

What is the most important thing that ought to be done in Falls Church City?

Suggested rationales regarding development (25)

Falls Church is blessed with a strong sense of community that is reflected in our civic institutions—our schools, volunteer organizations, government, parks, parades and special events etc. But, this wonderful and distinctive civic life exists principally in our neighborhoods—it is less apparent in our commercial corridors. There, the built environment is not distinctive, but is part of regionwide suburban sprawl of a previous generation. Commercial districts should reflect that life and energy of a community, but here, the built environment of our commercial streets is hostile to life. Our sidewalks are empty because our commercial streets feel unsafe. So, our greatest need is to allow the thoughtful redevelopment of our degraded commercial corridors, in a way that reflects the great community spirit of the City. Our commercial architecture should reflect our values—progressive, walkable, and urban. And beautiful. To get our built environment in sync with our civic life, the greatest opportunity comes in the form of lively, human scaled, mixed use, pedestrian friendly redevelopment. Each time a blighted parking lot is plowed under to make way for a new building that is integrated well into the neighborhood around it and reflects these values is a sign of hope and progress for the city. Redevelopment should occur at a moderate pace. What is moderate? Slow enough to give us the opportunity to learn from each building, and apply those lessons to the next building. Fast enough, that we don't forget the lessons or lose the decision making skills we need as a community to shape these projects. The pace should be sustained across a span of varying market cycles, to ensure diversity of uses, styles, technology, and to allow for changes in community taste. Diversity promotes sustainability promotes diversity...

Keep pushing forward aggressively on redevelopment of our City Center and the Broad & Washington Street corridors. When Phase One of City Center is under way (this spring, I hope), the long-neglected West End deserves particular (and immediate) attention. There is tremendous potential for mixed-use development there to generate new revenue for the City, without significantly impacting many current City residents, since there's very little housing currently in the West End.

Favor pedestrian: encourage people to walk instead of taking their car to go from one place to next or driving their kids 3 blocks down. This means more pedestrian crossings, friendly sidewalks and shortcuts, less cars on the road, more proximity business along Broad Street, more community place to go: movie theatre, swimming pool, a square place with benches to gather...

Careful planning and execution of new development, keeping preservation of the City we love in mind. I don't think we have totally lost our communal aspects; the First Friday events, etc., are good ideas. However, increasing community and a diverse range of people's involvement in city affairs are important.

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Manage change in a way that preserves the essence of why we moved here but yields an economically sustainable City.

More openness in government. Less emphasis on building everywhere. Comprehensive overhaul of the zoning code. Putting environmental issues on an equal footing with cost issues. Remembering that it is probably the schools that brought 90 percent of the population here.

Maintain the excellent quality of the schools and scale back on the density of the City Center projects. The city's schools and transportation infrastructure (congestion and parking) will suffer with the significant influx of new residents to our small town. The schools are the main reason most of us live here.

Ensure that change and development follow guiding and existing regulations and goals set down in our comprehensive plans so that the character and livability of Falls Church is not sacrificed to developer demands.

Do everything to preserve the City charm (what little is left) as it's been since inception. Look to those that have done it right, i.e., Arlington County/Clarendon, Ballston Find a better way to fund City coffers than on the backs of its residents' real estate taxes.

Preserve the village style of the community. Keep the city diverse in economic and ethnic areas.

Feasible and upscale economic development plans need to be formulated and implemented

To retain a small town charm, Falls Church needs to find a niche different from the Roslyn, Clarendon, Ballston corridor and Tyson's Corner.

Maintain a sense of community and history while still improving the atmosphere with new additions.

While increasing the commercial (with and without housing) sections of the City, emphasis should continue to be on the single-family home areas and the parks.

Continue to focus on and celebrate its small-town charm and its superb school system.

New development should provide diversity, services and convenience without destroying village feel....

...Focus on what is best to maintain the character of the city and the services it provides.

Preserve the small town identity of the city.

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Thoughtful development (#1), be careful of traffic, maintain village feel

Have a physical master plan and make developers follow with incentives.

Come up with a working definition of "realistic".

Stop fighting change.

Maintain excellence in the schools.

Stimulate more retail/restaurants on Broad Street.

Development of business and retail.