



October 21, 2020

Working to Save the Celebrate Fairfax Fair

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- **Working to Save the Celebrate Fairfax Fair** - On October 14th, the Board received a memo from the County Executive recommending that Celebrate Fairfax be dissolved in favor of smaller events throughout the county. This recommendation was made without input from the Board of Supervisors, the Celebrate Fairfax Board, or the community. At yesterday's meeting, the Board approved my motion to hold decision on Celebrate Fairfax until there is a chance for discussion by both Boards and allow a thorough review of a number of documents outlining the current and past operations of CFI. Celebrate Fairfax is a forty-year long tradition enjoyed by thousands of our residents and draws significant revenue to our local businesses each year. I cannot believe this tradition would be ended without a full review and in favor of a move toward separate, more expensive, smaller celebrations under the guise of the One Fairfax policy. [I encourage you to view the Board discussion on this item during Board matters at the October 20th meeting](#) as well as my thoughts below.
- **Stringfellow and Monument I-66 Ramps Now Allow Full-time, Two-way Travel** - Several years ago, I led the effort to get the I-66 HOV ramps open to non HOV traffic during non HOV hours. Today I am happy to share that the Stringfellow and Monument ramps to I-66 East and from I-66 West have been converted from alternating, one-way travel to full-time, two-way travel as part of the Transform 66 Outside the Beltway Project.

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Working to Save the Celebrate Fairfax Fair

On October 14th, the Board received a memo from the County Executive recommending that Celebrate Fairfax, the non-profit organization responsible for our well-attended and much-loved Celebrate Fairfax and Fall for Fairfax events be dissolved in favor of smaller events throughout the County. This recommendation was made without input from the Board of Supervisors, the Celebrate Fairfax Board, or the community. At yesterday's meeting, the Board approved my motion to hold decision on Celebrate Fairfax until there is a chance for discussion by both Boards and allow a thorough review of a number of documents outlining the current and past operations of CFI. Celebrate Fairfax is a forty-year long tradition enjoyed by thousands of our residents and draws significant revenue to our local businesses each year. I cannot believe this tradition would be ended without a full review in favor of a move toward separate, more expensive, smaller celebrations under the guise of the One Fairfax policy. I encourage you to [view the Board discussion on this item](#) during Board matters at the October 20th meeting as well as my thoughts below.

While there had been a phone call or two into my office to reportedly gauge interest in creating community events in each individual magisterial district, I still found it shocking that there would be a recommendation to dissolve Celebrate Fairfax, not just without a Board discussion, but without a discussion with the Board of Celebrate Fairfax and the community at large. I spoke to the Executive Director and several Celebrate Fairfax Board members and they were just as shocked by this memo and its conclusion as I was. The memo indicates that no

formal action is required by the Board and that any actions relating to tying up the relationship with CFI is largely a logistical and policy decision. It stated that unless otherwise directed by the Board, staff will work to dissolve Celebrate Fairfax. I am dumbfounded by the thought that the Board would eliminate a longstanding tradition without being presented with the details, a discussion and input from our community.

This event started almost four decades ago with the purpose of being the one event that could bring communities from all parts of Fairfax together at one celebration. Its success has been noted over the years providing entertainment for families, showcasing our county services, and allowing Fairfax County businesses to give back to the community. Every year this event brings tens of thousands of residents and guests over the three-day festival. It has become an event our residents look forward to on an annual basis. It is also an event that many of our County employees enjoy attending and volunteering for. In addition, every year Celebrate Fairfax provides grants and scholarships to non-profit organizations and students in our community. Last year, an estimated \$500,000 was funneled into our community as Celebrate Fairfax contracted with many local businesses and individuals to put on the fair.

This pandemic has wreaked havoc on every facet of daily life and Celebrate Fairfax was no exception as this year's celebration had to be cancelled. This is further complicated by the fact that Celebrate Fairfax was in the midst of recovering from years of mismanagement. The Celebrate Fairfax Board, with representatives from some of our most respected companies and non-profits, is developing a plan to revive the Celebrate Fairfax event with a 40th anniversary celebration next summer, provided the pandemic cooperates. Fortunately, some of this year's sponsors have agreed to rollover their sponsorship for the 2021 celebration. Outside of Fairfax County providing limited in-kind services and rent to this event every year, Celebrate Fairfax is self-sufficient and pays for many of the services required to put on an event of this size including police, transportation shuttles and even permitting fees.

As for replacing Celebrate Fairfax with a number of smaller community events in each magisterial district under the One Fairfax policy, professional event organizers will tell you that critical mass is important and that reaching the same tens of thousands of residents will be much harder to sustain and much more expensive to accomplish. The zip code analysis from Celebrate Fairfax attendees show they come from all over the county and the region every year. Separating this event into magisterial celebrations in the name of One Fairfax would defeat the intended purpose of the fair to bring together and represent every part of the County in one place.

Some have argued that this festival should be in closer proximity to our communities through these smaller festivals, but we already have these community opportunities. Our existing community events are staples of every magisterial district from the summer concert series, Fall Festivals, Spring Fests, etc. Every year I look forward to attending our community events just as I'm certain other Board members do in their respective districts. Celebrate Fairfax is different, and it has achieved what it was originally intended to accomplish and that is provide a single showcase for all of our districts in one location. It is an opportunity for the Fairfax County Government to showcase everything it has to offer in one location.

My hope is that the Board will transparently evaluate the viability and value of a unified Celebrate Fairfax celebration, taking into account the recommendations of our appointees on the CFI Board, as well as the feedback of our residents and reach an educated conclusion.

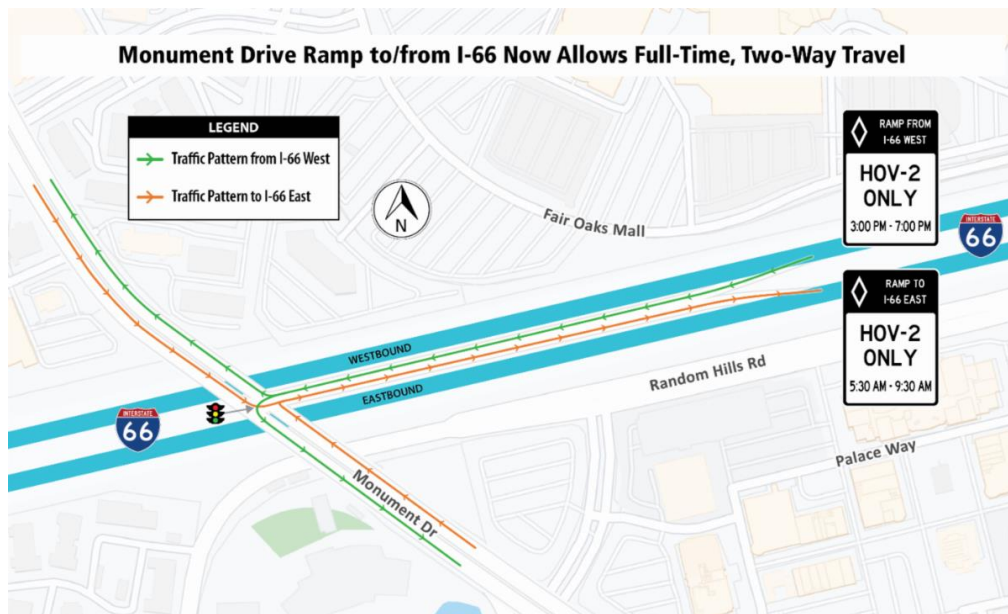
Stringfellow and Monument I-66 Ramps Now Allow Full-time, Two-way Travel

Several years ago, I led the effort to get the I-66 HOV ramps open to non HOV traffic during non HOV hours. Today I am pleased to report that the Stringfellow and Monument ramps to I-66 East and from I-66 West have been converted from alternating, one-way travel to full-time, two-way travel as part of the Transform 66 Outside the Beltway Project. Drivers on Stringfellow and Monument traveling to I-66 East, and drivers on I-66 West traveling to Stringfellow and Monument will be permitted to use the ramps 24 hours a day.

Drivers should expect the following traffic pattern changes:

- The existing Stringfellow Road and Monument Drive ramps to I-66 East and from I-66 West have been converted to full-time, two-way travel. Two-way traffic on the ramp will be separated by flexible, plastic bollards.
- HOV-2 restrictions will remain in place during peak periods. The ramp from Stringfellow Road and Monument Drive to I-66 East will be restricted to HOV-2 Only on weekdays between 5:30 a.m. and 9:30 a.m. The ramp from I-66 West to Stringfellow Road to Monument Drive will be restricted to HOV-2 Only on weekdays between 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Only buses, two-axle, and emergency vehicles will be permitted to use the ramps. Trucks will not be allowed to use the ramps at this time.



Other News & Information

National Museum of the US Army to Open on Veterans Day The Army announced that it plans to open the National Museum of the United States Army at Fort Belvoir on Veterans Day, November 11. Building construction and exhibit installations are complete, and the museum is ready to open its doors to the public. To learn more, [click here](#).

Early Voting is Underway at the West Springfield Government Center!

Early voting started on Wednesday, October 14 at West Springfield Government Center and other satellite locations countywide. West Springfield and the satellite locations will be open from 1PM to 7PM Monday-Friday and from 9AM to 5PM on Saturdays through October 31st. Early voting also remains available at the Fairfax County Government Center in Fair Oaks. Fairfax residents may vote at any early voting site. To learn more about locations, [please click on this link](#).

Ballot Drop Off Box Now Available at West Springfield Government Center

Have you filled out your absentee ballot and would prefer to drop it off in-person rather than return it by mail? The West Springfield Government Center has a ballot drop off box located on-site during the times polls are open from 1PM to 7PM Monday-Friday and Saturdays 9AM-5PM. Drop boxes at satellite offices will be monitored by elections officers and will only be accessible during times the polls are open. Ballot drop boxes are available at all early voting satellite locations.

COVID-19 and Flu Testing Available through INOVA If you would like to get tested for COVID-19 or the Flu, INOVA currently offers testing through vehicle-side testing and its respiratory clinics. The tests may also be accessed by visiting their urgent care clinics. For more information, please refer to the graphic below or [visit this link](#).

COVID-19 and Flu Testing
All Inova Facilities Below Available 7 days a week from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

I have been screened for COVID-19 and have a medical provider's order to undergo COVID-19 and/or flu testing

Inova offers three vehicle-side testing locations across Northern Virginia:
Western: Ashburn HealthPlex parking lot, located at 22505 Landmark Ct., Ashburn, VA 20148. (Flu testing will be available on or before October 10th)
Central: 2990 Telestar Court, Falls Church, VA 22042, parking lot
Eastern: Victory Center parking lot, located at 5001 Eisenhower Ave., Alexandria, VA 22304

I have symptoms of COVID-19/flu and I do not have a primary healthcare provider

Inova offers two Respiratory Illness Clinic (RIC) locations:
• Inova Urgent Care - N. Arlington at 4600 Lee Hwy., Arlington, VA 22207
• Inova Urgent Care - Tysons at 8387 Leesburg Pike, Vienna, VA 22183
• Both RIC locations will offer walk-in evaluations and screening for flu and/or COVID-19.
• Both locations are operating as dedicated RICs and are not providing walk-in urgent care services at this time.
• Providers may also order in-clinic COVID-19 and/or flu testing at these locations.
*Note: With the opening of Inova's western, central and eastern testing locations, Inova Primary Care - Old Town will no longer provide RIC services.

I need to see a healthcare provider today and I do not have symptoms of COVID-19 or flu

Visit Inova's Urgent Care Clinics
- More information on Inova's urgent care clinics, including locations, hours and services offered at - <https://www.inova.org/urgentcare>

WHAT IF?

I don't have a primary care provider but would like to find one? - Visit www.inova.org/primarycare to access a list of healthcare providers.
I'm uninsured or have Medicaid coverage? - Contact Inova Care's Clinics for Families at www.inova.org/cf for Virtual COVID-19 screening.
I'm an Inova Team Member? - All Inova team members must continue to follow existing COVID-19 safety protocol by contacting Team Member Health at 571-473-0160.

50+ Flu Clinics Available At select senior centers in the County, The Fairfax Department of Health and Neighborhood and Community services are partnering

up to offer flu and pneumonia vaccines. Services start October 6 by appointment only. To locate a clinic site near you, please see the flyer below:



We got you covered

Flu vaccination clinics at select senior centers

October 6, 9am - 3:30pm

Herndon Senior Center, 873 Grace St., Herndon
(times also available Oct. 8 & 9)

October 19, 9am - 3:30pm

Lincolnia Senior Center, 4710 N. Chambliss St., Alexandria
(times also available Oct. 21 & 22)

October 26, 9am - 3:30pm

Original Mt. Vernon High School, 8333 Richmond Hwy., Alexandria
(times also available Oct. 28 & 29)

November 2, 9am - 3:30pm

Little River Glen Senior Center, 4001 Barker Ct., Fairfax
(times also available Nov. 4 & 5)

November 9, 9am - 3:30pm

Lewinsville Senior Center, 1613 Great Falls St., McLean
(times also available Nov. 10 & 12)

FOR YOUR SAFETY

Limited appointments
Face coverings/masks required
Temperature checks at entrance
Clients spaced 6 ft. apart
NO covid-19 services offered

Available by appointment only: **703-246-6010**, TTY 711

Flu Vaccine Protects You & Your Community

The flu can be a serious illness, especially for older adults and those with underlying health conditions. An annual flu vaccine is the best way to reduce your risk of getting sick. Flu vaccine is recommended for everyone 6 months of age and older. Fairfax County Health Department and Neighborhood and Community Services are offering flu vaccine clinics at select senior centers for Fairfax residents 50 years of age and older. Take control of your health this season and get a flu vaccine.

Call for details.

Pneumonia vaccine also available. Must be requested when making your appointment.

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/flu

A Fairfax, Va., publication, Sept 2020. For more information or to request information in an alternate format, call the Fairfax County Health Department at 703-246-2411. TTY: 711.



Upcoming Low-Cost Rabies Vaccination Clinic A no contact, low-cost rabies vaccination clinic will be available through the Fairfax County Animal Shelter on Sunday, December 6. Pet owners may bring dogs, cats, and ferrets for their vaccinations. Because there is a high demand for this clinic, pre-registration is required. To sign up and for more information, [please click on this link](#).

County Seeks Community Input on Funding Pool Categories Fairfax County is looking for constituent input for its survey to determine the allocation of funds to local non-profits and community-service organizations. To answer the survey, [click on this link](#).

New PPP Loan Forgiveness Information The U.S. Small Business Administration, in consultation with the Treasury Department has released a simpler loan forgiveness application for Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans of \$50,000 or less. This action streamlines the PPP forgiveness process to provide financial and administrative relief.

- Click [here](#) to view the simpler loan forgiveness application.
- Click [here](#) to view the instructions for completing the simpler loan forgiveness application.
- Click [here](#) to view the Interim Final Rule on the simpler forgiveness process for loans of \$50,000 or less.

NCS Connects: A Way to Keep Students Engaged Looking for a way to keep your children engaged during remote learning? A new program called NCS Connects is offering live activities remotely each weekday from 3-6PM. Offerings include crafts, sports, and art classes. To learn more [click here](#).

Nightmare Alley: Drive-Thru Terror at the Workhouse Looking for a fun, socially distant way to enjoy Halloween? "Nightmare Alley: Drive-Thru Terror" is the latest addition to the Workhouse Art Center's annual "Haunt" tradition, with a contemporary twist. This year's attraction is Northern Virginia's first-ever haunted drive-thru, meaning that visitors can experience all the thrills of Haunt while staying safely socially distanced in their cars. The event runs every weekend in October starting the 2nd and ending the 31st. Specific times and dates (as well as a special promo code) [can be found on their website](#).

JCA 50+ Virtual Job Fair in Fairfax Are you a 50+ jobseeker or looking to transition to a new job? The Jewish Council for the Aging of Greater Washington will be hosting its virtual Fairfax County job fair on December 4, 2020. There will be opportunities to network and attend career workshops. For more information, please see the flyer below or [click on this link](#).

Virtual 50+ Employment Expos



Helping All Seniors Thrive®



REGISTRATION REQUIRED & FREE, please visit: <https://virtualexpos.accessjca.org/>

Instead of holding a single, huge employment expo in Fairfax County this year, JCA will hold several virtual events.

We invite you to join us for free and from the safety of your home.

- Our first Fairfax Virtual Employment Expo for Job-seekers Age 50+ will be held on **DECEMBER 4th, 10AM-2PM**

Retool, Recharge, Reinvent

The Employment Expo is **FREE** and on Zoom.

If you are over 50 and looking for employment, you won't want to miss it and our later events.

At the virtual Expos, you can:

- Network with area employers
- Attend **FREE** Workshops
- Learn new job-search skills

There are multiple employers with available full-time and part-time salaried job opportunities.

- Check our website for a continually updated list of Employers and Community Resources/ Training/Education and information organizations that will join us.
- <https://accessjca.org/employment-expos/>

JCA® (The Jewish Council for the Aging®) Thanks The Morris and Gwendolyn Cafritz Foundation and our Expo Supporters:

- AARP Virginia
- Fairfax County
- Fairfax County Public Schools
- ACE Adult and Community Education
- LTCCC
- Channel 16

On the Lighter Side

As we all continue to adapt to social distancing, a nonprofit organization, Pets for the Elderly, is looking to ease isolation for at-risk seniors by connecting them with adoptable pets in their area. Research has shown that seniors benefit from the therapeutic advantages of pet companionship and Pets for the Elderly has many

successful adoption stories. To learn more about their work, [please click on this link](#).



PHOTO CREDIT: Pets for the Elderly

Four-Legged-Friend of the Month

Jake is a 3-year old Black-Mouth cur dog. He can be anxious and would do well in open spaces with experienced owners who can give him a lot of love, respect, and space. Jake comes with crate and leash training. He is very energetic and does well with dogs of similar temperament. If you are interested in getting to know Jake, [please click here](#) for more information.

