

Falls Church Pulse

Dear Neighbors,

We have published personal statements from the two candidates for the City Council special election, Laura Downs and John Murphy, in which they introduce themselves and their platforms.

The City Council was away for two weeks at the end of August, giving us time to catch up on past meetings and topics we were researching. City staff presented more design decisions on three bicycle routes along West Street and the East-West connection to Mustang Alley. We also posted on the Community Center HVAC upgrade project and its schedule for closure.

We researched the owners of commercial properties that will benefit from the proposed zoning code amendment to reduce parking requirements to investigate possible conflicts of interest.

We have begun work to understand the background of the Property Yard and the West Falls development. Our first post on this work recounts the Water Wars with Fairfax County that brought about the boundary adjustments, opening opportunities for redevelopment of City-owned land.

The Pulse newsletter just celebrated its first anniversary. We would love to hear from you about the Pulse in general, or about individual posts. And, if you have been following a topic at City Hall, we encourage you to share a post on it. You can reach us at fallschurchpulse@gmail.com.

Thank you for your interest in this City.

The Editors
September 2024

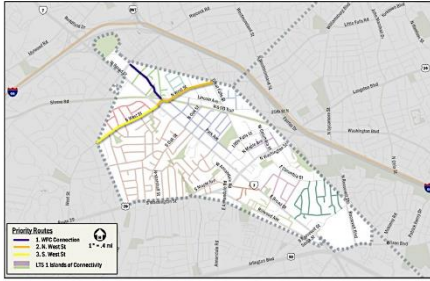


VOTE for
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF FALLS CHURCH



[Candidates for the November Special Election for City Council – Meet Laura Downs and John Murphy](#)

We publish statements from Laura Downs and John Murphy. They introduce themselves, the skills they bring to City Council if elected, their platforms and their priorities.



[The East-West Connection – a Bicycle Route from the W&OD to Mustang Alley, and Other Updates to the Bicycle Master Plan](#)

The City's Bicycle Master Plan update shows the designs for N and S West Street bicycle routes and where parking will be affected. It includes details of the East-West Connection to create a route for students to ride to the secondary school campus, and proposes four new Capital Bikeshare stations. Cost estimates are provided.



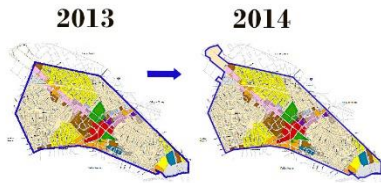
[Community Center HVAC Upgrading to a Geothermal System, Closing for Three Months in Spring 2025](#)

A new geothermal HVAC system will be installed in the Community Center in January, causing its closure and relocation of the Farmers Market and Senior Programs. Staff provides costs, the rationale and the design overview. The latest schedule for work and closure of the Community Center is included.

ELIGIBLE RECORDS FOR COMMERCIAL PARKING REDUCTIONS WITH OWNER INFORMATION									
ADDRESS	APPLICABLE ZONING	APPLICABLE MAP	APPLICABLE MAP DATE	APPLICABLE MAP SCALE	APPLICABLE MAP AREA	APPLICABLE MAP DATE	APPLICABLE MAP SCALE	APPLICABLE MAP AREA	APPLICABLE MAP DATE
101 N. WEST ST.	COMMERCIAL	MAP 10	2018	1:1000	0.15	2018	1:1000	0.15	2018
102 N. WEST ST.	COMMERCIAL	MAP 10	2018	1:1000	0.15	2018	1:1000	0.15	2018
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[Owners of Commercial Buildings Eligible for Parking Reductions](#)

The Pulse analyzes ownership of commercial buildings eligible for proposed parking reductions and reports on public Council discussion of conflicts of interest.



[Falls Church History – The Water Wars and the 2013 City/County Boundary Adjustment That Facilitates Development Of City-Owned Land](#)

The Water Wars between the City and Fairfax County resulted in the sale of the water utility and a tax increase for residents. However, the boundary adjustments brought opportunities in West Falls and the Gordon Road area.

Updated Post



[Court Grants City Petition for Special Election to Fill Open City Council Seat](#)

Court orders special election November 5, 2024, to fill former City Council Member Caroline Lian's seat for the remainder of the term through December 31, 2025.

Posts you may have missed



[Planning Commission Public Hearing On Commercial Parking Reductions Delayed to September](#)

Proposed parking reductions are now limited to buildings less than 20,000 sq ft. New business tenants can exempt 1,000 sq ft when calculating their parking requirements, although the EDA, Planning Commission, Chamber of Commerce, and ESC favor raising that number.



[Community Discussions on Accessory Dwellings](#)

This post describes the questions raised during the two City organized community discussions at the end of July and some board reviews on accessory dwellings. Several people suggested that a public survey of community views was needed.



[Accessory Dwelling Units Will Be a Key Focus of City Planning in 2024. What Are They? What Are Other Jurisdictions Doing?](#)

Alexandria City and Montgomery, Arlington and Fairfax counties have all revised some aspects of their regulations for accessory dwellings in recent years. This post explores what these neighboring jurisdictions have done.
