



## A message from Kathy Smith

County Executive Bryan Hill presented his Advertised (proposed) Fiscal Year 2019 Budget to the Board of Supervisors at this week's Board meeting. The proposed budget includes a 2.5 cent increase in the real estate tax rate. In addition to investing in our public schools, the FY 2019 proposed budget includes investments in county priorities such as: Diversion First, Opioid Task Force, Expansion of Early Childhood Education, and more. You can view the County Executive's Budget Presentation [online](#).

The Sully District Town Hall to discuss the FY 2019 Budget is on Wednesday, March 7, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. at Rocky Run Middle School (4400 Stringfellow Road, Chantilly, VA 20151). I hope you can join me, and I look forward to hearing from the community. More information about the event is below.

Sincerely,

*Kathy*

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## 2018 Sully District Budget Town Hall



### SULLY DISTRICT TOWN HALL to discuss the Fairfax County FY 2019 Budget



From left to right: Supervisor Kathy Smith, County Executive Bryan Hill, and School Board Member Tom Wilson

**Wednesday, March 7, 2018;  
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.**

Please join Supervisor Kathy Smith, County Executive Bryan Hill, School Board Member Tom Wilson, The Sully District Council, and Budget Staff from Fairfax County and FCPS to discuss the FY 2019 budgets for FCPS and Fairfax County.

**Location:**  
Rocky Run Middle School  
Little Theatre  
4400 Stringfellow Road  
Chantilly, VA 20151

**For more information, please contact:**  
[Sully@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Sully@fairfaxcounty.gov) or 703-814-7100

This event is co-sponsored by Supervisor Kathy Smith, School Board Representative Tom Wilson, and the Sully District Council.

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## 2018 Real Estate Assessments Now Available



More than 350,000 updated 2018 real estate assessments are available online and are being mailed to all property owners. Based on equalization changes (market driven value increases or declines for your home), countywide residential [real estate assessments](#) are up an average of 2.17 percent, with the average assessment for all homes at \$547,219. In 2017, the countywide average assessment was \$535,597.

[Find Your Assessment](#)

### **64.5 Percent of Home Values Are Up:**

Approximately 64.5 percent of residential property in the county increased in value over the past year due to equalization, with an average increase of 2.17 percent.

Nonresidential real estate values (commercial, industrial and rental apartments) increased 3.79 percent on average due to equalization.

Of the 353,904 taxable parcels in Fairfax County:

- 259,444 have an assessment change
- 94,460 have no assessment change

The breakdown of average home property assessments (averages are not necessarily indicative of individual properties or neighborhoods):

- Countywide average for all homes – \$547,219, up 2.17%
- Single family-detached homes – \$656,071, up 2.11 percent
- Townhouse/duplex properties – \$409,792, up 2.86 percent
- Condominiums – \$264,974, up 1.68 percent

### **Why Your Assessment May Have Changed:**

There are several factors that affect real estate assessments:

- Sales in the neighborhood.
- Economic factors such as average number of days homes have been for sale and sales volume.
- Improvements to the property (remodeling, additions).
- New construction and rezonings.
- Property characteristics (such as size, age, condition and amenities).

[Learn More About Tax Assessments](#)

### **Assessments Are Not a Bill:**

The real estate assessment notice is not a bill. Most homeowners pay [real estate tax](#) as part of a monthly mortgage payment. Your mortgage company then sends

the taxes directly to the county. However, some homeowners pay their real estate taxes directly (due July 28 and December 5). Contact your mortgage company if you are not sure how your taxes are paid.

### **The Tax Levy Is an Estimate:**

The 2018 estimated tax levy shown on your assessment is just that – an estimate. As required by state law, the estimated tax for 2018 is based on the 2018 assessment and the county's 2017 tax rates. This is an estimate because the Board of Supervisors has not yet adopted tax rates for 2018, but will do so as part of the [budget process](#). The "levy," or tax, is a combination of your current assessment and the current adopted tax rates.

Important note for participants in our [tax relief program for seniors and people with disabilities](#). The 2018 tax estimate shown on your notice does not reflect your 2018 tax relief benefit. The filing deadline for your tax relief application is April 1. You will be notified about your tax relief status by June 30.

### **Appealing your Assessment:**

If you believe that your real estate is incorrectly assessed, you can file an appeal. Appeals should be based on either fair market value, lack of uniformity or errors in property description. Simply saying that the value has increased too much in a single year is not a legal basis for an appeal. Before filing an appeal, we encourage you to call and talk to Tax Administration staff at 703-222-8234 (TTY 711) or send an inquiry by [email](#).

If you still wish to file an appeal, property owners may begin with an administrative appeal. Property owners are encouraged to file this appeal as early as possible.

**New this year, all administrative appeal applications must be postmarked by**

**May 1 or filed online by midnight (EST) of May 1.** No administrative appeals will be accepted after this date. Both non-residential and residential property appeals may be submitted in writing to the Real Estate Division, but only residential assessment appeals can be initiated [online](#). You can download appeal applications [online](#) or call the DTA office to obtain a copy.

Real Estate appeals can also be filed with the Board of Equalization (BOE). The BOE conducts formal hearings and considers sworn testimony. BOE appeal forms are available [online](#) or by calling the BOE office at 703-324-4891 (TTY 711). **By law, all appeals to the BOE must be filed and postmarked by June 1.**

[Learn more about Real Estate Assessment Appeals](#)

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## Reminders!

### **Black History Month Celebration: Know the Past Shape the Future**

**Location:** Fairfax County Government Center (12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035)

**Date:** Friday, March 2, 2018

**Time:** 6:00 p.m.

In celebration of Black History Month, Fairfax County in partnership with Cox proudly presents "Know the Past Shape the Future," a free celebration with music, entertainment, and light refreshments. Virginia's Lieutenant Governor Justin E. Fairfax will be the keynote speaker, and a portion of the program will recognize historically black churches in Fairfax County.

### **Refuse to be a Victim Seminar:**

**Location:** Public Safety Headquarters (12099 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035)

**Date:** Monday, March 5, 2018

**Time:** 6:30 to 9:00 p.m.

The free seminar teaches easy to understand methods you can use to increase awareness and prevent criminal confrontation. For more information or to pre-register, please contact: Gerry Kirwin at [gerald.kirwin@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:gerald.kirwin@fairfaxcounty.gov), phone 703-246-3824.

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## **Animal Services Advisory Commission (ASAC)**



Are you, or someone you know, interested in serving on the [Animal Services Advisory Commission](#)? The purpose of this commission is to provide input to the Fairfax County Animal Shelter Director and the Board of Supervisors on issues relating to animal health and welfare. The Commission serves to enhance the

existing mission and goals of the agency, i.e., to promote responsible pet ownership, to reduce euthanasia and pet overpopulation, and to continue to maintain certification for Shelter Standards of Excellence.

It is a two year term, and monthly meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Fairfax County Animal Shelter (4500 West Ox Road, Fairfax, VA). Please be prepared to provide a current résumé. Members are encouraged to volunteer in some capacity at the Animal Shelter.

If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact our office at [sully@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:sully@fairfaxcounty.gov), or by phone at 703-814-7100.

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## Board of Building and Fire Prevention Code Appeals



Are you, or someone you know, interested in serving on the [Board of Building and Fire Prevention Code Appeals](#)? The purpose of this board is to act on applications for appeals from Building Official, Fire Official, or Property maintenance Code Official decisions based on the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (VUSBC), the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code (VSFPC), the Virginia Amusement Device Regulations (VADR), and Chapters 61, 64, 65, and 66 of the County Code as specified.

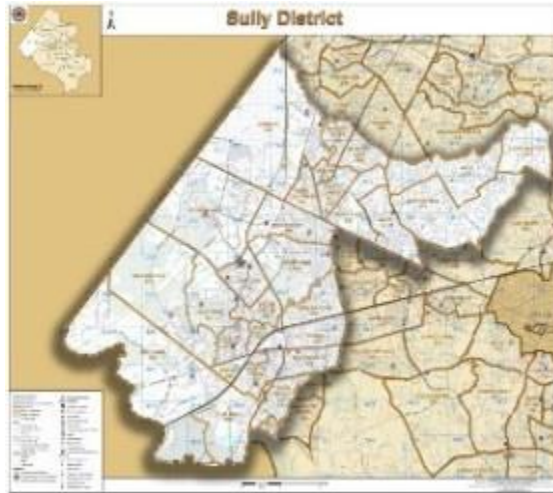


It is a four year term. Meetings are called as necessary. Members shall be selected on the basis of their ability to render fair and competent decisions regarding applications of the VUSBC and the VSFPC. In order to be a member of this board you must fall into one of the following categories: 1) a registered design professional who is an architect; or a builder or superintendent of building construction with at least 10 years experience, 5 of which shall have been in responsible charge of work; 2) a registered design professional with structural engineering or architectural experience; 3) a registered design professional with mechanical or plumbing engineering experience; or a mechanical or plumbing contractor with at least 10 years experience, 5 of which shall have been in responsible charge of work; 4) a registered design professional with electrical engineering experience; or an electrical contractor with at least 10 years experience, 5 of which shall have been in responsible charge of work; 5) a registered design professional with fire protection engineering experience; or a fire protection contractor with at least 10 years experience, 5 of which shall have been in responsible charge of work; and 6) property manager with at least 5 years experience. No official, technical assistant, inspector, or other employee of the Dept. of Public Works and Environmental Services, Dept. of Planning and Zoning, or Fire and Rescue shall serve as a member of the board. Please be prepared to provide a current résumé.

If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact our office at [sully@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:sully@fairfaxcounty.gov), or by phone at 703-814-7100.

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## Sully Land Use Spotlight



### **Upcoming Meetings:**

#### **Planning Commission Meeting -**

The Planning Commission will meet on Thursday, March 1, 2018 at 7:30 p.m. at the Fairfax County Government Center (12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035) in the Board Auditorium. There are no Sully cases currently on the agenda. A link to the agenda is below.

[March 2018 Planning Commission Calendar & Agenda](#)

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## Volunteer Opportunity in Sully



### Medical Transportation

People are missing important medical appointments due to lack of transportation! Are you interested in driving older adults or adults with disabilities to important doctor's appointments? Transport people Monday through Friday, generally between 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Opportunities available throughout Fairfax County close to where you live or work!

**Minimum Age to Volunteer:** 18

**Location:** Opportunities available throughout Fairfax County

**Contact:**

Volunteer Solutions

703-324-5406

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

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## Senior Adults Aging in Place Event



Join us for Coffee

Learn more about...

Shepherd's Center Western Fairfax County

[www.SCWFC.org](http://www.SCWFC.org)

...take a tour of

Overture Fair Ridge

Wednesday, February 28, 2018

Stop by between 2:00 - 4:00 pm

- Take a tour of this new 62+ Active Adult Rental Community
- Learn about SCWFC Services and Opportunities for Seniors 55+
- Visit Marcia Gordon, GEMS By MEG, showing her original jewelry designs
- Opportunity to Win a Door Prize

For planning purposes an RSVP is appreciated  
Gina Cocomello at 703.537.3070 or [GinaC@NVRides.org](mailto:GinaC@NVRides.org)

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Fairfax, VA 22033

[www.liveoverture.com](http://www.liveoverture.com)

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## Emergency Preparedness for Persons with Disabilities, and Access and Functional Needs



For the millions of Americans who have disabilities, natural and human-made disasters present a substantial challenge. Fairfax County is committed to the inclusion of all by spreading the message of preparedness to its residents with disabilities and access and functional needs.

The Functional Needs Registry is a tool for Fairfax County in pre-event emergency planning, resource management, and communicating with people who have identified a functional need. Sign up for the Functional Needs Registry through Fairfax Alerts at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/alerts). Through Fairfax Alerts you also can receive information about severe weather, road closures, neighborhood evacuations, and much more.

Each quarter a newsletter is sent out to the Functional Needs Registry with information and tips about emergency preparedness. [Read the current newsletter](#) (PDF) or [listen to the audio version](#).

To learn more about how to be prepared in Fairfax County, visit the [Fairfax County Office of Emergency Management](#), call 571-350-1000, TTY 711, or send an e-mail to [OEM-outreach@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:OEM-outreach@fairfaxcounty.gov).

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## Community Gardens 2018 Project Application



FAIRFAX  
**Food Council**  
*healthy • accessible • affordable*

The [Fairfax Food Council](#) is a coalition representing government, non-profit agencies, business sector, faith based community, and concerned citizens. At the heart of the Council's mission, is the promotion of collaborative efforts that seek to address food inequities and promote a healthier population in Fairfax County.

The Fairfax Food Council, through a grant from the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth, is seeking to find community partners and/or community focused organizations interested in establishing a community garden project to increase the availability of healthy and affordable food in designated communities. Small financial assistance awards will be provided to successful applicants to establish or expand an existing garden project.

Applicants may be awarded up to \$500 worth of supplies needed for their proposed *Community Garden Project*. Purchases made through this award will be coordinated through the Fairfax Food Council.

**Applications are due Wednesday, March 21, 2018.** You can download the application online at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/food-council/urban-agriculture>.

Application information inquiries should be emailed to Terri Siggins @ [fairfaxfoodcouncil@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:fairfaxfoodcouncil@fairfaxcounty.gov). (Please type “Garden Application Inquiry” in subject line.)

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## Who Are We?

### Annual Demographics Report Now Available



If you're in a trivia league and someone asks, “how many people live in Fairfax County?,” you can answer with confidence: **1,142,888 people**.

This number is now available as part of our annual demographics report, which also features population estimates and forecasts; housing units and their characteristics; residential development activity; and commercial and industrial gross floor area. The information is broken down by Board of Supervisors' districts, towns, planning districts, human services regions, ZIP codes and census tracts.

This report also unlocks the baseline data points as to who we are as a county and community — which then fuels other decisions such as this week's proposed

budget for the next fiscal year and beyond.

There are hundreds of stats to examine in the report, but here are a few noteworthy numbers:

### **Young, Old and In Between:**

- 26.4 percent of residents are children under age 20
- 11.5 percent of residents are age 65 and older
- 62.1 percent are the rest of us in between!

### **Education Levels:**

We continue to be a very educated county, one that attracts top talent and companies here. The latest stats show a 60 percent average for bachelor's degrees or higher among men and women.

### **Household Income:**

For years, Fairfax County has been noted nationally for having some of the highest household incomes in the country. That trend continues based on the latest data, but it's important to note the whole scale of household incomes, not just the top.

### **Rental Housing Expenses:**

According to our new report, \$62,442 is the annual income needed to rent the average market rate one bedroom apartment. The average monthly rental rate for any type of housing in the county is \$1,750.



## View Report and Data:

You can view the full report and interactive data to learn more about the community we call home:

[View Demographics Report](#)

[View Interactive Data](#)

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## County Agency Spotlight



[Fairfax County Animal Shelter](#)

**Director:** Karen Diviney, Ph.D.

## What they do:

The Fairfax County Animal Shelter is Fairfax County's only open-access, municipal shelter. With 4,000 to 5,000 animals coming through their doors each year, the shelter provides a safe place for dogs, cats, and small animals like guinea pigs, rabbits, and pet birds to stay while they wait for their forever families. At any given time, visitors to the shelter can meet cats and kittens, dogs and puppies, and dozens of small animals.

## Services offered:

- [Adopt](#) - Considering adding a new pet to your family? See their available pets [online](#). Adoption fees are structured based on species and age, and range from \$5 (mice and other small animals) to \$175 (puppies under six months of age).
- [Lost and Found Pets](#) - If you have lost a pet, you should file a lost pet report with the Animal Shelter. If you have found a stray pet, make sure to file a found pet report. You can view found animals [online](#), including stray animals currently housed at the shelter and animals who have been found by someone who has filed a found report with the shelter.
- [Community Assistance](#) - The Animal Shelter aims to serve the community by providing assistance to help pet owners keep their pets.
  - [PetHaven Program](#) - Domestic violence and animal abuse are often connected, the PetHaven program offers an option for short-term temporary care for pets whose owners need to get out of a bad situation.
  - [Low-cost rabies clinics](#) - Does your pet need a rabies vaccination? Cost is \$15 per pet, cash and check only. Dogs, cats, and ferrets may be vaccinated at the clinic.

- [Birthday Parties](#) - Birthday party packages are available for kids ages 5-12 years old, for groups of up to 15 kids. Parties include room rental and decoration, hands-on fun with shelter pets, games, and activities, and plates and utensils.
- [Shelter Tours](#) - Group tours are offered for Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and other kids' groups. Tours last about an hour to an hour and a half.
- [Animal Lover's Book Club](#) - The book club meets at 7:00 p.m. on the second Wednesday of every month.
- [Pet Loss Support Group](#) - If you have lost a beloved pet and need someone to talk to, please join the Animal Shelter for their monthly pet loss support group. They are held at the Animal Shelter at 7:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of every month. No registration is required.
- [Surrendering Your Pet](#) - The Animal Shelter is an open access shelter, meaning that they accept owner-surrendered dogs, cats, and other companion animals in need regardless of age, health, or behavior. They accept owner-surrendered animals from Fairfax County residents only.

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## George Mason University Offers Free Speakers to Community Organizations



Is your club or organization interested in having a speaker? The George Mason

University Mason Speakers program is comprised of over 100 faculty and staff who provide lectures and guest presentations on hundreds of topics to organizations and businesses free of charge. Rotary clubs, retirement communities, and businesses that offer “lunch and learns” have been using this service for over 20 years. Favorite topics range from “Joint Health: You Rest, You Rust” to “Forty Years of Exploration of the Surface of Mars.”

For more information, visit: <https://masonspeakers.gmu.edu/> or contact Sarah Gallagher at 703-993-8761; [sgallag5@gmu.edu](mailto:sgallag5@gmu.edu).

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## Animal Shelter Corner



[Meet Coco!](#)

**Age:** 11y 1m

**Gender:** Female

**Color:** Grey / Tan

**Spayed/Neutered:** Yes

**Size:** Small

Coco is a sweet old girl who will undoubtedly become your best friend and shadow! She just needs a little time to warm up to you at first. She is very friendly and affectionate and just loves being around her people. When she first got to the shelter, she had a few health issues, including some very painful bladder stones and a benign mammary mass. With the support of their wonderful vet, their partners at the Friends of the Fairfax County Animal Shelter, and a loving foster home, they have addressed those issues. Coco is now feeling much better and ready to find her new home where she can live out her golden years! Do you have room in your heart and home for this sweet girl?

For more information about Coco, please contact the Fairfax County Animal Shelter by phone at 703-830-1100 or by email at [animalshelter@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:animalshelter@fairfaxcounty.gov).

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