

cityscene

JULY 2025

CITY RESIDENT DORIS CROCKETT CELEBRATES 100

Doris Crockett has resided in Fairfax for 69 years and owns a home in the Green Acres neighborhood. She celebrated her 100th birthday in May with a party of 70, plus well-wishers, at the Fairfax American Legion. Her sister, Mary Jane, 92, and her brother Bill, 90, attended the party.

Doris was born on May 15, 1925, in Hagerstown, Md., and moved to Fairfax in 1956 when her husband

James accepted a job with Noland Company. The Crocketts joined the Fairfax Swimming Pool, where the whole family enjoyed summer fun. The family enjoyed the city's Fourth of July parade and fireworks display.

Doris and James were members of Saint George's Methodist Church,

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Doris Crockett (center) with her sons James (on her right) and Mark (on her left), daughter Cheryl Cashwell, and family friend Randy Sprouse.



INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

PARADE

10 a.m. - Noon • Old Town Fairfax
(Rain or shine)

EVENING SHOW

6:30 - 10:30 p.m.

Fairfax High School

Stalnaker Stadium (3501 Lion Run)

Fireworks at around 9:30 p.m.

(Rain date for fireworks only is July 5)

fairfaxva.gov/July4

DETAILS
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CITY NEWS

City Government Offices Holiday Closures

Friday, July 4, Independence Day

- Closed: City government offices, DMV Select, General District Court
- CUE Bus: no service

Holiday Refuse & Recycling Collection Schedule

- July 3: Thursday and Friday routes collected
- July 4: no service

Yard debris collection may be delayed July 1-5. Please leave items at the curb until they are collected. Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "Refuse Holiday"), 703-385-7837

City Manager Recruitment

The city council has begun a national search for its next city manager. The city hired Rafelis to conduct the recruitment effort and held their kickoff meeting in closed session on May 27. Raftelis provides a broad range of consulting services to government and utility clients and has a great deal of experience in local government chief executive officer recruitment. The recruitment process is anticipated to conclude in early fall with the appointment of the next city manager.

Borrow, Don't Buy, With the Library of Things

Check out Fairfax County Public Library's "Library of Things" to pick up a new hobby, learn about history, add framed artwork to your home, and more. All you need is a free FCPL card available for all who live and work in Fairfax City and Fairfax County. See what's available at research.fairfaxcounty.gov/lot.

Cooling Assistance Available

Fairfax City residents may apply for "Cooling Assistance" through Aug. 15 to help with bill payments for cooling equipment, air conditioning repair, or the purchase of whole-

house fans. To be eligible, at least one household member must be age 60+, age 5 or younger, or disabled. Info: fairfaxcounty.gov/familyservices/cooling-assistance, 833-522-5582. Residents 60 or older may be eligible for a fan or air conditioning unit through the "Senior Cool Care Program." Info: 703-324-7948

Free Smoke Alarms for City Residents

When properly installed, smoke alarms can double your chances of surviving a fire. Contact the Code Administration Office for a free inspection of your current smoke alarms and installation of new ones if needed. Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "smoke alarms"), 703-385-7830

Farmers Market, Saturdays

Pick up fresh fruit and vegetables, handcrafted goods, and more at the Saturday Farmers Market from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays at 10500 Page Ave. Info: fairfaxsatdaymarket.com

Tip and Toss Standing Water to Fight the Bite

As warm weather arrives, so do mosquitoes, which can spread viruses such as Zika and West Nile. "Fight the bite" by implementing a household mosquito control program. Tip and toss standing water — or treat standing water with safe larvicides — and carefully treat the yard with safe insecticides that do not harm butterflies, honeybees, and other outdoor friends. Info: fairfaxcounty.gov/fightthebite, 703-246-2201

Health Department Offers Walk-In Hours for Clinic Services

Receive select health care services, including immunization, tuberculosis testing, and more, as a walk-in patient at Fairfax County Health Department health centers, including the Joseph Willard Health Center, 3750 Blenheim Blvd. Info: fairfaxcounty.gov/health (select "news and events")

DORIS CROCKETT CELEBRATES 100

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and both were active in teaching Sunday School lessons. Doris was the cafeteria hostess at Green Acres Elementary until she left to work at the Woodard & Lothrop men's department. She would catch a bus to Tysons Corner from the corner of University Drive and Cleveland Street.

Doris enjoys reading, playing bingo, dining out, and getting together with family members and grandchildren.

THE CITY NEEDS PEOPLE LIKE YOU SERVE ON CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Board of Building Code Appeals (four vacancies: one mechanical or plumbing vacancy, one architect vacancy, one fire protection vacancy, and one for city resident); **Board of Zoning Appeals** (two vacancies for city residents); **Commission for Women** (three vacancies for city residents); **Commission on the Arts** (one vacancy for George Mason University representative, four vacancies for city residents, and one vacancy for a city business representative); **Economic Development Authority** (one vacancy for minority or women-owned city business); **Fairfax Alcohol Safety Action Program Policy Board** (one vacancy for city resident); **Fairfax Coordinating Council for Adults and Adults with Disabilities** (one vacancy for city resident); **Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board** (one vacancy for city resident); **Fairfax Village in the City Advisory Board** (one vacancy for city resident at-large member); **George Mason University Fairfax Campus Advisory Board** (one vacancy for city resident); **Grievance Panel Board** (five vacancies for city residents); **Human Services Committee** (one vacancy for city resident); **Northern Virginia Community College Board** (one vacancy for city resident); **NOVA Parks** (one vacancy for city resident); **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board** (two vacancies for city residents); **Planning Commission** (one vacancy for city resident).

To apply, visit fairfaxva.gov and search "boards and vacancies," or call 703-385-7935.



COUNCIL REPORTER



PLEASE NOTE: summaries have been edited. To read the full Council Reporter, visit fairfaxva.gov and click on "City Meetings" or scan the QR code at left.

COUNCIL ACTIONS OF MAY 6, 2025

ITEMS NOT REQUIRING A PUBLIC HEARING

- Approved, unanimously, setting the rate for the real property for or zoned for commercial and Industrial purposes, at \$0.125 per \$100 of assessed values, to be used exclusively for transportation purposes that benefit the city.
- Approved, unanimously, an increase in the wastewater utility rate by 6%.
- Approved, unanimously, setting the stormwater utility rate at \$34.30 per billing unit, a 6% increase, beginning Jan. 1, 2025.
- Approved, unanimously, to take no action on an ordinance amending the meals tax.
- Approved, unanimously, to adopt the General Fund, Capital Fund, Wastewater Fund, Stormwater Utility Fund, Cable Grant Fund, Old Town Service District Fund, Transit Fund, Transportation Tax Fund and ARPA Fund FY 2026 Budgets, as presented by the City Manager, together with the proposed FY 2026 Schedule of Rates and Levies, the FY 2026-2030 Capital Improvement Program, the FY 2026 health benefit contribution rates, a 2% merit increase effective Jan. 1, 2026, for eligible general scale employees, and the programmed annual step increase for public safety employees who were moved to the step system.
- Approved, unanimously, to set the real estate tax rate effective as of Jan. 1, 2025, at \$1.0550 per \$100 of assessed value; set the personal property and machinery and tools tax rate effective as of Jan. 1, 2025, at \$4.13 per \$100 assessed value; and set the personal property tax rate effective as of Jan. 1, 2025, at \$.01 per \$100 assessed value for qualified members of volunteer fire departments or volunteer rescue squads.
- Approved, unanimously, the appropriation resolutions for the general, capital, wastewater, transit, stormwater utility, cable, old town, transportation tax, debt service, and ARPA funds for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025, reflecting all changes approved as part of the FY 2026 budget adoption, immediately prior to this action.

COUNCIL ACTIONS OF MAY 13, 2025

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

- Mayor Catherine Read presented proclamations acknowledging May as Asian American and Pacific

Islander Heritage Month, Mental Health Awareness Month, Older Americans Month, and Small Business Month; May 7 as National Children's Mental Health Day; and May 11-17 as Police Week in the City of Fairfax.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approved, unanimously, the April 22, 2025, regular meeting minutes.
- Approved, unanimously, establishing a Safe Streets for All steering committee, as required by the federal grant, to develop a citywide safety action plan.
- Approved, unanimously, awarding a \$327,628 construction contract to Environmental Quality Resources, LLC, to install a concrete encasement within the Dale Lestina Tributary, regrade the eroded stream banks, and restore two outfall channels.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Approved, unanimously, a special use permit for Eliana's Childcare, LLC, for a daycare operation at 10941 Byrd Drive.
- Approved, unanimously, a special use permit for Learning Tree Bilingual Montessori, LLC, for a home daycare operation at 3936 Providence Place.
- Approved, unanimously, endorsing an application to VDOT for Transportation Alternatives funding for the Norman Avenue sidewalk project and adopted a resolution to submit applications to VDOT for Revenue Sharing funding for First/Second Street sidewalks, Dwight Avenue improvements, and the Northfax East-West Roadway.

COUNCIL ACTIONS OF MAY 27, 2025

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

- Mayor Catherine Read presented a proclamation acknowledging June as LGBTQIA+ Month in the City of Fairfax.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

- Approved, 5-0, adoption of the agenda. (Council member Bates was absent.)

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approved, unanimously, introduction of an ordinance to update the City Code to create the City of Fairfax Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C_PACE) Financing Program. C-PACE is a voluntary financing mechanism that enables private commercial, industrial, nonprofit, and multifamily (with five or more units) property owners to access long-term, fixed-rate financing for energy efficiency, renewable energy, water conservation, and resiliency improvements in both new and existing buildings.
- Approved, unanimously, the appropriation of \$1,047,794 for various federal, state, and other grants received or to be received, but not budgeted, for FY 2025 as well as the use of balance sheet funds or reimbursed funds during FY 2025.

FAIRFAX CITY
ROCK
THE BLOCK

4th Fridays • May - October
Old Town Square • 6:30- 9:30pm
 10415 North St., Fairfax

Live Music / Food Trucks / Beer Garden

2025 SCHEDULE

JULY 25
 Ocho de Bastos



AUGUST 22 Excellent Drivers
SEPTEMBER 26 Cruel Summer
OCTOBER 24 Herr Metal

BRING CHAIRS. NO PETS, PLEASE.

FAIRFAX FUNKY FLEA **2025**
OUTDOOR FLEA MARKET

VTG Clothing, Jewelry, Home Furnishings, Collectibles, Vinyl & More

Last Saturday of the Month
April - November • 9am-3pm
 June 28 • July 26 • Aug. 30 • Sept. 27 • Oct. 25 • Nov. 29

4031 University Drive, Fairfax, VA 22030
 Walking distance to GMU and Old Town Fairfax

fairfaxfunkyflea.com is proudly sponsored by Ox Hill Companies



SOLARIZE VIRGINIA

SIGN UP FOR FREE!

THE solar support program that helps you switch effortlessly.

THROUGH JULY 15, 2025

Get started at solarizeva.org



SOLARIZE VIRGINIA
 Presented by **leap**
 In partnership with **FAIRFAX CITY**

MAKING History

"WWII: Voices of Service,"
 through Aug. 8
 Explore major events of World War II through photographs, letters, and oral histories of everyday Americans in this traveling banner exhibition from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center. Free. Info: fairfaxva.gov, search "WWII"

Ratcliffe-Allison-Pozer Hour Tours,
 July 4, 12, 26
 Travel back in time with a free tour of the Ratcliffe-Allison-Pozer House: connect with the individuals who shaped the City of Fairfax, particularly the impactful legacy of Kitty Pozer, who donated the house to the city. Tours will be offered from noon to 3 p.m. on the second

and last Saturdays of the month through October. **BONUS:** tour the house from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on July 4, following the Independence Day parade. Info: fairfaxva.gov, search "historic tours"

"Revealing the Legacy of Black Communities in Fairfax County,"
 July 13
 Local authors Marion Dobbins and Tom Shoop will highlight previously vibrant Black communities of Fairfax County forever changed through racial, economic, political, and bureaucratic factors. 2 p.m. Historic Blenheim. Free. Info: fairfaxva.gov, search "Dobbins"

"Family Graffiti Event," July 24
 Express yourself with drawings and words by helping create a graffiti mural at the renowned Civil War graffiti site in Fairfax City. Make graffiti art to take home, and see graffiti left by Federal soldiers. 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Historic Blenheim. Free. Info: fairfaxva.gov, search "Dobbins"

Old Town Fairfax Walking Tours, July 26
 Take an hour-long tour of Old Town Fairfax with a knowledgeable guide from Historic Fairfax City, Inc., on the last Saturday of the month through October. The tour starts at 11 a.m. at the Fairfax Courthouse, 4000 Chain Bridge Road. Free. Space is limited; reserve your place through Eventbrite or visit historicfairfax.org/events.

Historic Blenheim Guided Tours, Tuesday-Saturday
 Learn more about Historic Blenheim, famous for its "diary on the walls" left by Federal soldiers on the attic and house walls of the historic home. Tours are conducted at 1 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Free. Info: fairfaxva.gov/blenheim

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

FRIDAY, JULY 4



INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE

10 a.m. to Noon. The parade (rain or shine) loops through Old Town Fairfax. Arrive early; bring chairs and blankets. A flyover by The Flying Circus's World War II-era planes marks the start of the parade. Buy commemorative T-shirts and hats in front of City Hall during the parade while supplies last.

FUTURE FIREFIGHTERS DAY

Noon to 2 p.m. Stop by Fire Station 3 (4081 University Drive) and enjoy children's activities, fire and safety education, and exploring firetrucks.

FAIRFAX MUSEUM AND VISITOR CENTER OPEN HOUSE

11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center (10209 Main St.) will celebrate its 33rd anniversary. Enjoy lemonade, cupcakes, and family activities on the lawn. Rest in the shade or tour the exhibitions inside.

EVENING SHOW AND FIREWORKS

6:30 - 10:30 p.m. Enjoy the evening show and fireworks display at Fairfax High School's Stalnaker Stadium (3501 Lion Run).

- U.S. Army Downrange will perform a free concert from 6:30 - 8 p.m.
- Welcoming remarks and an awards ceremony will take place from 8 - 8:30 p.m. The Vienna-Falls Church Chorus will sing the national anthem.
- Downrange retakes the stage at 8:30 p.m.
- Fireworks will begin around 9:30 p.m.
- Downrange performs from 9:45 - 10:30 p.m.

Schedule At-a-Glance

8:30 a.m. Start of free shuttle bus service to downtown Fairfax

Shuttle bus pickup locations:

- George Mason University's Rappahannock River Parking Deck (4395 University Drive)
- Woodson High School (9525 Main St.)
- Fairfax United Methodist Church (10300 Stratford Ave.)

10 a.m. - Noon Independence Day Parade

11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Fairfax Museum & Visitor Center: Open House & Lawn Party

11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. Ratcliffe-Allison-Pozer House: Free tours


Noon - 2 p.m. Future Firefighters Day

1 p.m. End of shuttle bus service to downtown Fairfax

5 p.m. Gates open at Fairfax High School for Evening Show and Fireworks

5:30 p.m. Start of shuttle bus service to Fairfax High School

Shuttle bus pickup location: Woodson High School

6:30 p.m. Evening Show Begins 
Rain date: July 5 (fireworks only)

8 p.m. Speeches & Awards

9:30 p.m. Fireworks Show

10:30 p.m. End of Evening Show

11:30 p.m. End of shuttle bus service to Woodson High School

No event parking or viewing on Cornell Road.

Bags and coolers are allowed but will be inspected.

Not allowed: Pets, alcohol, fireworks, weapons, and smoking.

Road closures: Lion Run (4 - 11 p.m.)
Blenheim Boulevard (9:15 - 9:45 p.m.)

fairfaxva.gov/July4



LIVE LIFE IN THE ARTS

CITY OF FAIRFAX BAND SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

Free. 7:30 p.m. Thursdays in July.
Veterans Amphitheater
10455 Armstrong St.

Schedule and details: fairfaxband.org

KIDZ KORNER

Free. 10:30 - 11:15 a.m. Saturdays.
Old Town Square.

Schedule and details:

fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts

FUNDAY MONDAY


Free. 10:30 - 11:15 a.m.
Mondays.

Sherwood Center.

Schedule and details:

fairfaxva.gov/culturalarts

CITY OF FAIRFAX THEATRE COMPANY

"The Hunchback of Notre Dame" 

July 18-26.

Katherine Johnson

Middle School.

Info and tickets:

fairfaxcitytheatre.org

Find more things to do at fairfaxva.gov.



Movies UNDER THE Moon

8 PM AT DUSK

VAN DYCK PARK

June - September ★ 2nd Friday of the Month

SPONSORED BY: 

FREE EVENT!
Bring blankets and chairs!

July 11





5 MINUTES WITH... **EUAN ESPELETA** ASSISTANT TO THE SUPERINTENDENT FOR THE FLEET DIVISION



The Fleet Division maintains 700+ city-owned vehicles and pieces of equipment, from snowplows and garbage trucks to police cruisers and utility vehicles. If it has wheels and serves the city, our team keeps it running. Our work is essential for public safety, sanitation, infrastructure, and emergency response. We are proud of our reliable fleet operation that keeps city services moving and the community safe.

I have worked for our city for nearly two years, and I am a city resident. I manage the administrative and financial aspects of the fleet division, including budgeting, invoice processing, insurance tracking, and inter-departmental coordination. I solve problems, manage special projects, and ensure staff have necessary resources for safe and efficient operations.

I enjoy working with different departments and seeing how the city operates behind the scenes. It's eye-opening to learn how many moving parts are involved in delivering the services that most of us rely on every day, like street maintenance, emergency response, waste collection, and more. Being part of that process and understanding how it all connects makes me appreciate the work the city does, and I am proud of my role in making it happen.

This fiscal year, our team will develop a comprehensive policy framework to enhance operational efficiency, reduce costs, and optimize fleet replacement, vehicle utilization, maintenance, training, and staffing.



Multimodal Improvements

As part of the Blenheim Boulevard Multimodal Improvements Project, overhead utilities at Fairfax High School must be relocated. To accomplish this, marked trees will be removed during the summer break, and utility relocation will be completed before school resumes in the fall. The area will be replanted this fall with native tree species that will not interfere with overhead utilities.

The multimodal improvements project consists of constructing a two-way cycle track and a shared-use path on the north side of Blenheim Boulevard, a continuous sidewalk on the south side, and upgraded bus stops and shelters throughout the corridor. Construction is anticipated to begin next summer.
Info: engage.fairfaxva.gov/blenheim-boulevard

2025 FPYC LIONS

YOUTH FOOTBALL AND CHEER



REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!



REGISTER BY 8/15 AND SAVE!

FPYCSports.com/REGISTRATION

TACKLE FOOTBALL
Boys & Girls 7-14 years old • Combine 7/28-31 • Season starts 8/4

CHEER
Girls 6-12 years old • Season starts 8/4







CITY OF FAIRFAX

POLICE DEPARTMENT REMINDS YOU OF OUR

LEASH ORDINANCE






Women Artists at the Sherwood Center

In the United States, 51% of living visual artists are women, yet only 13.7% are represented in galleries. On average, women artists earn 81¢ for every dollar made by their male contemporaries.

"Legendary: An Exhibition of Women Artists," curated by Debra Wright of The Feminist Art Project and The Rogue Art Project, addresses these inequities and aims to rectify them by creating a safe space for women artists to meet, exhibit, and engage with the public. The exhibition features the artwork of prominent women artists from the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area.

"Legendary" will remain on the walls of the Rotary Gallery at the



Sherwood Center through Aug. 30. Admission is free and open to the public.

An opening reception was held May 28 at the Sherwood Center. Wright presented lifetime achievement awards to Rosemary Gallick and



Kathleen Stark. "Legendary" was made possible through the support of the City of Fairfax Cultural Arts, Mayor Catherine Read, and the city council.

CITY JOBS HELPS REFOREST VAN DYCK PARK

City urban forestry staff recently reforested an area of Van Dyck Park with the help of City Jobs, which hires Lamb Center guests to work for the city on select projects and tasks.

This past spring, Urban Forestry worked with the Parks and Recreation Department, Stormwater Management, and Lamb Center guests to plant more than 170 trees in an unused, publicly inaccessible corner of Van Dyck Park. Converting the grass turf area into a forested buffer will improve water quality in the adjacent stream and the greater Accotink Creek watershed while reducing staff labor and costs associated with regular mowing.

The two-day, low-cost project (\$4,700 for the plants, labor, supplies, and staff time) was funded through the city's general fund and plastic bag tax revenue and will



provide pollution reduction credits toward water quality improvements required by the city's municipal stormwater permit. Nine tree species were planted, including wildlife favorites swamp white oak, pawpaw, persimmon, and American hazelnut.

City parks manager Christopher Fleming said City Jobs provides vital assistance with park maintenance, which can intersect with environmental sustainability and stormwater management.

Christina Stump, the Lamb Center workforce development manager, added, "Projects like this allow our participants to care for the commu-

The City Jobs Program, a partnership between the city and The Lamb Center, provides transitional work opportunities to individuals experiencing homelessness in our community. Participants earn a biweekly stipend to work on community improvement projects, and in 2024, more than 50% went on to secure sustainable employment.

nity that cares for them. They're not just cleaning up a park — they're planting roots, reclaiming purpose, and proving to themselves and others that they have value, skills, and something real to offer."

City Hall • 10455 Armstrong St. • Fairfax, VA 22030

The City's communications and marketing office produces the *Cityscene* every month.

Interim City Manager Bryan Foster (bryan.foster@fairfaxva.gov)

Mayor Catherine S. Read

City Council
(mayorandcouncil@fairfaxva.gov)

Anthony T. Amos

Billy M. Bates

Stacy R. Hall

Stacey D. Hardy-Chandler

Rachel M. McQuillen

Thomas D. Peterson

School Board
(schoolboard@fairfaxva.gov)

Carolyn S. Pitches, Chair

Amit S. Hickman, Vice Chair

Lauren A. Bartelme, Member

Kristina M. Cecere, Member

Sarah M. Kelsey, Member

Cityscene includes news about upcoming events and performances, city projects and initiatives, and city council actions. Information is subject to change after publication.

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To request this information in an alternate format, call 703-385-7800 (TTY: 711).



Escanea el código para leer *Cityscene* en español.

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NEW FAIRFAX CITY PARKS FOUNDATION BOARD SEEKS DIRECTORS

The Fairfax City Parks Foundation is a new nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting and enhancing the city's parks, recreation programs, community events, and equity-based initiatives. The foundation will help strengthen and sustain the Parks and Recreation Department's work by building partnerships, expanding resources, and engaging residents in the stewardship of their community spaces.

The foundation seeks five passionate and community-driven people to serve as inaugural directors on the board. These founding members will play a critical role in shaping the organization's goals and priorities, collaborating with city staff and community partners to identify opportunities for growth, access, and innovation in recreation services.

Board directors will help guide the foundation's mission, advocate for park and facility improvements, and assist in fundraising efforts. Directors will serve two- or three-year voting terms and work alongside city leaders to prioritize projects and initiatives that align with community needs. Serving as a director is a chance to make a tangible and lasting impact on the quality of life in Fairfax City and help ensure that all residents have access to safe, welcoming, and enriching recreational spaces.

The foundation seeks one director with a background in accounting, bookkeeping, or finance. No parks or recreation experience is required – just a love of community and comfort with numbers! Your financial skills can help the foundation establish sound fiscal practices and long-term sustainability.

If you're ready to contribute your skills and make a difference, submit a letter of interest to Parks and Recreation Director Stacey Sommerfield at stacey.sommerfield@fairfaxva.gov. Letters should include your background, your interest in the role, and what you hope to bring to the foundation as a board member. Apply online at fairfaxva.gov/parksrec.

