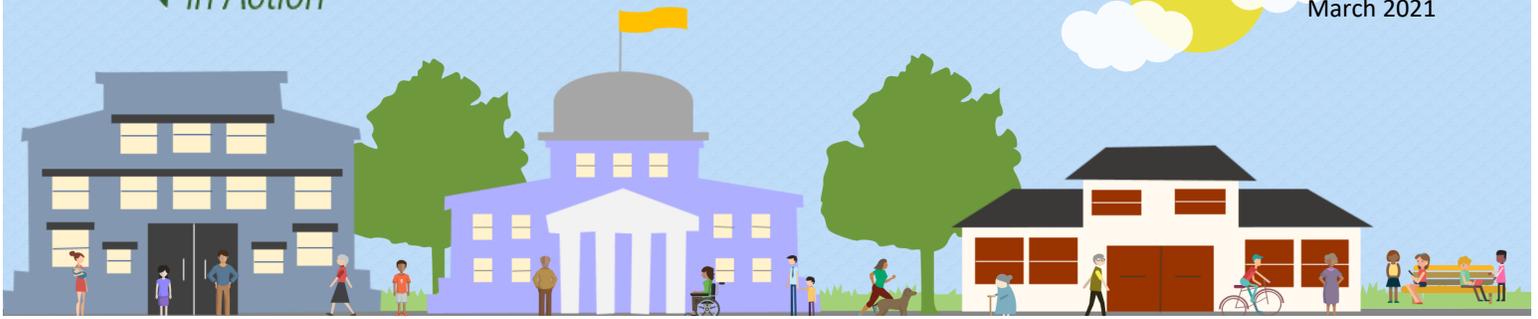




# Common Ground

A Newsletter for the Interfaith Community

March 2021



## COVID- 19 Updates

The Health Department is offering vaccination registration to Fairfax Health District residents ages 65+ and [people ages 16-64 with underlying medical conditions](#), as well as to health care personnel and childcare workers (center-based or licensed/ permitted home-based) and K-12 teachers or staff members who live or work in the Fairfax Health District. Please **visit [Vaccine Registration Data Dashboard](#)** for more information.

Do you need a ride to get your vaccine? Please read [Need Help Getting to Your COVID-19 Vaccine Appointment? View Several Transportation Options](#) to learn what resources are available.

**Get the facts, the vaccine is free.** Watch the Health Department's Nikkia Wilkens interview with Fox 5 reinforcing the message that the vaccine is free and explaining why some providers request insurance information. This segment is one on Fox 5 that will occur monthly and is aimed at dispelling COVID-19 myths and misinformation. Please share as you deem appropriate: <https://www.fox5dc.com/video/906490>

### **OHREP to Host Joint Webinar on Employment Rights and Obligations During COVID-19**

The Fairfax County Office of Human Rights and Equity Programs (OHREP), in partnership with the Alexandria Office of Human Rights, the Arlington County Office of Human Rights, the District of Columbia Office of Human Rights, and the Prince William County Office of Human Rights, will hold a joint webinar "Employment Rights and Obligations During COVID-19" on **Tuesday, March 9, 2021 from 3– 4 p.m. (EST)** During the webinar, representatives from the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) will provide updated pandemic guidance for employers and employees and discuss how vaccination status will affect the workplace. The webinar is free and there is no charge to attend. **Presenters:** Monica Colunga, Outreach & Education Coordinator, U.S. Equal Employment Commission and Brett Beall, Compliance Assistance Specialist, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). **Microsoft Teams Link:** <https://bit.ly/March9JointWebinar>

**Do you want to share your vaccine story?** We are looking for people who are interested in talking about what the vaccine means to them; why they chose to be vaccinated; and why it is important. Opportunities are available to share on video, audio or our blog. If you are interested in discussing your vaccine story, contact the Health Department's communications liaison Allyson Pearce ([Allyson.pearce@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Allyson.pearce@fairfaxcounty.gov)). Watch (and share!) [our Vaccine Stories playlist](#) with your community. We have videos in English and Spanish!

## FCIA/CLC Meeting

**March 10 from 1–2 p.m.**

**We will have a COVID-19 Update from the Health Department.**

**Please use the link below to register**

**<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fciacclc-meeting-tickets-142023252371>**

### Addressing Racial and Social Equity

At the July 28, 2020 meeting of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, Supervisor John Foust, Chairman of the Board's Housing Committee, along with Chairman Jeff McKay and Supervisor Dalia Palchik, introduced a motion to [establish a task force for the purpose of developing a comprehensive plan for the preservation of affordable housing](#). For additional information, review the [Affordable Housing Preservation Task Force Charter](#) and [Preservation Task Force Recommendations](#).

The Chairman's Task Force on Equity and Opportunity presented its recommendations to the Board. You can see those recommendations [here](#), the presentation [here](#), and a list of members [here](#). The report presented was the work of the Task Force, and the report and recommendations were written by them. Following events across the country and the ensuing protests over racial justice, Chairman McKay convened the Task Force to examine the systemic drivers of inequity in Fairfax County. It was also charged to provide recommendations with the goal of moving the County closer to being a place in which everyone can thrive.

The Task Force was created to complement and further advance the existing One Fairfax policy, which I co-wrote with Supervisor Hudgins, and was adopted in 2017 to ensure policy decisions are made with an equity lens. There is no question that inequities, forged over decades of policy decisions on every level of government, exist today. It's our job to do better, re-examine policies, and intentionally make decisions under an equity lens, building on our One Fairfax policy. Following the presentation by the Task Force, the Board voted to send the recommendations to County Executive Bryan Hill for review and evaluation. It also directed staff to schedule a Board discussion at a future Budget Committee meeting.

The Board approved an amendment to the [Workforce Dwelling Unit Policy](#) (WDU Policy) in the County's [Comprehensive Plan](#).

The Fairfax County Student Human Rights Commission (SHRC) holds an annual art and literary contest to create awareness among high school students of fair housing issues and laws and to promote the importance of providing equal housing opportunities for all. This yearly contest is open to all FCPS high school students within Fairfax County. The entries are judged by category and the winner for each category receives a \$300 prize. Students may participate by submitting artwork or written work based on this year's theme: **"Home Knows No Distance."** Contest entries must be postmarked by **March 19, 2021**. The prize is co-sponsored by the Northern Virginia Association of Realtors®. Winners will be recognized at the Office of Human Rights & Equity Programs' Annual Fair Housing Month event in April 2021. Register using this link: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/humanrights/student-human-rights-commissions-2021-fair-housing-art-and-literary-contest>.

### County Budget Process

**The Advertised Budget Plan** is the annual budget proposed by the County Executive to the Board of Supervisors for the upcoming fiscal year, which runs from July 1 through June 30. The Advertised Budget Plan is based on estimates of projected expenditures for County programs, and it provides the means for paying for these expenditures through estimated revenues. The County's budget serves as the documentation of the financial, policy and service decisions for the fiscal year. This document contains some of the best sources of information on County governmental programs and services, as well as key financial information for policy makers and managers.

On February 23, County Executive Hill presented the FY2022 Advertised Budget and Countywide Strategic Plan [Advertised Budget Plan | Management and Budget \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#). To find FY2022 Budget Town Hall Meetings, use this link: [FY 2022 Budget Town Hall Meetings | Management and Budget \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#). To learn more about the budget process and how to be involved visit [Department Homepage | Management and Budget \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#).



A Fairfax County, Va. Publication. 3/21  
To request reasonable ADA accommodations, please contact 703-324-4600, TTY 711.

Faith Communities in Action is supported by the  
[Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services](#)



### Health and Wellness

[Behavioral Health Equity: A Social Justice Matter](#) is being offered Wednesday, March 10 and Thursday, March 11 from 1-3 p.m. by the Virginia Foundation for Healthy Youth.

[Fairfax County DV Network Tier One Training](#). Tier One is a training on the dynamics of domestic violence, the systems that respond to those experiencing violence and available resources in our community. The next round of Tier One trainings will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4-6 p.m., starting March 9 and ending April 1. Trainings will be conducted virtually on GoToWebinar. **All attendees must register at this [link](#).**

The [Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board's Wellness, Health Promotion & Prevention](#) team focuses on ways to strengthen our community's emotional health and ability to handle challenges related to mental health concerns and substance misuse. This month we are focusing on making March meaningful. We highlight National Self-Harm Awareness Month, National Nutrition Month, Sleep Awareness Week and National Poison Prevention Week. We encourage the community to learn more about mental health and preventing suicide. The community can download the [myStrength app](#) and explore some of what is highlighted this month. You can view the [March Wellness Calendar](#) for more information.

The [Marcus-David Peters Act](#) is a comprehensive approach to ensuring that Virginia provides a health-focused, therapeutic response to behavioral health emergencies and decreases reliance on law enforcement responses (to be known as the MARCUS Alert system). The first requirement is a comprehensive plan for statewide implementation to be provided to the General Assembly by July 1, 2021. Voices for Virginia's Children is seeking specific feedback to provide insight for a presentation to the MARCUS Alert Stakeholder group on how we can cater the system to children and youth in crisis. Please respond to the [survey](#) by March 8.

The Virginia Department of Education is accepting comments on its [Standards of Learning for family life instruction](#). Send comments to [FLESOLcomments@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:FLESOLcomments@doe.virginia.gov).

[FCPS Parent Resource Center webinars](#) (additional webinars listed on website):

- Effectively Communicating with Your Child, Thursday, March 18, 10-11:30 or 6:30-8
- Challenges of Parenting in the US During the Pandemic (in Arabic), Wednesday, March 24, 10-11:30 or 6:30-8

[The Partners in Prevention Fund Capacity Building Grant Program is now accepting proposals](#). Get funding, training and technical assistance to implement prevention programs for children, youth and families in the community. Proposals were originally due February 19, but are now being accepted through March 19.

Fairfax County Domestic and Sexual Violence Services (DSVS), Northern Virginia Family Services (NFVS) and the Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse (JCADA) are conducting a survey of the community to understand the needs of children and families as it relates to service delivery during the COVID-19 pandemic. This survey will help the partners form a more complete picture of the needs of families and how they are, or are not, engaging in services at this time. We are interested in responses from anyone who works with children or their parents, regardless of the age of the children served. Please reply to [the survey](#) by Monday, March 15.

### Leadership Development

**FBI Washington Citizens Academy:** The Citizens Academy is an engaging six-to-eight-week program that gives business, religious, civic and community leaders an inside look at the FBI. Candidates can either self-nominate or be nominated. Nominations due March 31, 2021. More information [here](#).

**FCPS** is hiring Classroom Monitor that will provide in-person classroom assistance to a school or center, assisting a virtual teacher with conducting classroom activities; work with individual and small groups of students; operate technology to include cameras, learning platforms and learning tools; help maintain order and discipline and assist in managing the behavior of students; provide supervision throughout the school day including in the classroom, halls, lunch, recess, and specials; perform administrative and noninstructional duties, such as keeping daily attendance; and ensure all CDC/safety protocols and procedures (e.g., fire drills) are implemented and followed. You can apply using this link: [Classroom Monitor | Fairfax County Public Schools \(brassring.com\)](#).

### Community Bulletin Board

The following public announcements are for interfaith meetings and activities sponsored by organizations within the community and are not specifically endorsed or sponsored by Fairfax County. These announcements are provided as a public service in the interest of expanding interfaith dialogue and goodwill. If you have an announcement you would like to share, please contact [NCsinterfaith@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:NCsinterfaith@fairfaxcounty.gov).

**INTERFAITH LEADERSHIP FORUM.** The Interfaith Leadership Forum (ILF) aims to promote pluralism by convening leaders of various religious, ethnic, racial, cultural and gender backgrounds to exchange ideas and generate an action-oriented agenda. It provides a venue where a diverse group of community leaders, scholars, clergy and public officials can engage in in-depth discussions on shared values and explore ways to harness them for social action. ILF is open to all individuals who are interested in advancing their interfaith literacy and serving the community as interfaith mobilizers in their professional or individual capacities. Register using this link: <https://washtheocon.org/for-the-public/interfaith-leadership-forum/>.

**The Center for Practical Bioethics** extends a special Invitation to all frontline healthcare workers for a FREE 2-hour online workshop: **Cultivating Resilience, Compassion and Mindfulness** by Dr. Barry Kerzin, personal physician to the Dalai Lama and Founder of the Altruism in Medicine Institute. This 2-hour workshop provides practical tools for coping with the uniquely stressful demands of the COVID pandemic. Dr Kerzin addresses four elements of **Healing – Resilience, Compassion, Mindfulness and Meditation**. Underwritten by benefactors of the [Center for Practical Bioethics](#), in recognition of the sacrificial commitments of frontline workers across the country. If you are unable to attend the live event, your registration will prompt email notification upon uploading of YouTube recording. **Friday, March 12, 2021 ,3:00-5:00 p.m. (EST) | 2:00-4:00 p.m. (CST) | Noon-2:00 p.m. (PST)** **Registration Required.**

**Interfaith Communities for Dialogue (ICD)** is presenting a series of four virtual workshops on Racism and Systemic Bias, two of which were held in recent months. Save the date for the 4th workshop on March 7, 2021: **Building Bridges to Racial Equity**. For questions or more information, email: [interfaithcd@gmail.com](mailto:interfaithcd@gmail.com).

**March 24 and 25: FREE Pictures with the Easter Bunny.** Come meet the Easter Bunny! He's hopping down the bunny trail and over to the nZone, 14550 Lee Road, Chantilly, for FREE visits and pictures with kids on March 24 and 25 from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Capture these precious moments you'll treasure for years to come. We'll follow COVID safe guidelines you can review at [newlife.church/info](http://newlife.church/info). Enjoy some sweet treats following your visit and your pictures will be emailed to you within a week. For more information, visit [newlife.church/info](http://newlife.church/info) or email, [elinork@newlife.church](mailto:elinork@newlife.church).

Join us on March 28, 2021 for the **Unity Virtual "Spring Fling" 5K/1K Run, Walk, and Roll.**

You get to run your own race, at your own pace, and time yourself. You can run alone or with a small group of family/friends. In the Unity Virtual "Spring Fling" 5K/1K Run, Walk, and Roll event, everyone is a winner. **T-shirts are included with your registration** and will be available for pick-up for local participants or mailed to you if you are out of the area. Register using this link: [https://www.eventbrite.com/e/unity-virtual-spring-fling-5k1k-runwalkroll-registration-133864717975?fbclid=IwAR1UVu60goAQ8b00-kjTn9v96xs12\\_YBT9q4zA-6Hkd3MEJhGa09v\\_Jndvw](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/unity-virtual-spring-fling-5k1k-runwalkroll-registration-133864717975?fbclid=IwAR1UVu60goAQ8b00-kjTn9v96xs12_YBT9q4zA-6Hkd3MEJhGa09v_Jndvw).

**The Spiritual First Aid Summit** The COVID pandemic changed our world in so many ways. As we gather on March 11 to consider what it means to assess and address the spiritual, emotional and practical needs of our communities, we want to take time to process the pandemic together as a community and consider what it means to move from grief to hope. Our friends at National Association of Evangelicals have partnered with us to create a meaningful online experience to close our event day. The special service begins at 4 p.m. (CT) / 5 p.m. ET and will include prayers, Scripture readings and messages from special guests including: Dr. Walter Kim, Francis S. Collins, M.D., Ph.D., Rick Warren and Nona Jones. Along with music from recording artist Francesca Battistelli. Learn more about our event on our [website and register](#) for the Spiritual First Aid Summit to join us.

**CITIZENSHIP TEST PREPARATION ON-LINE CLASS** for permanent residents who are eligible for citizenship. A link for the on-line classes will be sent to registered students. We will use ZOOM software for our classes. Classes are free and class size limited to 10 students. Register online at [www.lordoflifeva.org](http://www.lordoflifeva.org). Class meets Tuesdays and Thursdays 7-9 p.m., April 6- May 20. These classes are sponsored by Lord of Life Lutheran Church in Fairfax and Clifton.