



# FAIRFAX Food Council

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## COMMUNITY FOOD NEWS

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

### IMPORTANT DATES

#### **URBAN AG WORK GROUP MEETINGS**

April 17 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

May 15 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

June 12 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

#### **FOOD ACCESS & LITERACY WORK GROUP MEETINGS**

April 26 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

May 31 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

June 28 10:30 – 11:30 a.m.

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

April 27 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

*\* meets quarterly*

**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.

## Spring 2023 News

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

Stacey Evers is an environmental educator at her core. She intertwines those core values with her commitment to improve healthy fresh produce for all through her actions and her leadership. As soon as she observed the food struggles in Fairfax at the start of the pandemic, she put her lifelong gardening experience into full gear. By assembling a team of volunteers to launch Grow a Row, she engaged gardeners to grow extra food and developed a drop-off system to get that fresh produce to local food banks. The seeds she planted for Grow a Row bloomed into a sustainable food nonprofit called Hands on Harvests that today helps people to grow fresh produce and reduces food waste by making it easy to donate surplus harvest.

This just scratches the surface as to why Stacey has been selected as one of this year's **Live Healthy Fairfax Award** Winners. Sponsored by the Partnership for a Healthier Fairfax, this award recognizes an individual or organization that demonstrates exemplary leadership and action to improve the health and well-being of individuals, families, and populations in the Fairfax Health District. Stacey is this year's award winner in the *healthy eating* category.

As she navigated the start-up of a nonprofit to empower gardeners to fulfill the need for fresh, healthy vegetables, fruits and herbs, she also led the Urban Agriculture Work Group of the Fairfax Food Council.

*Continued on second page*

In that leadership role, she welcomed anyone interested in gardening at any level to find a place to get involved; she supported and guided school and community gardens in their garden start-ups, restoration and/or maintenance of gardens during the pandemic and after; she engendered urban ag policy discussions that have fueled Food Council policy exploration; she excelled at her role as an environmental educator at Belvedere Elementary School; and she played a pivotal role in a grant that brought funding to Fairfax to start and expand community gardens.

Because the **Live Healthy Fairfax Award** is intended to recognize those who go “above and beyond” in supporting healthy choices, it is no surprise that Stacey Evers was selected as this year’s *healthy eating* award winner. Stacey will formally receive the award at the Spring meeting of the Partnership for a Healthier Fairfax on May 16, 2023.



## FOOD COUNCIL HAPPENINGS

### Fairfax Food Council's Partnership with School Gardens Blossom

The Urban Ag Work Group of the Fairfax Food Council is quite proud of the school partners who are part of the grant the Food Council receives from the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth. Below are just a few of the many highlights of partner schools' activities leading up to the Spring.

Planting, weeding, watering, and fertilizing. These are the easy parts of gardening. The challenging work, as the student-members of **W.T. Woodson High School** Environmental Club know full well, is often in the off-season planning. The Woodson students heard from Food For Others, where they will be donating their harvests, about their work to address food insecurity. The students learned that the fresh, nutritious produce grown in the garden outside the window of their classroom is often in the hands of a recipient within hours of it having been picked. They replaced four of the raised beds by preparing the beds with a base of cardboard and newspaper layers, and offloaded several truckloads of soil. Early outdoor planting season kicked off in late March with the planting of cool weather-favorable crops, including potatoes, peas, carrots, onions, and lettuce. Harvest of these items in June will free up space for succession crops of summer loving vegetables.



**Dogwood Elementary School**, another Urban Ag Work Group school garden partner, will delve into assigning garden beds to school families who wish to participate in taking on their own garden. The Dogwood students had a great time picking one of the cover crops that were planted this past fall.

*Woodson students replace raised beds*

The students inquired about the smell and the look of what was growing in one garden bed because it looked like onions, but it was garlic. They had fun harvesting garlic prematurely, but mostly got a kick out of smelling it and involving their senses.



*Dogwood Elementary cover crops*

FFC Urban Ag school garden partner, **Belvedere Elementary School**, started cilantro and chives indoors in January and February and only had one of each germinate, but that in itself served as a learning experience. They also experimented with new soil blockers while also discovering cilantro, oregano, and carrots overwintered. In March, Belvedere got support from Fairfax Master Gardeners who helped clear out their garden beds while the students started working in the gardens at recess and in small groups where they planted spinach, carrots, beets, kale, and strawberries outside. They have been collecting fruits/veggies for composting in the cafeteria twice a week, while looking forward to planting herbs, tomatoes, and vegetables later this spring.



*Lynbrook Elementary School raised bed construction*

The students of garden partner **Lynbrook Elementary School** did mulching, but they also focused on learning different vegetables, coloring them, and learning different components of gardens through tools like word searches and crosswords. A new raised bed and arched trellis donated to the school garden was constructed by the older students. Every class was given the opportunity to plant a seed to start indoors during March. This brings excitement to the students who check in on their plants and are looking forward to late April when they can move them all outside. The students planted potatoes just before spring break with the hope that upon their return it will be warm enough to start planting and transplanting!



*Belvedere students experiment with soil blockers*

## Fairfax Food Council and Policy

The Fairfax Food Council is looking forward to a new project that gets underway in July. Thanks to a grant from the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth, the Food Council will be developing a Policy Task Force. In response to input gathered as part of its strategic plan process, as well as through experiences over the last several years, the Food Council is positioned to address policy changes as it relates to improving access and equity in the food system in Fairfax County. Being more proactive about sharing the Food Council's collective perspective on issues affecting the food system is the key goal of this effort.

Anyone interested in being involved in this Policy Task Force that will focus on identifying policy changes that support increased access to healthy food and improvements in the food system to support healthy eating, please reach out to Fairfax Food Council Project Manager, Diane Charles at

[diane.charles@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:diane.charles@fairfaxcounty.gov).



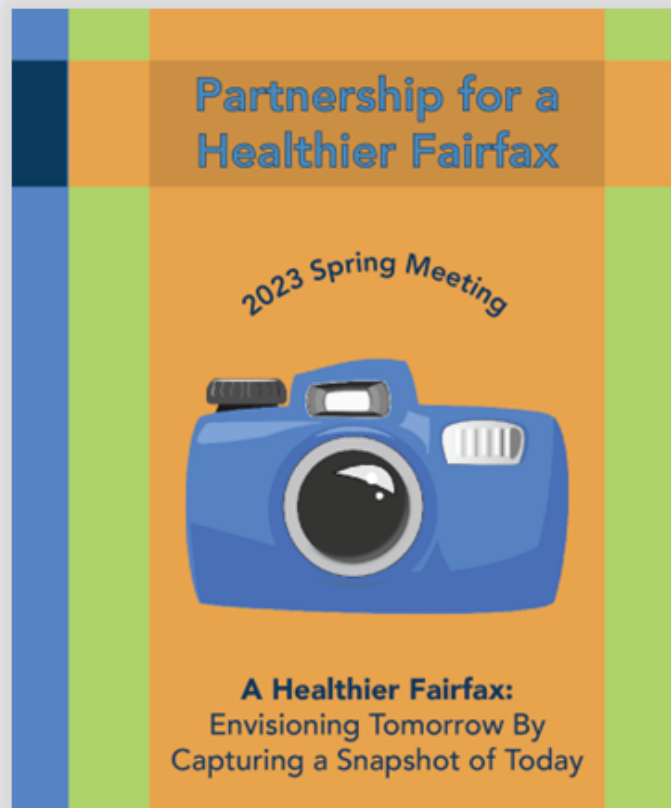
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## Real Food for Real Change - What you Eat Matters!

This dynamic **Real Food for Real Change Toolkit** is currently being piloted at two Fairfax County afterschool programs. The Toolkit provides positive experiences around eating fruits and vegetables using activities and cooking while also helping students understand the larger picture of the choices they make around food consumption. Tied to youth values of supporting a healthy planet, the Toolkit is for educators, after school instructors, faith leaders, scout troops and others who intersect with middle school students. It is made up of investigations, flexible for a variety of settings and can be implemented in-full or select individual activities that meet different needs. To learn more, contact FFC Project Manager Diane Charles at [diane.charles@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:diane.charles@fairfaxcounty.gov).



## EVENTS



### Partnership for a Healthier Fairfax 2023 Spring Meeting

Tuesday, May 16, 2023, 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm  
On Zoom

- PFHF Business Meeting
- Live Healthy Fairfax 2023 Awards  
Presentation: Honoring Winners Stacey Evers and Tarika Sethi
- A Healthier Fairfax: Envisioning Tomorrow by Capturing a Snapshot of Today

Registration Now Open!

<https://PFHF2023SpringMeeting.eventbrite.com>

### Farmers Market Clinics

Starting in May through the end of September, the Master Gardeners will staff weekly plant clinics at farmers market and libraries throughout the county. Bring your questions, gardening problems, and samples in person and let us diagnose them with scientific research-based information.

<https://fairfaxgardening.org/plant-clinics/plant-clinic-schedule/>



### **Community Garden Plant Clinics**

Once a month from May to September, Fairfax County Master Gardeners set up information tables at seven county community garden sites. Renters of garden plots, as well as the general public, can discuss garden issues and receive technical information and advice from the volunteers. The easy access to the gardens gives everyone a chance to see and discuss actual problems, giving both the Master Gardeners and the public the opportunity to exchange valuable information.

<https://fairfaxgardening.org/plant-clinics/plant-clinic-schedule/>

### **Virtual Clinics Recordings on YouTube**

During Covid the Master Gardeners continued to educate the public virtually. Master Gardeners discussed how to care for and harvest your food, discuss insects and diseases, or present plants best suited to grow well in our Northern Virginia gardens. Find these informative recordings at VCE-Fairfax YouTube. Go to the Playlist and select your favorite topic: All About Veggies, Landscape Gardening, Zone 7 Gardening, Lunch 'n' Lawn & Turf, Weeds, Insects and Critters, Celebrate Trees, House Plants,

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9JXD1NFz0nvHk-avE4qU-w/playlists>



### **PLANT SWAP - HOUSEPLANTS, CUTTINGS AND CONTAINERS**

04/08/2023 10:30 am to 04/08/2023 12:30 pm

Green Spring Gardens' 2nd annual Plant Swap!

[Plant Swap - Houseplants, Cuttings and Containers](#)

### **Fairfax County Park Authority - Green Spring Gardens**

#### **GARDEN TALK - SMALL-SPACE VEGGIE GARDENING**

04/22/2023 10:30 am to 04/22/2023 11:30 am Green Spring Gardens

With a little creativity, even the smallest patio, deck or townhouse yard can be turned into a successful vegetable garden!

[Garden Talk - Small-Space Veggie Gardening](#)



## Champions for Youth Summit

The Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth Champions for Youth Summit is convening hundreds of prevention professionals from around the country who are committed to exploring best practices to positively impact youth and young adults. [Registration is still open](#) for the Champions for Youth Summit which will be held in Falls Church, Virginia on April 24 - 26, 2023. But hurry --Sessions offered have limited capacity and the hotel room block expires April 9.



## No Kid Hungry - School's Out, Food's In: Summer Webinar Series

April 25th at 3pm EST - Spread the Word: Summer Meals and Summer Pandemic EBT outreach and promotion

May 23rd at 3pm EST - Strategies to Improve the Summer Meals Experience for Kids and Families

June 20th at 3pm EST - Year-Round Meals: Tips for transitioning from summer to afterschool meals

[Register Here](#)



## Healthy Environment and Active Living (HEAL) Team News

The Partnership for a Healthier Fairfax's HEAL Team's **Healthy Together Fairfax 2023** set for September 10, 2023. Join us for a Community Planning Session, Thursday, April 20, 10 am – 11 am. This virtual session will talk about volunteering your time and talent to shape this important community-driven event. To attend, click here: <https://meet.google.com/juk-brzn-kyn>. Interested in participating in HTF as a partner/exhibitor? We are seeking local organizations to share their resources with the community, e.g., set up an exhibit table, provide a learning opportunity, donate items, etc. New ideas and other interactive, health-driven activities are welcomed. Partner Interest Form available as of May 1, 2023.

## Soils and Fertilizers: Q&A

Andy and David team up to share all you need to know about soils and fertilizers. Whether you are growing vegetables, a new tree or working on your lawn, they can help you determine the best materials and amendments for your needs.

Merrifield Garden Center

Tuesday, April 18, 12:00 pm

Andy Donath, Merrifield Plant Specialist - David Yost, Merrifield Plant Specialist

Zoom Webinar

Sign up here: [Soils and Fertilizers: Q&A Tickets, Tue, Apr 18, 2023 at 12:00 PM | Eventbrite](#)

## FarmBot and Hands on Harvests Partner on Garden Automation Tool

At Taste of Annandale on April 29, the community will have a chance to hear from local nonprofit [Hands On Harvests](#) and about [FarmBot](#), a gardening automation tool that students are learning to use.

Using an app and setting up the hardware for your garden, FarmBot is completely customizable to be programmed to plant seeds, water plants, pull weeds, and harvest produce. Annandale and Falls Church high schools started learning about robotic gardening earlier this year, reports [Annandale Today](#).



Hands on Harvests encourages people to grow their own fresh produce and it supports community gardens, among other projects. It is a part of Grow a Row, a program that helps gardeners donate a portion of their crops to food pantries.

According to Joyce Matthews, a member of the Hands On Harvests board and STEM coordinator at Braddock Elementary School, Hands on Harvests received a \$5,000 donation to start the FarmBot program, and one FarmBot was given to an engineering teacher at Falls Church High School. There, the students are optimizing the robot for a children's garden at Kingsley Commons.

Another FarmBot was delivered to Annandale High School in early March, and will be used for environmental science education. It will then be loaned to Annandale Terrace and Braddock elementary schools for gardening education.

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**Artful Living: Forward, April 27, 7:30-10 p.m. Benefits Britepaths' Families and Programs**

Britepaths invites community members to Artful Living: Forward on Thursday, April 27, 7:30 to 10 p.m. at the Country Club of Fairfax (5110 Ox Rd., Fairfax, VA). There will be a juried art show and sale, live music from World's End Jazz, exquisite food and beverages, delicious desserts from Nothing Bundt Cakes and My Alfajor, festive games, silent and live auctions and a special guest speaker. Proceeds support Britepaths' programs to help community members in crisis achieve financial stability and work toward self-sufficiency. Tickets and information at: <https://britepaths.org/event/artful23>.



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## RESOURCES

### Urban Institute

In a new report, Urban Institute experts examine trends in food insecurity and receipt of charitable food (free groceries or meals) in 2022 to better understand families' coping mechanisms as food prices rise and emergency SNAP allotments end. The analysis draws on data from a nationally representative survey of adults ages 18 to 64. [Read the report](#) to learn more about food insecurity and charitable food use. If you have questions or would like to speak with lead researcher [Kassandra Martinchek](#), please email me at [aelsbree@urban.org](mailto:aelsbree@urban.org).



## Get help from local gardening vlogger Elias Castillo

Are you eager to start growing your own food but unsure where to start? Local gardener Elias Castillo has been sharing his specific tips on his [Youtube page "Garden Foraged"](#) for a few years now. In 2022, Castillo led some of the Food Council's workshops where, in one of his videos, he showed how to start your seeds using the [paper towel method](#). It's a simple yet effective way to check if your seeds are viable. Starting your seeds indoors gives you a jump start on the season and you can extend your harvest by having mature plants faster.

This year, Castillo has posted a whole new library of videos to watch.

"I follow permaculture principles to improve the soil health and minimize inputs like fertilizers. I start most of my vegetables seedlings from seed indoors and transplant them into my raised beds," he says on his page. He has a young food forest that was planted in February 2021, and his garden is in Northern Virginia USDA growing Zone 7a.

"I love pushing the boundaries of my growing zone," he said. "Currently I'm growing many trees that technically shouldn't grow here like: Pomegranates, Yuzu Lemons, Pineapple Guavas, Citrumelo, Flying Dragon Citrus and many figs."

Currently, Castillo provides short seasonal gardening tips as part of the monthly Food Council's Urban Ag Work Group meetings. Contact [fairfaxfoodcouncil@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:fairfaxfoodcouncil@fairfaxcounty.gov) if you want to receive zoom links to these open to the public meetings.



## CPI Resource

CSPI is excited to share their latest resource, [Public Policy and the Grocery Store: Improving Access to Healthy Food](#), one of several policy-specific toolkits that we've developed to support our partners. This toolkit is designed as a roadmap to guide a healthy retail campaign, with case studies, model policies, messaging guidance, and other resources.

To find out more about this toolkit, as well as to view their full library of advocacy trainings, we invite you to visit CSPI's [Resource Hub](#).



## White House Challenge to End Hunger and Build Healthy Communities

As a continuation of the work started at the White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health, the Biden-Harris Administration is launching the White House Challenge to End Hunger and Build Healthy Communities. Through this Challenge, the Administration is encouraging stakeholders across all sectors of society to make bold and impactful commitments that will support collective achievements to end hunger and increase healthy eating and physical activity by 2030 so fewer Americans experience diet-related diseases – all while reducing disparities. Learn more:

<https://health.gov/our-work/nutrition-physical-activity/white-house-conference-hunger-nutrition-and-health/make-commitment>



## COMMUNITY STORIES

### Lorton Community Action Center Town Hall

In February, the Lorton Community Action Center (LCAC) held a client-focused "town hall" to hear from clients about their needs and to receive feedback on their distribution model. A number of clients sat down with LCAC staff and volunteers to discuss items they'd like to see in the pantry, including a continued emphasis on fresh fruits and vegetables, as well as oil and granola. Clients also offered useful feedback on the balance of client choice and efficiency that LCAC is working to strike.



### Herndon Teacher Pays Off School Meal Debts

Have you heard about Gabriel Segal, the Herndon Middle School teacher who paid off every student's meal debt at his school months ago? He recently reported his efforts around this work with the Fairfax Food Council's Food Access and Literacy Work Group. Segal wants to do more than just pay this year's school meal debts, he wants to make sure this debt issue no longer affects any student.

Segal sees students rest their heads on tables because they lack energy from not eating enough. He observes students asking for snacks because they didn't bring anything from home. He sees how missed meals, and the stress that comes with food insecurity, affect students academically and behaviorally.

"It has a rippling effect on these kids," Segal said. "If I check in on one of the students I mentor and they're having a rough day, usually the first thing I ask is, 'Did they eat?' Predominantly the answer is, 'No.'"

A January report from the School Nutrition Association, a school food trade group based in Arlington, reflects the survey responses of 1,230 school meal program directors across the nation. More than 96 percent reported meal debt was a challenge.

The survey found that in 847 districts that reported their current meal debt, the total amount exceeded \$19 million. In one district, the debt for school meals was \$1.7 million. Another key finding from the survey: "66.8% reported an increase in stigma for low-income students, who often depend on school meals as a key source of nutrition." For those who want to assist by donating, visit [Educate Fairfax](#).



## Care to Share Toolkit

The [Care to Share Toolkit](#), a Fairfax Food Council resource to support the rescue of food in the schools, continues to give guidance to new schools setting up their own food rescue systems. The Toolkit supports the re-routing of unconsumed food to those who may need it, while also supporting the planet's sustainability. Students are playing direct roles in supporting the effort at their own schools.



## Luther Jackson Students Create Vertical Farming System to Feed Families

The Aquaponics Lab, part of Luther Jackson Middle School's ESTEEM Center for Equity in Science, Technology, Engineering, English and Math, is seeing a project coming to life that's been in the works for two years.

Tucked behind the school is a small ordinary-looking shed, but step inside and you'll see a futuristic farming operation run by engineering students. The complex ecosystem, known as hydroponics, uses no dirt and only about two gallons of water a month, which is significantly less space and water used in traditional farming methods.

"It's also great to save space and water because this method can be used in food deserts," said eighth grader Vivian Nguyen. "We're producing about an acre's worth of produce per tower. It's a big deal!" She added that they grew a huge bin of lettuce to give to families who can't access fresh vegetables.

For more information, visit the [Fairfax County Public School blog](#).



## Baileys Crossroads Community Input Meeting

The Fairfax County Planning Department held a virtual community input meeting on January 30, 2023 to seek input on the potential comprehensive plan amendment at the Baileys Crossroads Community Business Center. This 12.7 acres of land includes the Food Star Grocery Store on Leesburg Pike. The Food Star owner is planning for redevelopment into apartments with lower shops. There is a possibility of a grocery store, but there is no confirmation. Food for Others (FFO) shared information at the community input meeting about the need for the Food Star grocery store. Many of the families served by FFO at nearby Skyline Towers shop at Food Star and would be impacted by the loss of this grocery store. FFO shared survey results of families in Skyline Towers that indicated their need for the pricing that Food Star represents. They also pointed out that other grocery stores in the area are not as easily accessed. FFO encouraged that a location be identified for a Food Star grocery store (or equivalent) be identified. Public hearings will be held in spring/summer of 2023.



## Food for Others Opens My Market

Food for Others, a regional food bank and member of the Fairfax County Food Council, held a grand opening of My Market on February 9th. In the first two weeks of operation, the My Market shared over 82,000 pounds of food with more than 8,400 customers. Food for Others and many other organizations in Fairfax County who are still deeply involved in providing food to county residents, are evolving their service models to meet need while offering dignity. Food for Others is leading the way and their expansion is an excellent example for others. [Read more](#) and [watch this video](#) to learn more about this expansion.





## Food Council’s Urban Ag Work Group hears from Farm at Halley Rise

Kathleen O’Keefe, co-founder of Up Top Acres, spoke to the Urban Agriculture Work Group in February about Reston’s new urban farm, the Farm at Halley Rise and its next steps. O’Keefe said their goal is to establish agriculture as city life and to create a green space for the community and to promote storm water mitigation and energy reduction.

Halley Rise is a major mixed-use development next to the newly opened Reston Town Center Metro station along the Silver Line. The Halley Rise Farm Festival debuted last fall, and it was here when D.C.-based Up Top Acres introduced themselves to the community. The farming company manages 14 other rooftop gardens in the region. It grows food and donates to local organizations working to reduce food insecurity.

The first phase of the Farm at Halley Rise is a raised bed ground level garden, featuring vegetables, fruit trees and herbs. The yields are all donated to Cornerstones. The second phase consists of community gardens and an expansion for a greenhouse. O’Keefe said the focus is community engagement, with school visits, community events and seasonal festivals planned to be all open to the public. For more information, visit [halleyrise.com](http://halleyrise.com) and [uptopacres.com](http://uptopacres.com).



## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

### Volunteer SNAP/EBT Coordinators at Annandale and Wakefield Farmers Markets

Britepaths partners with Fairfax County Farmers Markets and FRESHFARM to assist community members who use SNAP/EBT so they can redeem and double their benefits to purchase fresh produce at two of the County Farmers Markets during the farmers market season. They are seeking volunteers to staff the SNAP/EBT tables and assist customers during the 2023 season at the Wakefield Market at Audrey Moore Recreation Center on Wednesday afternoons from May 3 to October 25 from 1:15 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and/or the Annandale Market at Mason District Park on Thursday mornings from May 4 through November 2 from 7:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Volunteer service is typically two shifts per month. Volunteers are welcome to volunteer more often or at both of the Markets if they choose and there are openings available. Must be 18 or older and provide own transportation to and from the markets. Contact Brenda Hernandez at [info@britepaths.org](mailto:info@britepaths.org) or 703.273.8829 to volunteer. Learn more at: <https://britepaths.org/volunteer-opp/volunteer-farmersmarket>.

### Hands on Harvests Seeks Volunteers



hands on harvests

Spanish-English interpreters needed for a community garden in the Falls Church/Loehmann's Plaza area on varied Thursday evenings and Saturday mornings throughout the growing season. You do not have to know how to garden.

Also seeking garden mentors in same location on varied Saturday mornings throughout the growing season.

For both opportunities, flexible scheduling is done thru Signup Genius. Contact [stacey.evers@handsonharvests](mailto:stacey.evers@handsonharvests) for more information.

Caring for our community a tomato at a time.

# JOB OPENINGS

## Fairfax County Health Department WIC Team is Hiring

# WE ARE HIRING



*"I love who I work with and knowing that what I'm doing helps others."*

*- Amanda, WIC staff*

### Join Fairfax County's WIC Team!

#### The WIC Program

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) aims to improve the health of pregnant, postpartum and breastfeeding women, infants, and children under five years of age. Participants must meet categorical, income, residential and nutrition risk eligibility requirements.

#### Why Fairfax County WIC?

The Fairfax County Health Department is a progressive, public health leader providing services that promote population health, protect public health and the environment, and ensure residents' access to health services and information. The FCHD Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program assists Fairfax County residents in accessing nutritional knowledge and resources that will improve the health and nutrition status of their families.

#### Available Positions

Do you have a background in nutrition?

Consider the following positions:

- Senior Public Health Nutritionist
- Public Health Nutritionist
- Nutritionist Assistant

WIC staff evaluate nutritional needs of clients and establish appropriate food packages. They counsel clients and make referrals to other community service providers. They also assist in nutrition education, breastfeeding promotion, and community outreach.

Our WIC program is making a difference every day. Join our team and help set a healthy foundation for families in our community.

#### Fairfax County Benefits

Fairfax County employees are eligible for generous benefits, including, health insurance, flexible spending accounts, and retirement package. In addition, the county is committed to ensuring employees achieve a work-life balance by offering annual leave, sick leave, holiday leave, and other leave options such as volunteer activity hours and education leave. Other perks include access to the county Livewell program, an employee childcare center and Employee Commuter Benefit program. For more benefits, visit [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hr](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/hr).

## APPLY TODAY: [bit.ly/join-ffx-wic](http://bit.ly/join-ffx-wic)



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A Fairfax County, Va., publication, Oct. 2022. To request this information in an alternate format, please the Fairfax County Health Department at 703-246-2411, TTY 711. [www.fairfaxcounty.gov](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov)

## LambMowers Job Opportunity

LambMowers.com, a locally-owned, family-friendly flexible employer is hiring an Associate Shepherd to help meet the growing demand for our lawn care services in the DC metropolitan area. This can be a part-time or full-time position. A passion for caring for the environment and working with plants and cute animals is required. Good communication skills, customer service and interpersonal skills are expected, experience driving a truck and trailer highly preferred. Must be okay with a few hours of physical work each four hour slot you schedule yourself to work, setting up and rolling down temporary fencing, and pulling invasive vines out of trees. Compensation is commiserate with experience and can include up to two winter months of paid time off and/or an all-expense-paid one bedroom garden apartment on our five acre permaculture farm in Fairfax. Interested job seekers should email an introductory letter and resume to LambMowers' Chief Shepherd at [LambMowers@gmail.com](mailto:LambMowers@gmail.com).



## Opportunities with Newly Launched Montgomery County (MD) Office of Food Systems Resilience

The mission of the Office of Food Systems Resilience (OFSR) is to develop and implement interagency investment, policy, and operational strategies to build a more equitable, efficient, resilient, and sustainable food system in Montgomery County.

Montgomery County government created the OFSR this fiscal year in order to streamline and coordinate the County's efforts to address local food system challenges. Two new job opportunities are now available;

Performance Management Data Analyst focused on the collection, analysis, and communication of local food systems data, and

Program Manager focused on public and private partner engagement and policy and programmatic initiatives. Initial review of applications will begin on April 7th, with the positions open until filled.

To learn more about these unique professional opportunities, view the complete job descriptions and submit an application on the Montgomery County, MD Recruitment page:

- [Performance Management and Data Analyst](#) (IRC57594)
- [Program Manager I](#) (IRC57595)

# FUNDING OPPORTUNITES

## VDH Funding Opportunity

The Virginia Department of Health, Office of Health Equity is now accepting applications for the Virginia Partners in Prayer & Prevention Disparities Grant funded through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The purpose of the program is to advance health equity and address COVID-19 related health disparities by partnering with Faith-Based Institutions/Organizations to address social determinants of health as they relate to reducing health disparities as an impact of COVID-19. The grant program supports future initiatives up to \$40,000, in response to COVID-19 efforts to address disparities in health among populations at higher risk, underserved, and specifically impacted by COVID-19. For additional information, visit [eva.virginia.gov](https://eva.virginia.gov).

Application Deadline: Tuesday, April 25, 2023 | 3:00 PM



## Elevance Health Foundation

Over the next three years, the Elevance Health Foundation will invest up to \$90 million in partnerships and programs that address health inequities by demonstrating measurable and positive change in four key area, including Food as Medicine. To learn more about the Food as Medicine grant opportunities, check out:

<https://elevancehealth.foundation/for-grantseekers>

## Inova Health Equity Opportunities

The purpose of the Inova Health Equity Opportunity is to reduce disparities and improve care for our communities described in the Inova Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNA). The target populations are identified under-resourced communities with unmet health needs outlined in the CHNA with the areas of focus around Behavioral Health, Health Access, and/or Economic Stability. The objectives of the proposed program/project should be clear, reasonable, and attainable, with measurable impact on the addressed need(s). For more information, review this link:

<https://www.inova.org/about-inova/inova-your-community/community-health-needs-assessments/inova-health-equity-opportunities>



This information is provided by the Fairfax Food Council.

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

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[@FairfaxFoodCouncil](https://www.facebook.com/FairfaxFoodCouncil)

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

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