

Falls Church Pulse

Dear Neighbors,

April is the start of the City's annual financial planning. The City Manager presented the proposed FY 2025 budget to City Council on April 1st, and there will be a town hall on April 24th (noon) and a public hearing on April 29th. We wrote two posts to explain and review this year's City budget and capital plan. They are important topics involving the current and future financial health of this City and its taxpayers.

One of the many fun events happening in May is the Falls Church Women's History Walk on Saturday, May 11th in Cherry Hill Park. The Falls Church Women's History Group has written a post on this year's seven honorees. You may know a few of them!

Thank you for your interest in this City.

The Editors
March 2024

[A Review of the Proposed FY 2025 Budget](#)

The \$138.3 million FY 2025 budget is a 16% increase that includes \$11.8 million of capital spending. City staff will receive a 6% pay raise while real estate taxes average increase is 2.4%. This post explains the budget and provides additional historical data for context.



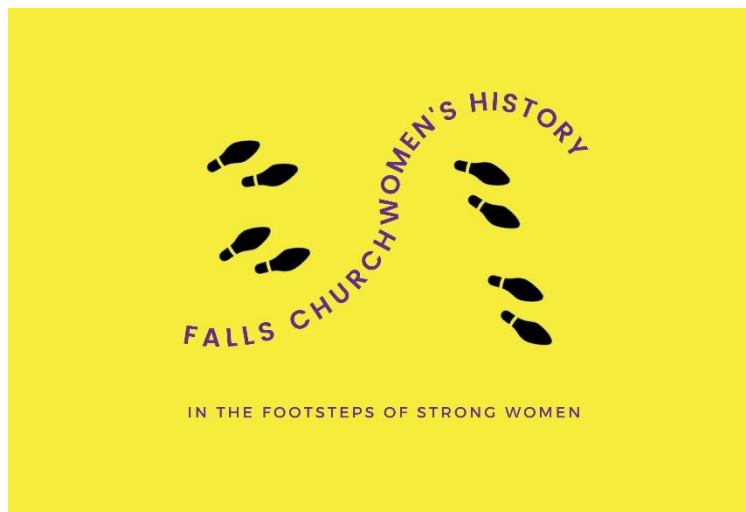
[The Capital Improvement Program \(CIP\) 2025 and Beyond](#)

The capital plan (CIP) projects for 2025 total \$18.3m. Over the next 6 years, the City plan has \$191m of projects that will require about \$60m of debt to be issued. We look at the projects being funded and Councilmembers' concerns expressed at their work session on April 8, 2024.



[Join the 2024 Falls Church Women's History Walk on May 11th.](#)

The 2024 Falls Church Women's History Walk on Saturday May 11, 10 am – 3 pm, Cherry Hill Park, is a self-guided tour to learn about the many women who shaped our City. Seven women are honored this year. Learn who they are and their tremendous impact on this City.



[OakPark Townhomes – The First T-Zone Project on Park Avenue](#)

The OakPark Townhomes, located on Park Avenue, is the first proposal to take advantage of the new T-Zone ordinance. Developer Madison Homes takes full advantage with the maximum density and size allowed. The expected price of each townhome is around \$1m.



[W&OD Trail Crossings – Construction Begins April 2024](#)

Construction of four W&OD trail crossings will last until August. Expect periodic road closures on Great Falls St, N Oak St and N Spring St. The new crossings maintain separate bicycle and pedestrian paths, also islands, different pavement markings and lighting. See 3D renditions of the new crossings.



Posts you may have missed

The Little City's Big Sewage Challenge – Part 1

Approved and coming mixed-use projects prompted negotiations with Fairfax County to increase sewage processing capacity. City Manager Wyatt Shields surprised Council with an initial estimate of \$19.3m. This will only be sufficient for current construction, future developments will require further expense.



The Little City's Big Sewage Challenge – Part 2: Has Growth Paid For Growth?

The City Manager proposed funding the now \$20+ million cost of adding sewage capacity with City funds and \$14.3 million bond issuance. City Council asked why this cost was not anticipated and if, in fact, growth isn't paying for growth. Other options were also explored. Watch the video clip of a testy exchange between Councilmember Erin Flynn and Wyatt Shields.



Founders Row II Architectural Plans

Architectural, landscape and street modification plans for Founders Row II. The plans show changes to the green median on Broad Street to allow a left exit from the building.



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