



# FAIRFAX Food Council

*healthy • accessible • affordable*

## COMMUNITY FOOD NEWS

*The latest news and updates from the Fairfax Food Council*

### IMPORTANT DATES

#### **URBAN AG MEETINGS**

September 19 | 10:00 – 11:30 am  
October 17 | 10:00 – 11:30 am  
November 21 | 10:00 – 11:30 am

#### **FOOD ACCESS & LITERACY MEETINGS**

September 28 | 10:30 – 11:30 am  
October 26 | 10:30 – 11:30 am  
November 30 | 10:30 – 11:30 am

#### **FFC STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

October 27 | 4:00 pm

**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](mailto:FairfaxFoodCouncil@fairfaxcounty.gov) for more information and/or how to 'attend' a meeting.

## Fall 2022 News

*by Diane Charles, Project Manager, Fairfax Food Council*

### September is Hunger Action Month!

Be on the lookout for activities and acknowledgements throughout September about all the work going on in Fairfax County to support people who are finding themselves in need of help accessing nutritious food during Hunger Action Month. The Fairfax Food Council joins together with the NCS Emergency Food Strategy Team to highlight:

- To learn about the need in Fairfax County, review the **Capital Area Food Bank's [2022 Hunger Report](#)**.
- Watch for virtual ways to donate funds for food to Fairfax food pantries who need to stock their shelves. Coming soon!
- Participate in events that bring awareness and raise funds, as listed in the Events section of this newsletter.
- Learn about the many organizations working to provide healthy, accessible nutritious food to those who seek it in Fairfax County.
- Join the virtual September 28, 2022 [White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health](#). Sign-up for updates!

Details are being developed for all of the above activities (and more) -- and will be shared in the coming weeks.



# FOOD COUNCIL HAPPENINGS

## Tips for Healthy Eating

One of the Fairfax Food Council's Youth Representatives, Stephanie, made her own creative video about sharing tips with friends about healthy eating. Check it out! Share it with others!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q-EKGzYdk5k>



## Fairfax School Gardens Benefit from Garden Supplies

Several Fairfax County school gardens worked with the Urban Agriculture Work Group to access remaining funds from the Food Council's Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth grant to purchase garden supplies at the end of the 2021-2022 school year.

Examples of supplies secured by eleven schools included grow bags, rain barrels, soil, mulch, garden tools, sheds, garden beds, hoses, and compost. The fruits of their labor and purchases are in play now.



*Mount Vernon Woods Elementary School students built their new shed and their own garden beds. They also harvested carrots in the summer and plan to build up their garden in the fall*

## W.T Woodson High School Environmental Club Continues Its Vegetable Garden Success

The garden success at W.T. Woodson was evident last spring into the summer. With the start of school, plans for the fall are underway. Thanks to Master Gardener Tony Makara and the Urban Ag Work Group, the partnership with W.T. Woodson continues to support enthusiastic teen gardeners!



*The spring garden featured a variety of cool season leafy and root crops such as lettuce, kale, radishes, onions, potatoes, carrots, and more. Ever eager to try something new, students this year planted and harvested a bountiful crop of potatoes.*

## EVENTS

### 45th Annual National Food Policy Conference

[Register now](#) for the Consumer Federation of America's **45th Annual National Food Policy Conference** taking place **October 12** at the Capital Hilton Hotel in downtown Washington, DC. The National Food Policy Conference will once again take place in-person—with an online option—after two years off.

## National Food Policy Conference

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 12

## Arcadia Offers Virtual School Garden Q&A Sessions

With the start of the new school year, Arcadia is offering free **"Learn, Grow, Go!" virtual school garden Q&A sessions** each month from (4:30-5:30 pm) throughout the school year. Juan Pablo Echeverria, Arcadia's Outreach and Education Manager, along with guest speakers, will be providing timely school garden tips each month - with built-in time for questions. These sessions are open to all school staff in the area.

Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2022-23-virtual-school-garden-qa-series-tickets-402396377397>



LEARN, GROW, GO!



### 2022-23 School Year Virtual School Garden Q & A

1st Wednesday of the month\*  
4:30-5:30 pm



Join Arcadia for our monthly virtual hour long conversation where we will show you simple ideas for starting and managing your school garden. There will be plenty of time for Q&A to hopefully answer all your questions.



Register for sessions at:

<https://2022-23-virtual-school-garden-series.eventbrite.com>

- September 7th
- October 12th\*
- November 2nd
- December 7th
- January 4th

- February 1st
- March 1st
- April 12th\*
- May 3rd
- June 7th

\*moved to 2nd Wednesday due to holiday

The "Learn, Grow, Go!" workshop series is part of the  
Live, Eat, Grow School Partner Program  
<http://arcadiafood.org/LEG-SchoolPartner>



ARCADIA

CENTER FOR SUSTAINABLE FOOD & AGRICULTURE

## 2nd USDA Food Loss and Waste Innovation Fair

Registration is now open for the 2nd [USDA Food Loss and Waste Innovation Fair](#) to be held on September 14, 2022 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. EDT. The virtual event will showcase the latest food loss and waste mitigation technologies, innovations and programs developed by the USDA, academic institutions, local governments, and businesses.



## Food For Others – 9th Annual Tysons 5K & Fun Run – September 25th

Join Food for Others for their 9th Annual Tysons 5K & Fun Run on Sunday, September 25th at Tysons Corner Center! This event brings the local community together to raise awareness around food insecurity in Northern Virginia. All net proceeds support Food for Others, a food bank and pantry located in Merrifield, Virginia. <https://foodforothers.org/tysons-5k-and-fun-run/>

## Lunch at the Landfill

Visit links below for more information:

[Lunch at the Landfill \(Fairfax\) – Sustainability Matters](#)

<https://www.sustainabilitymatters.earth/events/fairfax1022>



## White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health – September 28, 2022

Watch for more information on the upcoming White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition and Health via their informative website: [White House Conference](#) website! Interested stakeholders can sign up here for updates: <https://wh.gov/OPE-hungerhealthconference-signup>.



## Celebrate the Opening of Beanstalk Farms' New Location in Herndon -September 13th at 3:00 pm

Fairfax County and Governor Glenn Youngkin invite the community to join the celebration of Beanstalk Farms' new location. Beanstalk Farms, a vertical sustainable farm, is holding its grand reopening in its new larger Herndon location. Beanstalk is a recent recipient of an Agriculture and Forestry grant, which is matched by Fairfax County, that has allowed them to refurbish a former data center and turn it into a sustainable, vertical garden.

RSVP : <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/beanstalk-farms-ribbon-cutting-tickets-408023558447>

## RESOURCES

### Connect with Fairfax County Health Department on Social Media

DYK the Health Department is on social media?

Connect with the Fairfax County Health Department on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#) for updates and health information for the Fairfax Health District.

**Follow Us on Social Media**

Connect with your Health Department today!

- @fairfaxhealth
- @fairfaxcountyhealth
- @fairfaxhealth
- Fairfax County Health

[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health)

## Do Your Part from the Start!—Prevent and Protect Against Mosquitoes

Here are some tips from the biologists of Fairfax County Health Department’s Disease Carrying Insect Program.

Control mosquitoes in your yard:

- **Eliminate standing water.** Check your yard weekly for containers that are holding water.
- **Treat standing water with a larvicide\* if it cannot be eliminated.**
- **If mosquitoes are biting, you may want to spray your yard with an insecticide\***, particularly the places where mosquitoes like to hide, such as bushy green plants, ivy, other ground-covering plants and bamboo.
- **Organize a neighborhood clean-up.**

Protect yourself and your family from mosquito bites:

- **Wear insect repellent\* containing DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus or IR 3535.**
- **Wear loose-fitting, light-colored, long-sleeved shirts and pants.**
- **Keep doors and windows closed and make sure screens are in good repair.**

*\*Use EPA-registered insecticides, larvicides and repellents. Follow label instructions.*

For more information, visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/health/fightthebite> , call 703-246-2201 or email to [fightthebite@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:fightthebite@fairfaxcounty.gov).

**Fight the bite.**



## USDA is Seeking Input!

USDA is interested in learning from stakeholders how they can better meet the needs of customers seeking kosher or halal foods through The Emergency Assistance Food Program (TEFAP). So far, USDA has held discussions with several advocacy organizations, 9 State Agencies, and food banks in those states that serve communities with kosher and/or halal food needs. USDA is reviewing the information gathered through these conversations to determine some actions and next steps they can take to better meet the needs of customers seeking kosher and halal foods. USDA is interested in feedback from States and food banks in all States and territories about how to best meet their customers' needs. Feedback can always be shared with your State Agency or sent to [USDAFoods@usda.gov](mailto:USDAFoods@usda.gov).



## Reading is good for everyone – and for the food system, climate change, etc.

There are many reading choices. These are few that have come to the Food Council's attention. Input is welcome on others for future newsletters.

Gardening Through Climate Change

<https://civileats.com/2022/09/01/how-to-garden-through-climate-change/>

Explore the summer reading list (that can also be good for the fall)

<https://civileats.com/2022/06/22/our-food-and-farming-book-picks-for-summer-2022/>





# COMMUNITY STORIES

## Farmers Market Week and SNAP

Britepaths Program Manager, Mila Cobos joins SNAP volunteers Faith Hoyle (senior at Fairfax High School) and Michael Fay (Annandale Farmers Market Manager) during Farmers Market Week in August.



## Lorton Community Action Center Has a New Home

[Lorton Community Action Center](#) (LCAC) is thrilled to announce that in late September, they be moving into the new Lorton Community Center. The new center will house the Lorton Library, a gym, various programs run by the Fairfax Department of Neighborhood and Community Services, and LCAC. The LCAC space includes a food pantry and walk-in fridge and freezer, office space, a large storage room, and access to classrooms for programming. LCAC is excited about how this center will allow for an expansion of their services and stronger partnerships with other groups serving the community.



# VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

## Farmers Market Volunteers Needed

**Opportunity:** Farmers Market Volunteer

[https://volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov/custom/1380/opp\\_details/186974](https://volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov/custom/1380/opp_details/186974)

**Description:** The Fairfax County Farmers Markets are seeking Farmers Market Volunteers to lead children's activities at the Oak Marr, McLean, and Kingstowne Farmers Markets. Volunteers will be given training and supplies to lead fun and educational activities for children and families at the markets. Responsibilities include setting up and breaking down necessary supplies (tent, table, chairs, activity materials), and leading educational activities such as market bingo, trivia games and prizes, bubbles, coloring pages, and scavenger hunts. There is opportunity to create and lead additional activities that help make the market a fun and engaging experience for all customers.

**Required time commitment:** One market per week (approximately 4 hours per week).

Oak Marr: Wednesdays, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

McLean: Fridays, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Kingstowne: Fridays, 3 - 7 p.m.

**Opportunity:** Volunteer Farmers Market Manager

[https://volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov/custom/1380/opp\\_details/180247?sortReverse=true](https://volunteer.fairfaxcounty.gov/custom/1380/opp_details/180247?sortReverse=true)

**Description:** The Fairfax County Park Authority is currently seeking volunteers to manage the Annandale, McLean, and Burke Farmers Markets. Volunteer Market Managers provide necessary on-site support to ensure markets run smoothly, set-up and break down supplies, enforce market rules, answer questions from vendors and customers, and assist with vendor selection and community outreach. This is a great volunteer opportunity for anyone that enjoys the outdoors, supports local farmers and producers, and wants to bring fresh and local produce to their community.

**Required time commitment:** One market per week (approximately 5-6 hours per week).

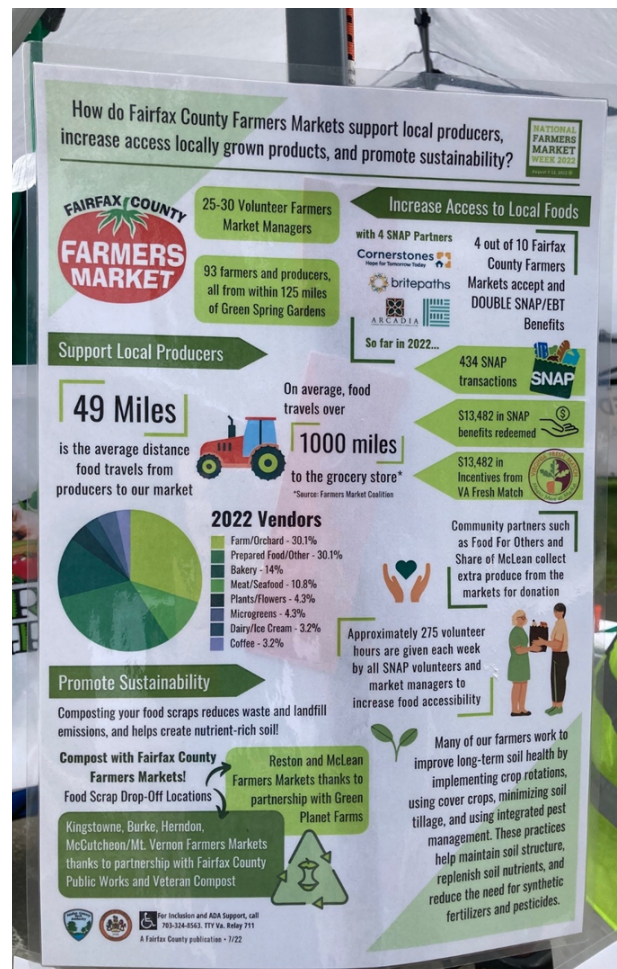
Oak Marr: Wednesdays, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Annandale: Thursdays, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

McLean: Fridays, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Kingstowne: Fridays, 3 - 7 p.m.

Burke: Saturdays, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.



## JOB OPENINGS

### Virginia Fresh Match - Network Coordinator Position

Virginia Fresh Match Network Coordinator position is seeking interested candidates. [Check out the posting on Virginia Fresh Match's website.](#)

With LEAP as the fiscal lead for Virginia Fresh Match, this position will be based out of Roanoke. A mostly remote position from elsewhere in Virginia is also an option, see the posting for details.



### National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition Position Opening

Policy Specialist: Marketing, Food, and Rural Development. See details here: <https://nationalsustainableagriculturecoalition.recruitee.com/o/policy-specialist-marketing-food-systems-and-rural-development>



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This information is provided by the Fairfax Food Council.

[fairfaxcounty.gov/food-council](http://fairfaxcounty.gov/food-council)

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If you have something for the next newsletter, please submit to

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[FairfaxFoodCouncil@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:FairfaxFoodCouncil@fairfaxcounty.gov).