




County of Fairfax, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 21, 2023

TO: Consumer Protection Commission

FROM: Rebecca L. Makely, Director ^{DS} 
Department of Cable and Consumer Services

SUBJECT: Consumer Protection Commission Meeting for November 28, 2023

Please find attached the Consumer Protection Commission meeting packet. The next scheduled meeting is **Tuesday, November 28, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. in Conference Room 232** of the Government Center, 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, Virginia.

Please RSVP with your attendance to Susan Jones by COB on Monday, November 27, 2023, at Susan.Jones@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-324-5877.

Enclosures

cc: Ellicia Seard-McCormick, Deputy County Executive

Susan C. Jones, Consumer Specialist III
Department of Cable and Consumer Services



**FAIRFAX COUNTY
CONSUMER PROTECTION COMMISSION
November 28, 2023 AGENDA**

Call to Order by the Chairperson (7:30 PM)

Remote Participation Motions

Minutes

- Approval of the draft October 17, 2023, meeting minutes

Report of the Director

Old Business

New Business

- Charge Up Fairfax Presentation
- Nominations of Officers
- 2023 Taxicab Biennial Determination Report

Commissioner Matters

Report of the Chairperson

General Interest

- Consumer Protection Commission Calendar
- Consumer Protection Commission Membership
- CAB Statistics
- Community Outreach
- Consumer Resources

Minutes of the Fairfax County Consumer Protection Commission

October 17, 2023

7:30 PM

Government Center
12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, VA 22035
Chairperson Kratovil, presiding

Attendance:

Commissioners: Belkowitz, Gasimov,
Gulakowski, Hargraves, Kirk, Kratovil, Kharat,
Rosier, Springer, Svab

Absent:

Commissioner: Freedenthal, Roark

Staff:

Rebecca L. Makely, Director
Cable and Consumer Services
Susan C. Jones, Consumer Specialist III
Consumer Affairs Branch

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 PM by Chairperson Kratovil.

Minutes

Commissioner Hargraves moved to accept the September 19, 2023, minutes. Commissioner Gulakowski seconded the motion. The minutes for the September 19, 2023, meeting were adopted unanimously, 9-0-0, with Commissioner Belkowitz absent from the vote.

Report of the Chairperson

Chairperson Kratovil had no matters to bring before the Commission.

Report of the Director

Director Makely had no matters to bring before the Commission.

Old Business

Review and consideration of CPC Subcommittee proposal. Chairperson Kratovil stated he received feedback from the Office of the County Attorney. A copy was provided to the Commission with comments to review.

Chairperson Kratovil directed the Commission to page 2, And Further Resolved That: number 1. He stated that the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and the Sunshine Rule suggest a minimum of four members of the Commission to serve on a subcommittee.

A discussion ensued on FOIA, the number of members present, virtual meetings, posting of public meetings, recording of the minutes, authority of the Chairperson, may vs. shall, volunteering for committees, suspending committees if no one is interested, Article VIII of the CPC Bylaws, the number of committees, additional work for staff, requirements for posting minutes, and remote participation policy requirements for committees.

Chairperson Kratovil opened the floor for amendments.

Chairperson Kratovil proposed the first changes:

Page 1 third Whereas add *a majority of* after with the consent of.

WHEREAS, the Chairperson of the Commission may appoint standing committees and a Chairperson for each with the consent of *a majority of* the Commission members present and voting pursuant to Article VIII of the Commission's bylaws; now therefore be it.

Page 2 item 1 And Further Resolved That: change the number from two to *four*. Strike *and one to serve as the Committee Vice Chair* and add after Committee Chairperson *with the consent of a majority of the Commission*.

At the first Commission meeting of each calendar year, the Chairperson of the Commission shall appoint at least ~~two~~*four* members of the Commission to each committee, of which the Chairperson of the Commission shall designate one to serve as the Committee Chairperson ~~and one to serve as the Committee Vice Chair~~ *with the consent of a majority of the Commission*. Committee members shall serve at the pleasure of the Chairperson of the Commission

Page 3 item 7 striking *Vice-*

The Committee ~~Vice~~-Chairperson shall work with the Staff Coordinator, who shall be responsible for taking minutes of a Committee meeting, to ensure the minutes of a Committee meeting are gathered, reviewed, approved by the Committee and posted in the same manner described in the Commission's bylaws, and in accordance with the requirements of Virginia Code § 2.2-3707.2.

Chairperson Kratovil made the motion to accept the amended changes. The motion passed unanimously, 10-0-0.

Commissioner Belkowitz made the motion to strike item two Policy Review Committee and make the Financial Scams and Fraud Committee item two. Commissioners Hargraves and Svab seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 10-0-0.

Commissioner Kirk asked anywhere in the document that stated Chairperson of the Commission to change to Commission. Page 2 item 1 change shall to *may*.

1. At the first Commission meeting of each calendar year, the ~~Chairperson of the~~ Commission shall ~~may~~ appoint at least four members of the Commission to each committee, of which the ~~Chairperson of the~~ Commission shall designate one to serve as the Committee Chairperson with the consent of a majority of the Commission. ~~and one to serve as the Committee Vice Chair~~. Committee members shall serve at the pleasure of the ~~Chairperson of the~~ Commission. The ~~Chairperson of the~~ Commission may make additional appointments during the calendar year as necessary. A committee appointment shall immediately terminate if the individual ceases to serve as a member of the Commission.

4. Matters addressed and initiatives undertaken by each Committee can be self-generated, assigned by the ~~Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson of the~~ Commission, or at the request of County staff supporting the Commission. Any such matters must fall within the scope of the Commission's powers and duties as set forth in the County Code Section 10-3-2.

Commissioner Kirk made the motion to accept the changes. Commissioner Hargraves seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 10-0-0.

A discussion ensued on the correct verbiage on page 2, item 1.

Chairperson Kratovil provided clarification and read the statement below.

1. At the first Commission meeting of each calendar year, the Chairperson of the Commission may appoint at least four members of the Commission to each committee, of which the Chairperson of the Commission shall designate one to serve as the Committee Chairperson, with the consent of a majority of the Commission.

Commissioner Kirk accepted the statement as a friendly amendment and requested the Chairperson provide a motion.

Chairperson Kratovil made the motion to accept the statement as presented without objection. The motion passed unanimously, 10-0-0.

Chairperson Kratovil made the motion that the Commission adopt the revised committee proposal. Commissioners Hargraves and Springer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, 10-0-0.

New Business

There was no new business before the Commission.

Commissioner Matters

Commissioner Svab had no matters to bring before the Commission.

Commissioner Hargraves mentioned receiving a suspicious email and to be aware of phishing scams.

Commissioner Belkowitz spoke on possibly revisiting the provisions on door-to-door solicitation. He emailed staff about a company soliciting in his neighborhood and staff promptly responded to the email. Commissioner Belkowitz stated he has contacted the non-emergency police number in the past with good response from the police. He feels the issue is pervasive in Fairfax County. Director Makely stated the ordinance does prescribe to call the non-emergency police number and the police are to respond, and indicated it is a Class 2 misdemeanor. Commissioner Belkowitz stated to make it more effective the police are going to spend half their day addressing the issue and feels the system is not working. Director Makely indicated Carl Newcomb, Branch Manager, Fairfax County Regulation and Licensing Branch is currently dealing with two court cases on companies who solicited without licenses. Director Makely stated one court case was due to the police observing the solicitor and that person was charged. The other court case was about a signed contract in the home and the solicitor was unlicensed. The police charged the unlicensed solicitor after the fact based on the signed contract. Commissioner Belkowitz stated it would be helpful to get information on the subject.

Commissioner Gasimov had no matters to bring before the Commission.

Commissioner Gulakowski mentioned an article on the City of Alexandria repealing their Panhandling law citing a violation of the First Amendment.

Commissioner Kharat had no matters to bring before the Commission.

Commissioner Rosier stated it was Breast Cancer Awareness Month and to share with others preventative options that are available. Commissioner Rosier mentioned the news articles in the CPC packet and plans to send them to her contacts, especially the one article on credit repair. Chairperson Kratovil said he hoped once the Community Engagement and Outreach Committee is up and running, that committee can take the package of information and distribute to others. Chairperson Kratovil stated credit repair is what he does for his day job and would be happy to do an overview on what that entails.

Commissioner Kirk mentioned the area where he lives has a high crime rate and criminals are not being prosecuted. Two Wells Fargo banks left and closed their ATMs along with several drug stores in the area.

Commissioner Springer had no matter to bring before the Commission.

Chairperson Kratovil mentioned an issue near his home involving a homeless gentlemen camping on a public bike path. He said at times the person gets belligerent and yells. The story was posted in Nextdoor where a person out of concern approached the gentlemen's makeshift tent and told him a bad storm was coming and asked if assistance was needed. The man attacked the person with an umbrella. The person who was attacked spoke with the police at the Mount Vernon Police District and police told him there was nothing that could be done because he was allowed to be there. Supervisor Storck got involved and replied to the story that you cannot camp in public places, the officer was incorrect, and such behavior should not be tolerated.

Chairperson Kratovil made the motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioners Gulakowski and Hargraves seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

CPC Calendar

Consumer Protection Commission

2023 Planning Calendar

November 28, 2023

- January 17
 - Chapter 28.1
 - 2023 Meeting Calendar

- February 21
 - Resilient Fairfax and CECAP Presentation
 - Election of Officers
 - 2023 Items of Interest

- March 21
 - Authorization to Advertise Public Hearing

- April 18
 - Meeting Cancelled

- May 16
 -

- June 20
 - Virginia Senior Medicare Patrol Presentation by Commissioner Freedenthal
 - BOS Engagement
 - Review draft subcommittee outline
 - Future briefings and activity
 - Open discussion and ideation

- July 18
 - Meeting Cancelled

- August 1
 - FY 2023 Annual Report
 - Identity Theft Resource Center Presentation

- August 15
 - Meeting Cancelled

- September 19
 - FY 2023 Annual Report

- October 17
 -

- November 28
 - Charge Up Fairfax Presentation
 - Nomination of Officers
 - 2023 Taxicab Biennial Determination Report

- December 19
 -

CPC Membership

Commissioners

Fairfax County Resident #1
Jacqueline Rosier (Secretary)
Appt. Expires 7/31/2025

Fairfax County Resident #2
Michael J. Roark
Appt. Expires 7/31/2026

Fairfax County Resident #3
Jason J. Kratovil (Chairperson)
Appt. Expires 7/31/2024

Fairfax County Resident #4
Dennis D. Kirk
Appt. Expires 7/31/2025

Fairfax County Resident #5
Dirck A. Hargraves
Appt. Expires 7/31/2023

Fairfax County Resident #6
Vacant

Fairfax County Resident #7
Pratik J. Kharat
Appt. Expires 7/31/2024

Fairfax County Resident #8
Harold G. Belkowitz
Appt. Expires 7/31/2024

Fairfax County Resident #9
Chester J. Freedenthal
Appt. Expires 7/31/2024

Fairfax County Resident #10
Josef Gasimov
Appt. Expires 7/31/2024

Fairfax County Resident #11
Paul Svab
Appt. Expires 7/31/2024

Fairfax County Resident #12
Denis Gulakowski (Vice-Chairperson)
Appt. Expires 7/31/2024

Fairfax County Resident #13
Maurice B. Springer
Appt. Expires 7/31/2024

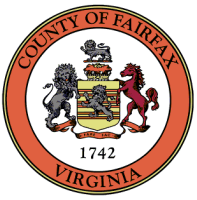
Staff

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Fax Number 703-653-1310
consumer@fairfaxcounty.gov

CAB Statistics



Department of Cable and Consumer Services
Consumer Affairs Branch
Monthly Summary Statistics

10/1/2023 Through 10/31/2023

	Current Month		Fiscal YR to Date	
Cases Received	66		270	
Cases Closed	65		250	
Resolved	46	71%	170	68%
Unresolved	1	2%	19	8%
Referred	4	6%	13	5%
Legal	2	3%	3	1%
Other	12	18%	45	18%
Advice Inquiries Closed	358		1546	
Amount Reclaimed	\$42,601.46		\$228,871.58	

Top Complaint Types

Tenant-Landlord	42%
Retail Stores	14%
Automotive	11%
Housing Services	11%
Medical Billing	5%
Others	17%

Community Outreach

Outreach Event Calendar November 2023

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	# of Guests	Event Time	Staff
11/13/2023	Consumer Knowledge	Robinson Secondary School 5035 Sideburn Road Fairfax, VA		8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	MDP CH
11/14/2023	Consumer Knowledge	Robinson Secondary School 5035 Sideburn Road Fairfax, VA		8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	MDP CH
11/16/2023	Consumer Knowledge	West Springfield High School 6100 Rolling Road Springfield, VA		8:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	CH
11/16/2023	Consumer Connection Northern Virginia Long Term Care Ombudsman Program	Fairfax County Consumer Affairs Facebook		11:00 a.m. - 11:14 a.m.	SCJ
11/20/2023	Consumer Knowledge	Fairfax High School 3501 Lion Run Fairfax, VA		8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	MDP
11/21/2023	Consumer Knowledge	Fairfax High School 3501 Lion Run Fairfax, VA		8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	MPD
11/27/2023	Consumer Knowledge	Falls Church High School 7521 Jaguar Trail Falls Church, VA		8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	MPD CH
11/28/2023	Consumer Knowledge	Falls Church High School 7521 Jaguar Trail Falls Church, VA		8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	MDP CH

Consumer Resources

Resource Items

Fairfax County Department of Cable and Consumer Services

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cableconsumer>

Fairfax County Consumer Affairs

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cableconsumer/csd/consumer>

Fairfax County Consumer Affairs Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/fairfaxcountyconsumer/>

Consumer Connection: Northern Virginia Long-Term Ombudsman Program

(November 16, 2023) <https://fb.watch/olZEgAVR0j/>

Information Items

There was zero work. Families claim Virginia homebuilder took their money but never finished their houses; builder arrested Thursday ([more](#))

Alexandria to Ease Panhandling Restrictions; Fairfax County to Survey Panhandlers at Intersections ([more](#))

Elimination of Vacuum Leaf Collection On Pause in Fairfax County ([more](#))

Fairfax County Moves to the Next Phase Helping HOAs with EV Charging Stations ([more](#))

Fairfax County to help more HOAs install electric vehicles chargers, expanding pilot ([more](#))

Fairfax County wants to make it easier for you to charge your car at home ([more](#))

'There was zero work. Zero' Families claim Virginia homebuilder took money but never finished their houses; builder arrested Thursday

Craig Tadlock with T&S Homebuilders is being investigated after several families filed complaints alleging, he committed fraud in their home construction projects.

Larry Miller, Stephanie Wilson, Larry Sindas

Fairfax County Police confirmed to WUSA9, Craig Tadlock with T&S Homebuilders was arrested Thursday morning after several Northern [Virginia](#) families came forward alleging the homebuilder took their money and failed to successfully build their new homes, claims which the builder denies.

Investigators told WUSA9 Thursday, Tadlock turned himself into the Fairfax County Adult Detention Center. He faces several criminal charges including obtaining money by false pretense more than \$200 and advance pay and larceny. These are charges related to alleged construction fraud.

More than six families say they lost tens of thousands of dollars because of ongoing delays, mistakes, and issues with Craig Tadlock and T&S Homebuilders, LLC. The company is owned by Craig's son, Justin Tadlock.

“If I don't get another dime and this doesn't happen to another person, that's totally fine,” said James Ferrell, who hired T&S Homebuilders to build a new house for his family.

James Ferrell and his wife, Jenna, are both active-duty military attorneys who were planning a move to Northern Virginia from Denver, Colorado in 2021. The two were relocating to the Washington region to fulfill military obligations and needed to be in place by summer 2022. They hired T&S Homebuilders, LLC in November 2021, records show.



Credit: WUSA 9

According to a contract provided to WUSA9, the construction costs totaled \$744,650. Once the building permits were approved, it would take an estimated 24 weeks to complete the house. The new home would provide the Ferrells with enough room for their growing family and extended family members too.

But the Ferrells said Craig Tadlock didn't apply for building permits until 15 weeks after they signed their contract; complicating their move.

"It was literally just a pile of dirt," described Jenna Ferrell when she checked on the progress of construction in July 2022.

She expected the house would be further along.

"I kind of got a bad feeling at that point," she said.

Records from Fairfax County show a building permit wasn't issued until June 23, 2022. For James and Jenna Ferrell, it meant the earliest they could move into their new house would be December. The couple rented an apartment as the delays dragged on.

During the construction process, the couple said they were met with more obstacles. For instance, the builder added space that was not in the original design, or the plans

submitted to Fairfax County for approval. The two also said change orders for materials didn't add up. The Ferrells recounted an exchange with Craig Tadlock.

“[Craig] would come and ask for kitchen cabinets. We'd say, "Hey [Craig], our contract has an allowance for kitchen cabinets. We want the ones that fit within the allowance. [Craig] said, "Well, I'm only going to put these in. I'm not going to put any other ones in, and these are \$10,000. And [Craig] said, well these are ones I'm going to put it and if you don't give me the \$10,000, I'm not moving forward.”

Exhausted, the Ferrells sent T&S and Craig Tadlock a termination letter citing fraud and breach of contract. They ended their relationship with Craig Tadlock and T&S Homebuilders, LLC. They would later learn that they were not the only family with this story.

DELAYS AND CONSEQUENCES

Another Northern Virginia couple, a man, and his wife shared their experience with Craig Tadlock and T&S Homebuilders, LLC. They asked that we not use their name or release any identifying information about their house for fear of retaliation. The couple said they hired T&S Homebuilders in May 2021 to build their million-dollar dream home. But, like the Ferrells, they said they were met with building delays, mistakes, and other issues.

During construction, the couple says contractors left the basement area exposed to weather elements resulting in water damage and mold, which were also confirmed by third-party test results.

The couple planned to move into their house by December but did not because of ongoing delays.

“Thanksgiving came and went, and the house was not even framed,” the woman said.

The couple says the December move-in date was necessary because of an ailing relative whom they planned to care for. That relative would pass away before getting to see the home finished.

“It was heartbreaking that he wasn't going to see this project come to the end,” she added.

The couple said they fired T&S and hired another contractor to finish the house for an additional \$300,000 dollars on top of what was already spent.

MISSING DREAM HOME

“This has been very difficult. I’ve done a lot of praying for me,” said Alan Hill.

Hill and his wife, Joy Dito, hired T&S homebuilders in July 2022. They contracted the company to build a new house for their family in Fairfax County. They canceled their contract with T&S 37 weeks after they said the builder failed to obtain building permits.

“There was zero work. Zero,” said Hill.

The couple told WUSA9 they are out \$400,000 they can’t get back.

“Look inside yourself. Look in your gut. Do you really want to be associated with defrauding people and taking their money?” questioned Dito.



Credit: WUSA 9

The Fairfax County Police Department has been investigating the claims against Tadlock for several weeks.

“These people are lying and conniving people,” said Craig Tadlock, when WUSA9 contacted him by phone.

When asked if all of the homeowners who came forward with allegations were not telling the truth, Craig said, “I’m telling you there’s some in the bunch.”

“These same homeowners that are complaining to you were absentees,” Tadlock added.

Tadlock added that Fairfax County played a role in the delays—suggesting the county was slow to process and approve applications.

Craig added that if families had issues, the contract mandates those issues be resolved in mediation.

“All disputes will use the arbitration process,” states a clause in the construction contract signed by the families.

To date, WUSA9 is aware of one family navigating the mediation process. WUSA9 followed up with attorneys for Craig Tadlock outlining the homeowners’ allegations used in this report. The lawyers said they would follow up after gathering more information. We followed up several times but attorneys for Tadlock have not responded.

For the Ferrells and the other families involved, they’re focused on the future.

After two years, Jenna, James, and their children were able to move into their new house in August thanks to a new contractor and another \$300,000 dollars.

“Our trust has been degraded by this experience. That is the reality,” said Jenna.



Alexandria to Ease Panhandling Restrictions; Fairfax County to Survey Panhandlers at Intersections

The survey will determine whether the panhandlers are homeless and what their work experience is.

By [Rick Massimo](#) October 11, 2023

Alexandria is considering easing its panhandling restrictions on Saturday. And Fairfax County is going to look at solutions to panhandling in an unusual way — by talking with the panhandlers.

The [Alexandria City Council](#) holds a public hearing and will vote on whether to repeal the city's restrictions on panhandling. The change has been suggested in order to align with First Amendment case law and to ensure the city is not discriminating against the panhandlers.

While the restrictions would be repealed, some of the actions of panhandlers could still be considered misdemeanors. According to a summary on the proposed change: “In other sections of the City Code, there are functional equivalents to many of the restrictions delineated in the existing panhandling ordinance that are broadly applicable to all speakers, rather than just panhandlers.”

Surveying Panhandlers in Fairfax County

In Fairfax County, the Board of Supervisors late last month voted to allocate \$75,000 in leftover money, known as carryover funds, to commission a survey of people who panhandle at intersections.

The survey will determine why respondents panhandle, their demographic data, their work experience, whether they’re homeless, whether they’re being coerced and more, [Fairfax Now reported](#). The funding was requested by Chairman Jeff McKay.

The survey comes after the latest attempt to curb panhandling at intersections, led by Supervisor Pat Herrity, who has been leading such efforts for several years. His proposals have included a request to reinstate jaywalking as a primary offense. In 2021, Virginia law made it a secondary offense, meaning it can be charged if someone is being charged with something else as well, but it can’t be the only reason to charge or detain someone.

Herrity and his allies say that panhandling leads to collisions and crime; last year, [a report by Deputy County Executive Thomas Arnold](#) found “staff cannot draw a firm conclusion that panhandling contributes to number of vehicular collisions.”

While panhandling is protected under the First Amendment, [Fairfax County](#) discourages people from giving money to panhandlers who often need more resources to help them than spare change.

It’s not known when the survey will be conducted; it’s expected to take about six months, [Fairfax Now reported](#).

Elimination Of Vacuum Leaf Collection On Pause In Fairfax County

For parts of Fairfax County receiving the county's vacuum leaf collection, a proposal to end the service has been paused.

Emily Leayman, Patch Staff Posted Mon, Oct 30, 2023, at 5:01 pm ET| Updated Mon, Oct 30, 2023, at 5:04 pm ET.



County staff postponed a proposal to end the county's leaf vacuum collection service. (Michelle-Rotuno Johnson/Patch)

FAIRFAX COUNTY, VA — Residents receiving Fairfax County's leaf vacuum collection service can continue to leave their leaf piles at the curb for now.

A county staff [proposal to permanently end the leaf vacuum collection](#) was supposed to be presented to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors this fall. However, staff postponed the proposal, meaning vacuum leaf service will continue through at least the 2025-

2026 winter season. There will not be a public hearing on the proposal in 2023.

The change would have impacted about 25,000 homes in [small pockets of Fairfax County that receive the service](#), which include parts of the Seven Corners, Bailey's Crossroads, Lake Barcroft, West Falls Church, McLean, Dunn Loring, Rose Hill, Groveton, Hybla Valley and Fort Hunt communities.

The pause on the proposal came after a county survey found most respondents support keeping the service, and many need more information about alternatives to manage leaves. Although the service continues for now, the county will do outreach on environmentally-friendly alternatives to vacuum leaf collection that residents can do in their yards.

According to the county, "[seasonal vacuum leaf service](#) is not necessary to maintain healthy trees, has negative environmental impacts, detracts from the County's core residential trash collection service, and creates public safety challenges."

Residents can still [petition to voluntarily withdraw](#) from the leaf vacuum collection service.



Fairfax County Moves to Next Phase Helping HOAs With EV Charging Stations

The Charge Up Fairfax program is taking applications through November 12.

By [Colleen Kelleher](#) October 27, 2023

A pilot program to help condominium and homeowners associations that want to install electric vehicle charging stations is now in its second phase.

The [Charge Up Fairfax program](#), which is taking [applications through November 12](#), aims to guide the county's more than 1,500 HOAs through the process. The county would provide homeowners associations that own common area parking a feasibility analysis that would look at the parking location and the site's access to electricity.

A county memo said staff and consultants will work with a new cohort of five common-interest HOA communities. “County staff and consultants have already been working with five homeowner associations in the first phase of the pilot,” said the memo from John Morrill, acting director of the Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination.

In spring 2024, the county plans to launch the Charge Up Fairfax program at full scale, working with 15 communities a year, according to county documents.

The county hopes that by 2030 that 15 percent of light vehicles are EVs, and that the percentage grows to 42 percent by 2050.

Fairfax County to help more HOAs install electric vehicle chargers, expanding pilot

[Angela Woolsey](#) October 18, 2023 at 3:30pm



Electric vehicle chargers in a parking garage (staff photo by Jay Westcott)

Fairfax County is ramping up [its efforts](#) to help homeowners' associations and other resident groups bring electric vehicle chargers to their communities.

The county's Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination is now accepting applications for the second phase of its [Charge Up Fairfax](#) pilot program, which provides technical and financial assistance to organizations looking to add charging stations in common areas.

"County staff and consultants will work with a new cohort of five common-interest (e.g. HOA) communities," OEEC acting director John Morrill said in

an [Oct. 11 memo](#) to the Board of Supervisors. “This second phase of the pilot will build upon initial participant feedback and lessons learned to bring more informed assistance to additional communities.”

The application window will be open through Nov. 12. In the memo, which was delivered to the board’s [transportation committee](#) yesterday (Tuesday), Morrill said his office hopes to launch the program at full scale next spring.

As the county pushes to expand Charge Up Fairfax, the HOAs selected for the pilot’s first phase in March are still working to get EV chargers into the ground.

Chosen out of nine applicants, including one that later withdrew from the process, the five communities were:

- Penderbrook Community Association
- Hidden Creek Homeowners Association near Burke
- Three Reston neighborhoods — Harpers Square Cluster Association, Nantucket at Reston and the Inlet Cluster Association

Prior to the pilot’s launch, Reston Association [had anticipated](#) starting installations as early as July, but as of September, none of the five participating groups have selected a contractor yet, Morrill said in the memo. Four are now discussing quotes from contractors with their boards.

“There are no further updates beyond what is documented in the memo,” OEEC spokesperson John Silcox said when asked if any progress has been made in the past month.

Though Charge Up Fairfax hasn’t resulted in any new EV chargers yet, the pilot has helped the county and HOAs learn more about the process and obstacles that residential neighborhoods face when trying to add that infrastructure.

The two top challenges that the HOAs have encountered so far are the cost of installing chargers and the limited availability of guest parking, since the stations have to be accessible to all residents and guests, Silcox told FFXnow.

Townhouse communities [will soon be required](#) to provide visitor parking in common areas after the Board of Supervisors approved new parking regulations last month that will take effect on Jan. 1.

The county is paying up to \$10,000 for engineering site visits and feasibility assessments by its consultant, Vybe Energy, for each of the communities, which can also get grants to cover up to one-third, or \$5,000, of their installation-related costs reimbursed. HOAs in [highly vulnerable areas](#) can get up to \$10,000 reimbursed.

However, one of the HOAs has been “reexamining whether to move forward with community charging stations” or have residents install stations individually in their assigned spaces, the OEEC said. Another group is still determining how many stations it will install, and a third has put its project on hold after it had to shift funding to address “more pressing repair needs.”

In addition, two communities are working with county staff to potentially create more parking spaces that could be used for their EV chargers, according to the memo.

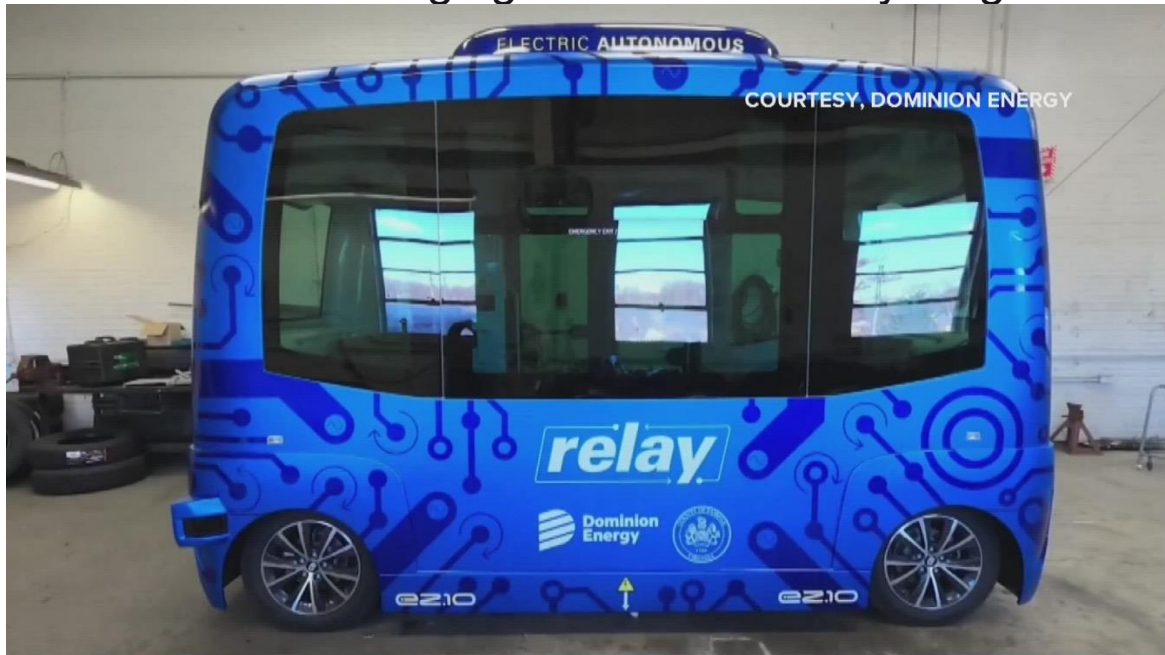
Despite those challenges, the OEEC says interest in Charge Up Fairfax has been strong, with 63 participants joining a Sept. 14 webinar and “dozens of individuals” signing up to receive updates.

When fully launched, the program is expected to support 15 communities annually. The county allocated \$625,000 in its current [fiscal year 2024 budget](#) that will fund approximately two years of Charge Up Fairfax.

“Participants have also indicated that the program materials and the feasibility memo have been helpful with their decision-making and next steps,” Silcox said. “OEEC will continue to work closely with the pilot communities to learn what adjustments should be made to the program before it is launched more broadly in spring 2024.”

Fairfax County wants to make it easier for you to charge your car at home

Charge Up Fairfax will help cover the cost of putting electric vehicle charging stations in county neighborhoods.



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FAIRFAX COUNTY, Va. — Fairfax County wants to help put more electronic vehicle charging stations in area neighborhoods and it's willing to pick up some of the cost.

Homeowner's associations and condo associations can apply to "[Charge Up Fairfax](#)" to become eligible to participate. The pilot program helps to cover approximately one-third of the cost of charging stations, capping off at \$5,000 for most participants.

The application deadline is Sunday, November 12th at 11:59 p.m. Once selected, the county will cover the cost for its' contractor to conduct an engineering assessment, according to the Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination.

HOAs that are selected for Charge Up Fairfax pilot program are eligible to apply for a grant to cover one-third of the expenses for the installation of Electronic Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE), which includes the charging station, cords, hardware, and software.

If the HOA is classified as having high or very high vulnerability in the Fairfax County Vulnerability Index or is classified as disadvantaged in the Federal Government's Justice40 Initiative, those HOAs will be eligible for up to \$10,000 of grant funds.

After the ESVE is up and running, grants will be awarded in the form of a reimbursement. Requests for grants must be made within one calendar year. Charging stations must be located in unreserved parking spaces that are available to residents and their guests. The HOA community will set the prices for services.

In a webinar, Fairfax County officials said that electronic vehicle charging stations are an attractive amenity to home renters and buyers. Officials said most residents would like to be able to charge their vehicles at home. Fairfax has more than 1,500 HOAs.

Fairfax County aims to increase the use of battery electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles to 15 percent of vehicle registrations by 2030.

County officials listed several environmental benefits of electric vehicles. They stated that electric motors are much more efficient at using energy to move a vehicle than internal combustion and the drivetrain of conventional fossil-fueled vehicles. The lack of tailpipe emissions from electronic vehicles results in cleaner air.