continued on page 4

FREE
EVENT



PRESENTS

HOME FOR LIFE 2024 EXPO

APRIL 12, 2024 • 10AM - 2PM

~ Exhibitors and Speakers ~

Stacy C. Sherwood Community Center
3740 Blenheim Blvd.

fairfaxva.gov/village • 703-385-5738

The fire department's new fire safety simulator trailer will be parked outside.

AGENDA

- 10 a.m. Event Starts.** Attendees are invited to explore the exhibition space for the first hour.
- 10:30 a.m. Opening Remarks:** Mayor Catherine Read
- 11 a.m. Social Connection—A Matter of Life and Health:** Carolyn Cukierman, principal, CONSULTCLC, and chair, CCAAD Social Connections Committee
- 11:45 a.m. Staying Safe at Home:** Patti Klein, executive director, Rebuilding Together Arlington/Fairfax/Falls Church
- 12:30 p.m. Declutter Today, Thrive Tomorrow:** Mary Ann Gallotta, professional organizer, Sparking Joy with Mary Ann
- 1:15 p.m. Dementia 101: It Takes a Village:** Jennifer Denk, director, Community Education, Insight Memory Care Center, and member, Village Advisory Board



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COUNCIL REPORTER

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general provisions thereof, including amendments to the city's employee discipline and grievance procedures for applicable employees; and, deferred until April 30, 2024, the public hearing and council action on a request for a modification to the city Zoning Ordinance Section 2.3 (Affordable Dwelling Unit) at 10501, 10515, and 10523 Main St.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Approved, unanimously, an appropriation resolution for \$54,375 to fund FY 2024 recommended supplemental expenditures.



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); **Human Services Committee** (one vacancy); **Personnel Advisory Board** (one vacancy).

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



CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOG

Delivered! CITY OF FAIRFAX, VA FIRE SAFETY SIMULATOR



FAIRFAX, VA



Industrial Props



Kitchen Hazard



New Simulator Elevates Fire Safety Education

The City of Fairfax Fire Department's new simulator provides an immersive learning experience for participants of all ages. The simulator is housed in a specially designed trailer that provides a motion-activated, self-guided experience. Through its inclusive design and tailored educational content, the simulator helps users develop essential fire safety skills and awareness and fosters hazard recognition and safe practices, reducing the risk of fire-related incidents. Look for opportunities to experience the simulator at city events this year.



Drainage Improvement Project Wrapping Up

The city installed curb and gutter, driveway aprons, and stormwater pipes and inlets on the north side of Grefe Drive and the cul-de-sac. The new stormwater structures will capture runoff from Burke Station Road to prevent it from impacting private properties.

The new features connect to curb and gutter installed on the south side of Grefe Drive in 2021. This project is supported by the Stormwater Utility Fund.

After the stormwater utilities and curb and gutter are installed, the street and cul-de-sac will be repaved later this spring. Traffic impacts will include alternating one-way traffic control on Burke Station Road and half-street closures on Grefe Drive. Parking on Grefe Drive will be prohibited during paving, which will take approximately five days.



This competition between the City of Fairfax, the City of Falls Church, and the Town of Herndon will determine who has the most "fit" community. Help Fairfax City win!

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www.youtube.com/user/cityoffairfaxva



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THROUGH MAY 11
FAIRFAX CITY



LIVE LIFE IN THE ARTS

39th
ANNUAL

FAIRFAX SPOTLIGHT ON THE ARTS

April 25-28, 2024

Celebrating the Arts
in the City of Fairfax

Spotlight's got a
Brand New Vibe!

www.fairfaxspotlight.org

Fairfax is brimming with artists in every genre, and this year Spotlight on the Arts will showcase their incredible talent over an extended four-day weekend!

You can catch a cabaret at Old Town Hall, hula dancing at Old Town Square, a *New York Times* bestselling author at the Sherwood Center, the Bamberg Symphony at George Mason University, musical theatre at Fairfax High School, and so much more! New this year is our Spotlight Art Contest! There is no entry fee; it is open to all artists, and cash prizes will be awarded to our top three finalists.

Visit spotlight.org for a schedule of events, donation opportunities, art contest rules, and our opening reception, where attendees can view the finalists' original artwork and vote for their favorites.

BONITA LESTINA OLD TOWN HALL PERFORMANCE SERIES

Francesca Hurst (piano).
8 p.m. April 5
Old Town Hall. Free.

ARTScreen

Midnight in Paris (PG-13).
7:30 p.m. April 12
Sherwood Center. Free.



THE CHEUSE CENTER'S BUSBOYS AND POETS LECTURE

Nikki Giovanni: "Jimmy and Me"
6:30 p.m. April 23
Sherwood Center.
Free, reservations required.



In this centennial year of James Baldwin's birth, Baldwin's friend, the award-winning writer and public intellectual, Nikki Giovanni, will reflect on her friendship with Baldwin, and why Baldwin matters.

In partnership with Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI), City of Fairfax, Fairfax County Public Library, and Dept. of African and African American Studies at GMU.

Artist in Conversation: The Genesis of Small Island Big Song

7-8:30 p.m. April 2
Sherwood Center.
Free, reservations required.



Three artists from Small Island Big Song share the Austronesian heritage, a language group spread across the Pacific and Indian Ocean. They will share their personal relationship to this heritage through their own cultures, music, language, and instruments, and common connections they have discovered.

BONITA LESTINA OLD TOWN HALL PERFORMANCE SERIES

The Sylvan Waters Duo (harp, brass)
8 p.m. April 19
Old Town Hall. Free.

Main Street Community Band

4 p.m. April 28
Spring Spotlight Concert.
Sherwood Center. Free.

Friday Morning Music Club

Noon April 18
Program available at fmmc.org/event



10 a.m. to 4 p.m. April 27
Historic Blenheim,
3610 Blenheim Blvd. Free.



25th Annual Antique Car Show
10 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 18
See antique cars at City Hall.
Participate in kids' safety day
activities and enjoy food and music.



5 MINUTES WITH ...
MEGAN LEINING
 CURATOR/
 COLLECTIONS MANAGER



I have served as the curator/collections manager at the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center for two years. Before coming to work for the city, I worked as the historic collections manager for Fairfax County for almost a decade. Prior to that, I worked for the National Park Service for more than seven years at Historic Jamestown and the Museum Resource Center, which is the storage facility for the historical, archaeological, and archival

collections of the 50 parks in the National Capital Region. The collections I worked with most were the Vietnam Veterans Collection and Ford's Theatre.

I was attracted to the city by the potential to create an environment where the management of museum collections is more actively connected to every aspect of museum administration, not just exhibitions. Research shows there is a gap between behind-the-scenes collections activity and the public understanding of collections. For collections to be impactful, they need to be relevant and meaningful to the community.

I am charged with the care, access, security, and preservation of the city's museum collections, including the way they are acquired, documented, stored, exhibited, transported, and conserved, as well as planning for future needs and growth. I also manage the documentation, installation, and transportation of incoming and outgoing traveling exhibitions and loans.

One big project I am currently working on is completing a 100% inventory of all the collections, which includes photographing and

confirming the location of every object in the collection. Once this is completed, the next step would be making the collections more accessible to the community.

We are going to be starting a feasibility study for the expansion of the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center to include exhibition galleries, collections storage, and programming space. This would allow us to better serve our expanding and diverse regional population, who have high expectations for quality and innovation in their museums and programs.

The Historic Resources Office operates three historic sites within the city, which include permanent and temporary exhibition galleries and gift shops. We conduct interpretive tours of our properties and host traveling exhibitions, educational talks, and family-friendly programming and events. We are also charged with managing, protecting, and preserving history citywide. This includes things like development review and being a part of planning projects with other departments. As stewards of the city's cultural resources, we are always looking to both the past and the future!

Get Involved in the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Discussion

The mayor and city council will continue to review and discuss the proposed FY 2025 budget until it's adopted May 7— and they want your input. Download your copy of the proposed budget at fairfaxva.gov/budget. The annual budget details how the city spends money and how the city funds programs and projects. Attend city council meetings and work sessions in person at City Hall or watch the discussions on Channel 12. If you'd like to speak during public hearings, you may speak in person at the meeting, use the eComment feature on the city website, or email WeCare@fairfaxva.gov. Info: fairfaxva.gov/budget; 703-385-7870

Budget Review Schedule

- 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; Commercial and Industrial, 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.



Construction on New Northfax Street Underway

The city is constructing a new road between Fairfax Boulevard and Orchard Street as part of the redevelopment of Northfax. The new road will provide access to existing commercial properties and future mixed-use areas. Creating a new grid of streets will reduce traffic congestion at the intersection of Routes 123 and 29/50 (Fairfax Boulevard) and provide options for pedestrians and cyclists. The road, which will be called Northfax Street, will be open to vehicles by the end of the year. Construction activity is not expected to affect traffic.

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
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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.

BEHIND THE BADGE

Verify Rumors with Police Department



Fairfax City residents look out for one another and the safety of their neighborhoods. But sometimes being a good neighbor means not spreading unverified information. The police department strongly advises all community members and business owners to vet information before posting it to social media. If you have questions about something you've read online, please contact the department's public information officer before sharing it. Call Sgt. James Lewis at 703-385-2889 or email him at police.information@fairfaxva.gov.

The "weekly briefing" is a reliable source of information concerning crimes that have been reported in the city. The weekly briefing is available online at fairfaxva.gov/police, under "News & Reports." Subscribe to receive this report by texting **CityPD** to 888-492-1526 or via email at fairfaxva.gov/cityclips (select "police department news").

Would you like to represent your community on the Chief's Advisory Council (CAC)? This group meets once a month and has representatives from neighborhoods and civic associations throughout the city. Info: 703-273-7744

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