



NEWS RELEASE

Herndon Announces Departure of Town Manager

Ashton to Assume County Administrator Post in Stafford, VA

Herndon, VA (July 10, 2024) – With “regret and sincere best wishes,” Herndon Mayor Sheila Olem accepted the resignation of Town Manager Bill Ashton, who is departing to assume the county administrator position in Stafford, VA.

“Throughout his tenure, Bill has provided thoughtful, professional counsel to Herndon’s elected officials, principled leadership to town staff, and – on a personal note – invaluable advice to me throughout my years on the Town Council,” said Olem. “His imprint on our operations will be felt long after his departure. We wish him well as he undertakes a new professional challenge in Stafford.”

Ashton joined the Town of Herndon staff in 1997 as the town’s first director of Information Technology and was promoted to the top administrative post in 2017. He has served under two Mayors – Lisa Merkel and Sheila Olem – and has had oversight of town administration and operations during a period of significant growth but also significant challenge, most notably the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on town operations and services.

“As with any life change of this magnitude, my emotions are mixed,” Ashton said. “My family and I are excited about this new adventure. But I will also deeply miss Herndon, its residents and its business owners. Most importantly, I will miss the men and women of the town’s staff, many whom I have worked alongside for more than 25 years and all of whom I am proud to call colleagues.”

Ashton’s last day as Herndon’s town manager is September 10, 2024.

The town manager is Herndon’s chief administrative official and reports directly to the Mayor and Town Council. All departments, including Administration, Community Development, Public Works, Police, Finance and Parks & Recreation report directly to the town manager. An announcement about interim and permanent replacements for Ashton will be made shortly.

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