



FAIRFAX Food Council

healthy • accessible • affordable

COMMUNITY FOOD NEWS

The latest news and updates from the Fairfax Food Council

IMPORTANT DATES

URBAN AG WORK GROUP MEETINGS

July 17	10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
September 18	10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
October 17	10:00 – 11:30 a.m.
November 20	10:00 – 11:30 a.m.

FOOD ACCESS & LITERACY WORK GROUP MEETINGS

August 30	10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
September 27	10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
October 25	10:30 – 11:30 a.m.
November 29	10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

FCC STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

October 26 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Want to attend? All Fairfax Food Council meetings are open to the public. Anyone interested in learning more or getting engaged in supporting the food system in Fairfax is welcome to attend. Meetings are currently being held virtually, so please email FairfaxFoodCouncil@fairfaxcounty.gov for more information and/or how to 'attend' a meeting.

Summer 2023 News

by Diane Charles, Project Manager, Fairfax Food Council

The Fairfax Food Council and the Fairfax community benefited from a three-year grant from the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth that wrapped up on June 30, 2023. Over the three years, Food Council members jumped in on two key projects:

- A dedicated task force developed the **Real Food for Real Change Toolkit**, a middle-school targeted program to increase youth consumption of fruits and vegetables through a link to youth values around a healthy planet. A fun, activity-oriented curriculum, the Food Council will now seek to have it incorporated and implemented in a variety of youth settings.
- Members of the Urban Agriculture Work Group partnered with several elementary schools and a middle and high school to provide support and enhancements to their school gardens. These partnerships brought youth directly to the source of edible gardens and hands-on experience in producing their own food or donating it to food pantries.

The impact of both projects will be long-lasting as Food Council members are dedicated to continuing to support the positive outcomes that each provides.

The Fairfax Food Council is grateful to the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth's support and partnership during the last three years.

FOOD COUNCIL HAPPENINGS

Gratitude

The Fairfax Food Council is extremely grateful for the many contributions it has received through the involvement and impactful leadership of **Annie Turner** over the last seven years.



In September, Annie is stepping down as Executive Director of Food for Others. Thanks to Annie’s leadership, the Food Council has engaged in two meaningful food summits that brought awareness to equity challenges and opportunities in the local food system; she served as Co-Chair of the Food Council during the pandemic; and all the while, Annie modeled the kind of effective leadership that all communities benefit from - by leading her organization while in constant collaboration with the larger community.

The Fairfax Food Council relies on leaders such as Annie to carry the torch for the community’s input on improving the food system in Fairfax. Our gratitude overflows for the time, emotion, passion, knowledge and gifts she shared during her time leading Food for Others. We wish her well on her next adventure!

Fairfax Food Council Seeks Youth Representatives



The Fairfax Food Council is seeking two youth representatives to serve on the Fairfax Food Council Steering Committee. Youth representatives will attend steering committee and work group meetings or review minutes, as school schedule allows; meet monthly with the Food Council Project Manager and other designated members of the steering committee; and represent the interests of youth who live and go to school in Fairfax County, Fairfax City, and Falls Church. Each youth will work with the Project Manager to develop a project unique to their area of interest around youth and the food system.

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Fairfax Food Council Seeks Youth Representatives, continued

The youth representative position is considered a volunteer position. However, youth representatives will be granted monthly stipends in the amount of \$25 per hour of service. The time commitment is approximately 6 hours of service each month. Applicants should both live and attend school in Fairfax County, Fairfax City, or Falls Church, and be a rising high school junior for the 2023-2024 school year. Representatives will serve a one-year term, with the ability to extend to a two-year term.

To apply, youth must complete the application found on the Fairfax Food Council website. <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/food-council/>

Urban Ag Work Group visits Potomac Vegetable Farms

The Food Council's Urban Agriculture Work Group took a field trip in May to Potomac Vegetable Farms (PVF) in Fairfax County. Urban Ag Work Group Co-Chair Casandra Lawson, an employee of PVF, coordinated the tour along with FFC Steering Committee member Michael Lipsky, who led the tour and shared his deep knowledge as a relative of the farm owners. Over 20 Urban Ag Work Group members attended and were treated to a local farm perspective – just minutes from a bustling Tyson's Corner.



EVENTS

Food for Others 10th Annual Tysons 5K & Fun Run!



When: Saturday, September 9th – 5K starts at 8 AM,
Fun Run starts at 8:15 AM

Where: The Plaza, Tysons Corner Center

<https://foodforothers.org/tysons5k/>



Fairfax County 4-H Fair and Carnival

It is that time of year- it's 4-H Fair Season!

* August 3-6

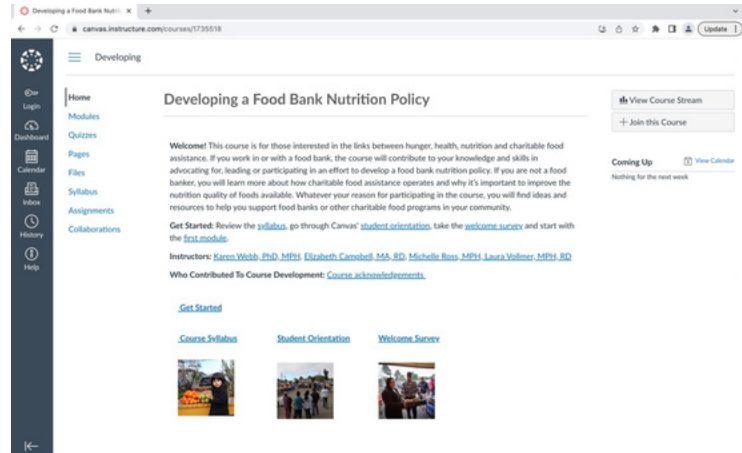
* Location: Frying Pan Farm Park, Herndon

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/frying-pan-park/4-h-fair>

Training Opportunities

Food Bank Nutrition Policy Course

Feeding America offers a free nutrition policy course for hunger-relief professionals that work in and with food banks. For those who work in or with a food bank, the [Developing a Food Bank Nutrition Policy](#) course contributes to your knowledge and skills in advocating for, leading, or participating in efforts to develop a food bank nutrition policy. For those who do not work in or with a food bank, this course is a great way to learn more about how charitable food assistance operates and why it is important to improve the nutritional quality of the foods available.



Food Insecurity Screening for Older Adults Course

The Food Research & Action Center and AARP Foundation have developed [Screen & Intervene: Addressing Food Insecurity Among Older Adults](#), a free, one-hour online course to educate healthcare and community-based providers around the country about the extent of senior hunger and the solutions that exist. The course provides training on how to screen patients 50 and older for food insecurity, as well as intervention opportunities.



Paint-A-Plant: First Thursdays 5:30-7:30 PM at SeedED Farm

\$5 programming fee every month

Choose a plant to sketch, paint, or generally study artistically throughout the season. Choose one plant to study throughout the season or choose this time to draw inspiration and express oneself artistically in a beautiful farm setting. The hope is that this program will foster deeper relationships with plant cousins while watching them grow! Paint, canvases, pencils, markers, and paper is provided. Feel free to bring a sketch book and supplies if so inclined.

Look for Farmer Sam, Farmer Monica and Farmer Gabe/SeedEd Farm
sow@seededfarm.com

5387-5399 Mt Vernon Memorial HWY
Alexandria VA 22309

Turn east onto Mt Vernon Memorial HWY from Route 1, across from
Jeff Todd HWY

GO SLOW and take the first right past the 7/11

RESOURCES

[Just Eat It | A Food Waste Movie](#)

Just Eat It is a 75-minute documentary film about food waste and food rescue that focuses on filmmakers Jen Rustemeyer and Grant Baldwin, who undertake a six-month challenge to survive only on discarded food. They can pay for food if they need to, but it must be produce that would otherwise be thrown out. Check out the options to watch the movie at the link above.

Fairfax County Public Schools Summer Meal Service Program

Summer might mean no school, but it does not have to mean no school-provided breakfasts and lunches. FCPS is participating in the Summer Food Service Program. Meals will be provided to all children who attend without charge. All meals will be served on school grounds and be provided on a first come, first serve basis. A schedule and list of program sites can be found [here](#).



Summer Meals Fact Sheet

FACT SHEET

This resource is an overview of the need for summer meals, basic facts about the program, and ways both individuals and organizations can get involved.

No Kid Hungry reminds everyone that the summer is the hungriest time of the year for children. The No Kid Hungry Toolkit to support organizations who can help families locate a nearby feeding location can be found at: [2023 Summer PROGRAM Toolkit](#). No Kid Hungry provides a number to text to learn where the closest food site might be located and this information is updated weekly. Text FOOD or COMIDA to 304-304.

Summer Meals in Your Community - Engagement Toolkit for Elected Officials:

Elected officials are uniquely positioned to support the adoption, implementation, and expansion of summer meals in their communities. This toolkit explains three key ways that elected officials can engage with the summer meals program.

Mosquito & Tick Avoidance Tips

The recent rains have no doubt been beneficial to gardens and crops, but they can also mean mosquitoes. Put on the repellent (aka bug spray) when heading outside. Use EPA-registered repellents to prevent mosquito bites ([Prevent Mosquito Bites | Mosquitoes | CDC](#)). Mosquitoes require standing water for their larval development, and water that stays around for at least a week can be a potential mosquito breeding site.

To help control mosquitoes around home and garden, tip and toss water from containers. Check for standing



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Mosquito & Tick Avoidance Tips, continued

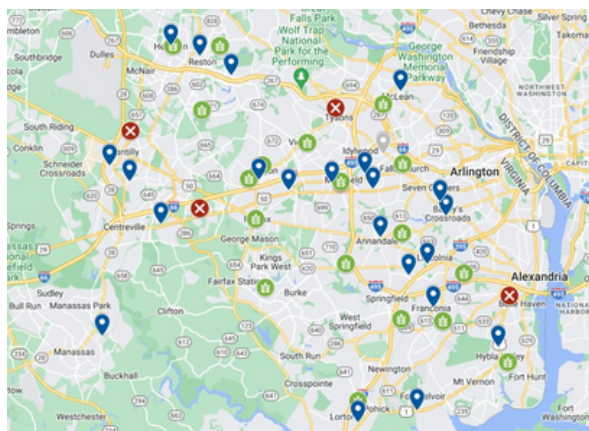
water weekly. Some important containers to look out for include any gardening equipment, tarps/covers, and corrugated downspout extensions (more information here: [Get Rid of Standing Water | Health \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#), [Control Mosquitoes Outside Your Home | Mosquitoes | CDC](#)).

With a rain barrel, be sure to limit mosquito entry by using screen over any potential access point. Larvicides containing *Bacillus thuringiensis israelensis* (aka Bti) can be applied to water that cannot easily be dumped out, including rain barrels. Summer can also mean ticks, so take steps to prevent tick bites when spending time outdoors ([Preventing tick bites | Ticks | CDC](#)). Do a tick check during and after outdoor activities.

If you find a tick on you, you can have it identified at the Health Department. Submit pictures of your tick here: [Tick Identification | Health \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#). Be sure to read and follow label instructions when using repellents and larvicides.

Fairfax County Food Gardens

Found on the Food Council's website, this [map of Food-Producing Gardens](#) documents the many schools, faith communities, workplaces, and neighborhoods that are vegetable gardening and farming in Fairfax County. If there isn't a garden near you and you'd like to explore starting one, contact the Fairfax Food Council.



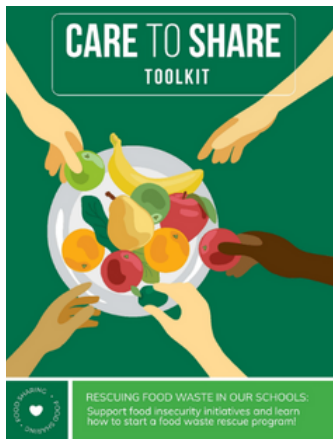
Gleaning at Farmer's Markets in Fairfax County

This [Gleaning Network map](#) provides links to the Fairfax County Farmers Markets and the organizations who glean (i.e., collect) fresh produce from vendors at the markets and deliver it to community organizations.

COMMUNITY STORIES

Alisa Brooks Receives Award for Care to Share Toolkit

Alisa Brooks recently received Fairfax County's highest honor awarded by the county to its employees, the A. Heath Onthank Award for Merit, which recognizes accomplishments of outstanding worth in advancing and improving public service in Fairfax County Government and Fairfax County Public Schools.



This award was presented to Alisa for the outstanding leadership and initiative she took to develop the Fairfax Food Council's [Care to Share Toolkit](#) which dually addresses childhood food insecurity in Fairfax County and food waste. She was presented the award, along with two other county employees, by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors on June 27th. The Food Council is grateful for Alisa's passion and dedication to rescuing food in schools, which is one of the many key actions in the Fairfax County Health Department's Community Health Improvement Plan.

2023 Live Healthy Fairfax – Healthy Eating Award

On May 16, 2023, the Partnership for a Healthier Fairfax presented the 2023 Live Healthy Fairfax Award for Healthy Eating to Stacey Evers. As reported last quarter, Stacey founded Hands on Harvests, Co-Chaired the Food Council's Urban Ag Work Group and has worked tirelessly with school and community gardens in numerous ways over the years. This recognition serves as an important reminder of the value of our community's leaders in keeping the community engaged in urban agriculture at all levels.



Lorton Women Participate with the Capital Area Food Banks’ Client Leadership Council

Lorton Community Action Center’s (LCAC) client, Rachelle Price, (pictured front right), has engaged in advocacy about fighting hunger and the importance of public food programs to help people in times of need.



Ms. Price is one of four women from Lorton who serve on the Client Leadership Council of the Capital Area Food Bank. They recently went to Capitol

Hill to meet with several legislators, including Congressman Jim McGovern (pictured above), one of the leading Congressional advocates for ending hunger in America and around the world. They discussed programs that directly impact their lives, including SNAP benefits. Policymakers appreciate learning from people directly affected by changes to public food programs.

LCAC is grateful to these four Lorton residents--Ms. Price, Annie Henderson, Alicia Doe, and Shawnte Brown--for sharing their stories to make a difference for others. "We each have a story. We continue using it with our representatives and others. We were fortunate to meet with the policy advisers," Ms. Price said.



Farmers Markets and Composting: A Winning Combination

Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) is piloting food scrap collection at all 10 farmers markets this season to gather citizen interest in this service on a countywide level and to provide education about the benefits of food scrap collection and composting in Fairfax County. Through a compost awareness campaign held at the farmers markets in June, there has been an increase in participation in food scrap collection from 7,400 pounds in May to over 13,000 pounds in June. FCPA has applied for funding through the Plastic Bag Tax Funds to

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Farmers Markets and Composting: A Winning Combination, continued

continue providing this service in the 2024 season and will continue to monitor if this is a viable and economically sustainable method to provide food scrap collection in Fairfax County.

Fairfax Health Department Joins Partners at Food Distributions

Food distributions involving many county agencies and nonprofits are regularly working together to provide food in Fairfax County. On the third Thursday of every month, Legal Aid Justice Center at Fairmont Garden Apartments in Annandale reaches over 150 people with food from Food for Others. Vaccination and social service teams are engaged to provide support to these families who are a majority Hispanic/Latino. Additionally, First AME of Alexandria, a small church along Route 1, hosts a food distribution every other Wednesday. While the church is African American, the partners from local churches and organizations such as the Fairfax Health Department, assist and connect with primarily Hispanic/Latino community members. Food for Others and the Capital Area Food Bank provide the food to as many as 200 participants each month.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

[The Capital Area Food Bank is looking for volunteers!](#)



Each year, volunteers save the food bank millions of dollars while helping to feed the DMV community. Help sort and pack food in the distribution center, rake and plant in the garden, distribute fresh produce at free community farmer's markets, or offer your time in any of the other ways that the food bank has to get involved.



[Arcadia Center for Sustainable Food and Agriculture is also looking for volunteers!](#)

Volunteer at the farm on the 2nd Saturday of every month from March – November. Learn about Arcadia’s two farm sites, and their efforts to create a more equitable and sustainable food system. Tasks include weeding, hoeing, building garden beds, moving wood chips and mulch, and turning compost. This is also a great opportunity for hands-on learning and to get to know the staff. Supervised children are welcome to these monthly events.



[Partnership for a Healthier Fairfax Seeks Co-Chair](#)

The Partnership for a Healthier Fairfax (PFHF), a coalition of government, business, nonprofits, healthcare, academia and community members is seeking nominations for a new Co-Chair. Established in 2010, the Partnership works to strengthen the local public health system and improve community health with a concentration on the Social Determinants of Health. The Partnership's 13 Steering Committee members, 3 Teams and 900+ network, develops and monitors a multi-year Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) and other activities. To review a copy of the current CHIP, click here: livehealthyfairfax.org/content/sites/fairfax/community-health-improvement-plan-2019-2023.pdf. This is a volunteer position.

If you or someone you know is interested in the health of our community while leading this broad coalition, please contact Rachel Lynch, Nominations Committee Chair at rlynch@novahealthfdn.org or Susan Sanow, PFHF Manager at susan.sanow@fairfaxcounty.gov for a job description and nomination application.

We are seeking a Co-Chair for this January 1, 2024 - December 31, 2026 term.

Deadline to apply is September 1, 2023

JOB OPPORTUNITIES



Food Service Worker

Fairfax County Public Schools has an open Food Service Worker position. This employee will prepare and serve food, clean and sanitize equipment and facilities, collect monies and make change, and maintain records. This is a temporary/hourly position without benefits. The Application closes on 05/31/2024. [Click here to learn more and apply.](#)

Food Services Manager in Training

Fairfax County Public Schools has an open Food Services Manager in Training position. Employees in this position are responsible for assisting with the operations of a food services finishing kitchen which receives most of its food prepared by a central food preparation kitchen; may provide limited food services for other on-site programs; serves on short- or long-term assignments, as needed. This is a full time position. The application is open until the position is filled. [Click here to learn more and apply.](#)



WIC Positions

Fairfax County's Woman Infant & Children (WIC) Program has several open positions. Check out their web page for the "We're Hiring" section: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health/women-infants-children>

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Public Health Nurse II- School Public Health Nurse

The Fairfax County Health Department has an open Public Health Nurse II-School Public Health Nurse position. With a focus on health education, health promotion, and disease prevention, the nurse will work collaboratively with community partners to address public health priorities. This is a Full-Time position with benefits. The annual salary ranges from \$69,324.74 - \$115,540.88, plus \$10,000 sign-on bonus! The application closes on 09/29/2023. [Click here to learn more and apply.](#)

Kitchen Manager

Frontier Kitchen is looking for a person to manage the physical operations of their shared kitchen which involves training members in equipment use and supervising cleaning and maintenance needs along with backing up their Kitchen Director. Ideal candidate will have worked in kitchen (restaurant or production facility) or facility management and desire a set schedule with 8-hour days. Frontier Kitchen offers health benefits, quarterly profit sharing bonuses and paid time off.

Frontier Kitchen is a unique company that fosters and assists new food businesses. They are open 24/7 for their clients and the administrative staff is onsite no less than seven days a week, 9am-5pm.

Contact Loreann Grimes (loreann@frontierkitchen.org)
www.frontier-kitchen.com

This information is provided by the Fairfax Food Council.

fairfaxcounty.gov/food-council

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Fairfax, VA 22030



[@FairfaxFoodCouncil](#)

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