

city scene

JULY 2026

Independence Day Celebration P.5



KEEP BATTERIES OUT OF THE TRASH & RECYCLING!

Improper battery disposal causes fires.



Replacing a destroyed collection vehicle can cost as much as \$350,000, and city collection workers' lives are irreplaceable.

On May 11, a city trash collection crew discovered a smoking trash bag inside the truck's hopper. This posed an immediate threat to personnel and equipment.

A crew member climbed into the truck and removed the smoking bag. His quick response prevented potential injuries and averted significant damage to the vehicle.

The source of the smoke: an improperly disposed battery.

Batteries should *never* be placed in your trash or recycling cart. All batteries contain chemicals that can cause fires. Please take your used batteries to the I-66 Transfer Station Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Facility (4618 West Ox Rd., 703-631-1179).

If you cannot remove a battery from an appliance, tool, or toy, a staff member at the transfer station will remove the battery for proper disposal.

Batteries can be dropped off at other local sites including:

- Lowe's, 4080 Jermantown Road, 703-332-0000
- Home Depot, 3201 Blenheim Blvd., 703-591-6808
- Staples, 9480 Main St., 703-591-9809

Visit locator.batterynetwork.org for other drop-off locations and hours. Be sure to confirm which batteries are accepted at the location and how to prepare them for drop-off.



Girl Scouts Seek Donations for Blessing Box

Girl Scout Troop 55130, based at Providence Elementary, helps maintain the "blessing box" at Van Dyck Park. Built by fellow Girl Scout Allie McGuire in 2019, the box provides free food and toiletries to neighbors in need. Residents are encouraged to add nonperishable items to the box.



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CITY NEWS

Independence Day Closures

Friday, July 3

- Closed: City government offices, DMV Select, General District Court
CUE Bus: Sunday service

Saturday, July 4, Independence Day

- CUE Bus: no service

Holiday Refuse & Recycling Collection Schedule

- July 2: Thursday and Friday routes collected
- July 3: No service

There may be a delay in yard debris collection. Please leave items at the curb until they are collected.

Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "Refuse Holiday"), 703-385-7837

Keep Fireworks Safe

Fireworks can cause fires, injury, property loss, and death. Fireworks that emit a flame, spark higher than 15 feet, or are projectiles are illegal in Fairfax City. If you light fireworks at home, purchase them from licensed merchants, and handle them with care. Please end home fireworks displays by 11 p.m. Attend the free Evening Show at Fairfax High School, where the music begins at 6:30 p.m. and fireworks light up the night sky around 9:30 p.m. *Info: fairfaxva.gov/july4*

Cooling Assistance Available

Fairfax City residents may apply for cooling assistance through Aug. 15. Financial assistance can be applied to 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*

Farmers Market Benefit Available for Seniors

Adults age 60+ who fall under 150% of the federal poverty line — \$23,475 for one person and \$31,725 for two people — may apply for the Virginia Senior Farm Market Fresh Program, which provides a one-time annual benefit of \$50 to use at participating farm markets. Virginia Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services administers the program. *Info and market locations: freshfarm.org/virginia-senior-fmnp, va-senior@freshfarm.org, 855-827-3667*

Know Before You Throw with City Clips

If you want to up your recycling game, sign up for the weekly Refuse and Recycling e-newsletter, with tips, tricks, and reminders on what's recyclable in the city. "Know Before You Throw" is delivered via email and text. Sign up today at *fairfaxva.gov/cityclips* or text "sustainability" to 888-492-1526.

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

Do you want to try a new-to-you board game or a two-player game? Maybe you would prefer a free trek into a state park with a backpack full of adventure tools. Or you'd take up birdwatching — if only you had binoculars.

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. See what's available at *research.fairfaxcounty.gov/lot.*

Saturday Farmers Market

Pick up fresh fruit and vegetables, handcrafted goods, and more at the Saturday Market from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays at 10500 Page Ave. Bring your family, friends, and even your (leashed) pets. Tables are available for on-site dining. *Info: fairfaxSaturdaymarket.com*

Volunteer with Your City

Put yourself in the middle of Fairfax fun: volunteer with the city during our city events and during elections. Volunteering is a whole new way to discover Fairfax City! *Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "volunteer")*

Reminder: Do Not Bag Recyclables

Customers who receive trash and recycling collection services from the city should place recyclables loose in their carts. If you store recyclables in a plastic bag inside your home, please empty the contents into your recycling cart before collection and discard the bag in the trash. Bagged recyclables will be tagged as a recycling violation and left at the curb. *Info: fairfaxva.gov/recycling*

Heads Up, Helmets On in Fairfax City

Bicyclists and passengers age 14 and younger in Fairfax City must wear protective helmets. Helmets reduce brain injuries caused by falls and collisions.

Fight the Bite: Tip and Toss Standing Water

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. Treat the yard with safe insecticides that do not harm butterflies, honeybees, and other outdoor friends. *Info: fairfaxcounty.gov/health/fightthebite, 703-246-2201*

LEASH & SCOOP
IT'S THE LAW



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.



City to Conduct Pickett Road Safety Audit

The city received \$80,000 from the Regional Roadway Safety Program to conduct a roadway safety audit along the Pickett Road corridor between Main Street and Fairfax Boulevard.

This project is in response to more than 200 crashes occurring on a 1.6-mile segment in the past five years. The audit will provide the city with a prioritized list of short- and long-term strategies to address critical safety issues.

Pickett Road is used by drivers, bus riders, pedestrians, and bicyclists. Commercial centers, residential communities, schools, parks, and the tank farm are located along the corridor. Improving roadway safety is a priority for the city due to the mix of uses and the local and regional importance of this corridor.

Next Steps

The city will coordinate with the Transportation Planning Board to finalize the scope of work and select the technical consultant. The audit is anticipated to be completed by June 30, 2027. Funding for infrastructure improvements, educational campaigns, and other countermeasures may be pursued later.

About the Regional Roadway Safety Program

The National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board approved \$500,000 for six Regional Roadway Safety Program projects throughout the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. Since its establishment in 2020, the program has awarded more than \$2M toward 32 projects.

COUNCIL ACTIONS OF MAY 12, 2026

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approved the regular meeting minutes of April 14 and 28, 2026; and a resolution setting the allocation percentage for the personal property tax relief in the city at 39% for tax year 2026.
- Approved the following appointments to city boards and commissions:
 - Commission on the Arts: Melissa Miller, Kenneth Krafcheck, Ann Morrison, Sharon Clark Chang.
 - Continuum of Care Board: James Gillespie.
 - Environmental Sustainability Committee: Lauren Olivier, David Fleischer.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Approved that the city council adopt the resolution approving the Solid Waste Management Plan Update.
- Approved an ordinance and bond resolution authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds of the City of Fairfax, Virginia, in the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$11M, to finance capital costs related to the city's sewer system capital project costs.

COUNCIL ACTIONS OF MAY 26, 2026

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approved the special meeting minutes of May 5 and regular meeting minutes of May 12, 2026; and the Virginia Career Works - Northern Region (Area #11) Consortium Agreement for July 2026-June 2028.
- Approved introduction of an ordinance enacting and authorizing a license agreement between the City of Fairfax and Fairfax Eruv Committee, for the placement of Eruv facilities on existing joint-use utility poles in the public right-of-way. A public hearing was scheduled for June 9.

PUBLIC HEARING

- Approved a request for a special use permit to allow keeping up to four chickens at 4136 Orchard Drive.

ITEMS NOT REQUIRING A PUBLIC HEARING

- Approved the award of a construction contract for \$628,655 to Meadville Land Service, Inc. for construction of the Providence Park and Van Dyck Park outfall restoration projects.



Twelve goats from Nostra Farm, including Bunny, Mater, Betty, McQueen, and Willie (the hungriest goat!), make quick work of invasive plants at Historic Blenheim.



5 MINUTES WITH...

SEAN REDMILES

HISTORIC
RESOURCES SPECIALIST



I have worked for the city since November 2024, but my roots go back much further. I grew up in the DMV and earned my master's degree in applied history from George Mason University. Over the years, I have worked at a myriad of historic sites, including Frying Pan Farm Park, Fauquier History Museum, and the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, to name a few. Working for the city's historic resources division reinforces my deep connection to Fairfax and its story.

To me, historic educational programming is about creating interactive, hands-on activities to connect with the past in meaningful ways. We want our community to see history not as something distant or abstract, but as a shared narrative they write every day.

One of the best parts of my job is watching someone — adult or



FAIRFAX CITY
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



SUMMER 2026

FAIRFAX CITY RESTAURANT WEEK

AUGUST 20-30

Fairfax City Summer Restaurant Week returns Aug. 20–30. Register your restaurant by contacting fairfaxcityrestaurantweek@gmail.com and follow [@fairfaxcityrestaurantweek](https://www.instagram.com/fairfaxcityrestaurantweek) on social media for updates.

child — become captivated and engaged in an activity or from information I've shared.

I'm especially excited about our 250th Anniversary Reflection and Activity Room opening July 29. Visitors of all ages can explore Virginia's history and consider two important questions: How did we get here, and where are we going?

Historic Resources helps bring the community together around our shared history. Our work goes far beyond preserving buildings, objects, or documents. We aim to create frequent and meaningful opportunities for people to connect with Fairfax's stories and see themselves as part of that larger history. We make local history accessible, engaging, and relevant through museum exhibits, public programs, tours, school and family activities, special events, and community partnerships.

At its heart, my work is about helping residents feel connected to Fairfax, to one another, and to the many people and events that make up our shared past.



HELPING HANDS

THE CITY NEEDS PEOPLE LIKE YOU SERVE ON A CITY BOARD OR COMMISSION

Board of Architectural Review (one vacancy for Architect and Business Representative); **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 on the Arts** (one vacancy for city resident); **Commission for Women** (three vacancies for city residents); **George Mason University Fairfax Campus Advisory Board** (one vacancy for city resident); **Grievance Panel Board** (five vacancies for city residents); **Housing and Healthy Communities Advisory Board** (one vacancy for at-large city resident); **Historic Fairfax City, Inc.** (two vacancies for city residents); **Human Services Committee** (one vacancy for city resident); **Park and Recreation Advisory Board** (one vacancy for city resident); **Planning Commission** (one vacancy for city resident); **Regional - Commission on Aging** (one vacancy for city resident); **Regional - Fairfax County Public Library Board of Trustees** (one vacancy for city resident).

To apply, visit [fairfaxva.gov](https://www.fairfaxva.gov) and search "boards and commissions," or call 703-385-7935.



Subscribe to see what you're missing!
youtube.com/user/cityoffairfaxva



60TH ANNUAL INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION

The City of Fairfax and the Independence Day Celebration Committee are once again hosting the annual Independence Day Celebration on July 4. The celebration features a fun-filled two-hour parade marching through Historic Old Town Fairfax, followed by an astonishing evening concert and firework display at Fairfax High School.

This year's Independence Day Celebration theme is "VA 250th," to commemorate the 250th anniversary of our country.

Independence Day Parade

10 a.m. to noon, rain or shine, in Historic Old Town Fairfax. Virginia's largest Independence Day parade features a patriotic flyover, a 250th anniversary helium balloon, floats, marching units, and community groups winding through downtown.

Evening Show & Fireworks

6:30 to 10:30 p.m. at Fairfax High School (3501 Lion Run). Bring blankets and lawn chairs for a night of live music, food vendors, and a spectacular fireworks display (starting at 9:30 p.m.), capping off 250 years of American independence.

Musical entertainment will be provided by NovaKane, known for their "energetic nostalgia"—classic rock, pop, and mashup surprises! An award ceremony will be held 8-8:30 p.m., with colors presented by the American Legion Post 177 and the national anthem by the Vienna-Falls Church Chorus.

All bags will be checked upon entrance. Items that may puncture the synthetic turf are not allowed on the stadium field. No smoking, alcohol, weapons, or animals (except service animals). Thank you to our sponsor, Fair City Mall. *Info: fairfaxva.gov/july4, 703-385-7858.*

Independence Day Lawn Party

Drop by the Fairfax Museum & Visitor Center (10209 Main St.) between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. for the museum's birthday bash! Enjoy treats, games, activities, and performances by the George Mason Patriots Fife and Drum Corps. Tour the new traveling exhibit, "Declaration 1776: The Big Bang of Democracy," and the museum's permanent exhibit, "The Fairfax Story." Free. *Info: fairfaxva.gov/visitors*

Future Firefighters Day

Children can enjoy activities on fire safety and education and have their photos taken with Sparky the fire dog at Fire Station 3 (4081 University Dr.) from noon to 2 p.m. Climb behind the wheel of a fire truck and put out a mock fire!

SHUTTLE BUSES: Free, ADA-accessible shuttle buses will run continuously between Woodson High School (WHS), George Mason University's Rappahannock Parking Deck (RPD), and Fairfax High School (FHS) 5:30-11:30 p.m. Parking at WHS or RPD is highly encouraged; parking at FHS is limited.



Rain date for fireworks only is July 5.

Subscribe to Receive Updates on Blenheim Boulevard Projects

During the next three years, several capital improvement projects are scheduled to occur along Blenheim Boulevard between Layton Hall Drive and Ridge Avenue. Construction on the Blenheim Boulevard Multimodal Improvements and the Willard-Sherwood Health and Community Center will begin this summer. Other projects along the corridor include:

- Accotink Creek bridge deck rehabilitation

- Renovations to Daniels Run Elementary School
- Roof replacement at Fairfax High School
- Outfall restoration at Van Dyck Park
- Police Station expansion

The projects will be coordinated to reduce disruption to residents and other stakeholders; however, construction activity will be evident, especially during the summer months. Construction activity



Blenheim Boulevard

typically includes truck traffic, dust, noise, tree removal, and lane closures.

To receive project and construction updates, please text BBLVD to 888-492-1526.



Declaration 1776: The Big Bang of Modern Democracy, July 1-24

Using primary sources, this exhibit from the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History illustrates how the Declaration of Independence has inspired Americans and others across the world in their pursuit of equality and self-determination. Free. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Monday. Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center. *Info: fairfaxva.gov/visitors*

Museum Explorers, July 2, 16

Youngsters ages 2-4 can explore an object from our exhibits or collections, then enjoy an activity, game, or song connected to the object. Free; registration required; an adult must accompany all registered participants. 10 a.m. Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center. *Info: fairfaxva.gov/visitors*

Historic Ice Cream Making, July 9

Make ice cream the old-fashioned way! Create your historic handmade

ice cream concoction and add your choice of toppings. Free; registration required; an adult must accompany all registered participants under age 16.

10:30 a.m., 11 a.m., 11:30 a.m. Historic Blenheim. *Info: fairfaxva.gov/visitors*

"Forgotten Patriots of the American Revolution," July 11

Listen to historian Ric Murphy speak about his new book, "Forgotten Patriots: Northern Theatre," which uncovers the overlooked contributions of African and Indigenous American men, women, and children who served in the Continental Army and local militias during the Revolutionary War's northern campaigns. The book highlights individual soldiers whose vital sacrifices were omitted from traditional histories. Free, for ages 14 and older. 2 p.m. Historic Blenheim. *Info: fairfaxva.gov/visitors*

History You Can Hear, July 18

Youngsters ages 8-12 can join David Hildebrand, an early American music specialist, for a hands-on program exploring early American music and the instruments that brought it to life. Free; registration required; an adult must accompany all

registered participants. 10 a.m. Historic Blenheim. *Info: fairfaxva.gov/visitors*

Old Town Fairfax Walking Tours, July 25

Take an hour-long tour of Old Town Fairfax with a knowledgeable guide from Historic Fairfax City, Inc. Free. 11 a.m. Fairfax Courthouse, 4000 Chain Bridge Road. Space is limited; reserve your place through Eventbrite or visit historicfairfax.org/events.

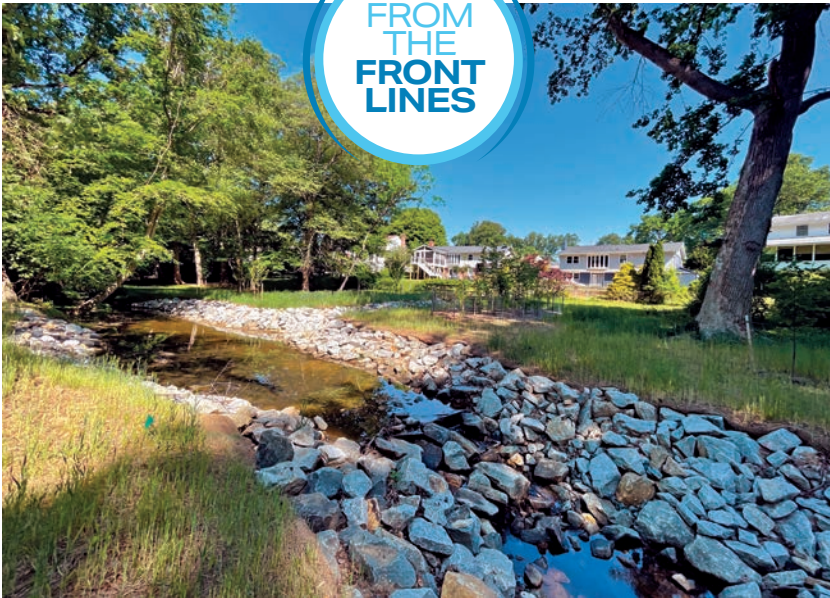
Guided Tours of Ratcliffe-Allison-Pozer House, July 25

Walk in for a 45-minute tour of the oldest residence in Old Town Fairfax. Learn about the community leaders, merchants, and tradespeople who lived in the house during its 200-plus-year history. Free. Noon to 2 p.m. *Info: fairfaxva.gov/visitors*

250th Anniversary Reflection and Activity Room, July 29 – Sept. 9

Explore 250 years of Virginia history in an interactive gallery space designed for hands-on, self-guided discovery. Through engaging activities, interpretive content, and opportunities for reflection, visitors can learn how we got here and where we're going. Free. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Monday. Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center. *Info: fairfaxva.gov/visitors*

FROM
THE
FRONT
LINES



Old Robin Street Outfall Restoration Completed

A project to rehabilitate sanitary and stormwater infrastructure near the terminus of Old Robin Street in the Mosby Woods neighborhood has been completed.

In addition to replacing a wooden bridge, the project executed four rehabilitation tasks simultaneously:

1. An exposed sanitary sewer pipe that crosses a tributary within Dale Lestina Park was encased in concrete to protect it from debris during storms.
2. Eroded streambanks near the encasement were regraded.
3. Two stormwater outfall channels were restored.
4. The site has been replanted with "super clumps" to enhance plant survival post-construction.

The work was completed by Environmental Quality Resources, LLC. The outfall restorations received a Stormwater Local Assistance Fund grant to support TMDL crediting for the Chesapeake Bay.

Impacts on the forest and surrounding community were minimized. Access to the site was carefully planned. Timber mats reduced the impact on vegetation. The project team collaborated with the city's urban forester to preserve as many trees as possible.

Similar projects are planned for Providence and Van Dyck parks.
Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "outfall")



ROCK THE BLOCK

6:30–9:30 p.m. July 24. Old Town Square. Free. Rock the Block with U.S. Army "Downrange" Band. Family-friendly live music, beer garden, and city-restaurant vendor booths. Bring your own lawn chairs.

MOVIES UNDER THE MOON

The Lego Movie. 8 p.m. July 10. Providence Park (10715 West Drive). Free. Bring your own blankets, chairs, and snacks. Sponsored by the Fairfax Library Foundation.

FAIRFAX ART LEAGUE EXHIBITION RECEPTION

3–5 p.m. July 18. The Virginian Senior Living Community (9229 Arlington Blvd.). Free. Best in Show and honorable mentions will be announced. Exhibition runs July 12 – Oct. 4.

CITY OF FAIRFAX BAND ASSOCIATION SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

7:30 p.m. at the Sherwood Center. Free.

July 9: "Summer Days"

with Main Street Community Band

July 16: "Swinging Sounds of the '60s"

with Fairfax Swing Band

July 23: "Summer Nights"

with Main Street Community Band

July 30: "Children's Concert" (activities start at 6:30 p.m., concert at 7 p.m.)

ROTARY ART GALLERY

"Chromatic Currents" through Aug. 21.

Sherwood Center. Free. Curated by Sooa Lim and Debra Wright, "Chromatic Currents" brings together two curatorial perspectives dedicated to Asian and Asian-diasporic artists, functioning

as both a platform for contemporary visual talent and a living archive of resilience, belonging, and collective memory.

EVERY DROP MATTERS.



#WiseWaterDMV



Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

TIPS FOR WISE WATER USE

Voluntary conservation today helps protect our rivers and keeps the public water system strong if dry weather continues.

INDOOR

- Keep shower length to under five minutes.
- Turn off water while brushing your teeth and shaving.
- Wash only full loads of dishes and clothes.
- Fix any plumbing leaks – especially toilets and faucets.

OUTDOOR

- Monitor watering lawns, plants, and shrubs.
- Sweep sidewalks and driveways (instead of using a hose).
- Avoid car-washing, or use a commercial car wash that recycles water.

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The City's communications and marketing office produces the *CityScene* every month.
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Cityscene includes news about upcoming events and performances, city projects and initiatives, and city council actions. Information is subject to change after publication.
Report problems and request services at fairfaxva.gov/resolve.

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

 Escanea el código para leer *Cityscene* en español.

Follow us: @CityofFairfaxVA



Honoring Our Waste and Recycling Workers



Waste and Recycling Workers Week is celebrated nationally in June, but residents are always encouraged to show their appreciation for the refuse and recycling professionals who help keep our communities clean, safe, and healthy. Here are a few ideas to put a smile on our crews' faces:

- Leave a thank-you note or chalk message near carts on collection day.
- Offer a cold bottle of water or a sealed snack during hot weather.
- Follow proper disposal practices to help keep workers safe (e.g., batteries, sharp objects, household hazardous waste, etc.).