

city scene

JUNE 2026



Independence Day Celebration p.5

"BAAAH! BLEAT!" Grazing Goats and Sheep to Remove Invasives at Historic Blenheim



Non-native invasive plants are overtaking the native ecosystem at Historic Blenheim. Controlling invasive vegetation can be an intensive process. The city faced the unique challenge of limiting ground disturbance to protect Blenheim's archaeological resources.

The city's Urban Forestry team identified a natural solution to this problem: goats and sheep! These animals are known grazers and can nimbly navigate dense brush, spending hours at a time eating invasive plants like Vinca, English ivy, and multiflora rose. A small herd

will be deployed to Historic Blenheim this summer to eat the unwanted plants.

Visitors are asked to please respect these working animals. They are not petting zoo animals. Please keep pets leashed on Blenheim's grounds to avoid unwanted confrontations. Visitors may view the herd from outside the electrified fence area, but please do not feed, pet, or otherwise interfere with the animals while they work. For questions or concerns, please reach out to Anna Safford, urban forest manager, at anna.safford@fairfaxva.gov.



AMAZING EXPERIENCES Fishing Derby Returns to Ashby Pond

The annual fishing derby returned to Ashby Pond Conservatory Site on April 11. The popular event had been on hiatus while the pond was dredged and the surrounding area rehabilitated. A brief ceremony was held to mark the completion of the project and celebrate the reopening of the conservatory site. Thank you to event sponsor Fairfax Ace Hardware.

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CITY NEWS

City Government Offices Holiday Closures

Friday, June 19: Juneteenth

- Closed: City government offices, DMV Select, General District Court
- Open: Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center
- CUE Bus: Modified weekday service

Holiday Refuse & Recycling Collection Schedule

- June 18: Thursday and Friday routes collected
- June 19: no service

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

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



Class of 2026 Graduation Ceremonies

Congratulations to the Class of 2026! Fairfax High School will hold its commencement ceremony at 8:30 a.m. June 3 at FHS Stalnaker Stadium. Please expect traffic delays and consider alternate routes. Info: fairfaxhs.fcps.edu

Area schools will hold commencement ceremonies at George Mason University's Fairfax campus through June 17. These events may affect traffic in and around the city. Info: fcps.edu/graduation



Real Estate Tax and Stormwater Utility Fee Due, June 22

Payments postmarked and paid later than June 22 are subject to a penalty and interest charge. Those who directly pay this bill but have not received it should promptly call 703-385-7900. Those who receive the bill, even though their mortgage company escrows for the payment, should forward the bill to the mortgage company. Property owners who directly pay this bill should mail their payments early to avoid delivery delays. Check fairfaxva.gov/mytaxes to confirm payment receipts before the deadline.

Payments are accepted in person from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays, excluding holidays, at Fairfax City Hall, and in the 24-hour secure drop box next to the flagpoles on the City Hall driveway. Sign up for Fairfax City Alert to receive reminders on tax payment dates: fairfaxva.gov/fairfaxcityalert

City's Annual Budget Adopted, Published July 1

The city council on May 5 adopted the FY 2027 operating budget and capital improvements program. The budget will be published July 1 at fairfaxva.gov/budget. Info: 703-385-7870

Development Industry Meeting, June 12

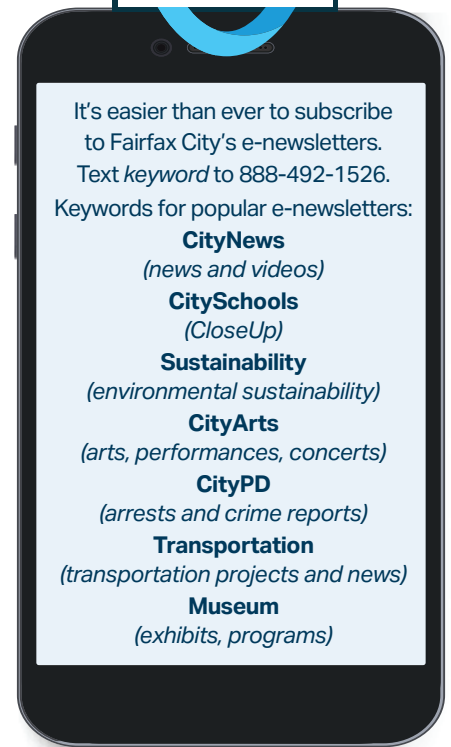
Join your peers in the development community for a meeting with city staff to discuss development in the city. Hear about policy changes and share insights and feedback on the development review process.

The event will be held 9:30-11:30 a.m. June 12 at the Sherwood Center. Free parking is available, and refreshments will be provided. Registration cost is \$10. Register today at fairfaxva.gov (search "2026 Development Industry Meeting").

Heads Up, Helmets On, in Fairfax City

Not only is it a great safety tip, but it's also the law: Bicyclists and passengers age 14 and younger in Fairfax City must wear protective helmets. Info: 703-385-7924

FAIRFAX CITY CLIPS



Volunteer at Special Events, Historic Sites

Put yourself in the middle of Fairfax fun: volunteer during our city events, at city historic sites, and during elections. Volunteering is a fun way to strengthen your community, meet new friends, and make lasting connections in the city. Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "Volunteer Opportunities")

Farmers Market, Saturdays

Enjoy fresh produce, flowers, baked goods, and more at the Downtown Fairfax Coalition Saturday Farmers Market, held 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays through Oct. 31 at 10500 Page Ave. Whether you're walking, bicycling, or driving, it's mere blocks from Old Town Fairfax, with plenty of parking for bikes, cars, scooters, and more. Bring your family, friends, and even your (leashed) pets. Tables are available for onsite dining. Info: fairfaxSaturdayMarket.com



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youtube.com/user/cityoffairfaxva

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 APRIL 14, 2026

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approved, unanimously: Consideration of agreements between the city and city constitutional officers on compensation, personnel matters, budgeting, and general matters of cooperation; Consideration of a resolution approving the city's participation in a proposed settlement of opioid-related claims, similar to previous resolutions adopted by the city.
- Approved, unanimously, the introduction of ordinances: on the classification and taxation of commercial and industrial property, and to establish a tax rate on such property to be used exclusively for transportation purposes that benefit the city; to increase the wastewater rates by 6%; increase stormwater rates by 5%; increase the meals tax rate by 0.5%; increase the transient occupancy tax by 4%.
- Introduction of appropriate resolutions for the FY 2027 fiscal year (pending approval of the final FY 2027 budget).
- Approved, unanimously: authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds in the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$11M to finance capital costs related to the city's sewer system, including without limitation Noman Cole capital costs; amending City Code to increase the amount of the annual license tax to \$0.48 per \$100 of gross receipts related to annual license taxes for those engaged in financial services, real estate services or professional services; and increase the amount of the annual license tax to \$0.30 per \$100 of gross receipts related to annual license taxes for every person engaged in business, personal, or repair service.

CONSIDERATION OF APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND ADVISORY COMMITTEES

- Motion failed, 3-3, to appoint applicants to the Commission on the Arts, Continuum of Care Board, Environmental Sustainability Committee, and NOVA Parks. (In favor: Councilmembers Amos, Bates, and Hardy-Chandler. Opposed: Councilmembers Hall, McQuillen, and Peterson.)

PUBLIC HEARING

- No action taken on the public hearing on the proposed FY 2027 budget.

COUNCIL ACTIONS OF APRIL 28, 2026

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approved, unanimously, the consideration to receive the list of taxes for tax year 2020 to be written off by the treasurer in compliance with state code.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- No action taken on the public hearings on the proposed FY 2027 budget.

ITEMS NOT REQUIRING A PUBLIC HEARING

- Approved, unanimously: an award of a construction contract to Fort Myer Construction Corporation for \$21.7M for the Blenheim Boulevard multimodal improvements project; of a resolution to proceed with the Willard-Sherwood Health and Community Center project, including an addition or improvements to the existing Sherwood Center, and any amendments to the joint development agreement that may be necessary; a resolution requesting the city Economic Development Authority to issue revenue bonds, in the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$22M to finance costs for General Government Capital Projects; a resolution requesting the issuance, sale, and award by the City of Fairfax, VA, of general obligation school bonds, in one or more series, in the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$22M to finance capital projects for school purposes.

COUNCIL ACTIONS OF MAY 5, 2026

CITY COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING: BUDGET ADOPTION

- Set the real estate tax rate effective as of Jan. 1, 2026, at \$1.0725 per \$100 of assessed value.
- Set the personal property and machinery and tools tax rate effective as of Jan. 1, 2026, at \$4.13 per \$100 assessed valuation.
- Set the personal property tax rate effective as of Jan. 1, 2026, at \$.01 per \$100 of assessed valuation for those members of volunteer fire departments or volunteered rescue squads qualifying under the city code.
- Set commercial and industrial tax rate for calendar year 2026 of \$0.125 per \$100 of assessed value, revenues from which to be used exclusively for transportation purposes that benefit the City of Fairfax.
- Increased the rate for wastewater services by 6%.
- Set the stormwater utility fee at \$36.02 per billing unit, effective Jan. 1, 2026.
- Set the meals tax rate for at 4.5%, effective July 1, 2026. (Councilmembers Hall and McQuillen opposed.)
- Set the transient occupancy tax rate at 10.5%.
- Adopted an ordinance amending Chapter 14 (Businesses), Article II (Licenses), Division 2 (Classification of Certain Businesses), of the Code of the City of Fairfax, Virginia, pertaining to a proposed increase in the levy and amount of annual license taxes on certain business classifications.
- Adopted the General Fund, Capital Fund, Wastewater Fund, Stormwater Utility Fund, Cable Grant Fund, Old Town Service District Fund, Transit Fund, Transportation Tax Fund, and Debt Service Fund FY 2027 Budgets, as presented by the City Manager, together with the

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Blenheim Boulevard Projects

During the next two to three years, several capital improvement projects are scheduled to occur along Blenheim Boulevard between Layton Hall Drive and Ridge Avenue. The projects will be coordinated to reduce disruption to residents and other stakeholders; however, construction activity will be evident, especially during the summer months, including truck traffic, dust, noise, tree removal, and lane closures.



Construction on the Blenheim Boulevard Multimodal Improvements project and the Willard-Sherwood Health and Community Center is scheduled to begin this summer. Several other projects are planned along this corridor during the same time, including:

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

A public meeting will be scheduled to discuss the project schedules and respond to questions and concerns. To receive project and construction updates, please text BBLVD to 888-492-1526.

COUNCIL REPORTER

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proposed FY 2027 Schedule of Rates and Levies, the FY 2027-2031 Capital Improvement Program, the FY 2027 health benefit contribution rates, a 2.0% market rate adjustment to general pay scales effective July 1, 2026, a 1.0% cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for general employees effective July 1, 2026, a 2.0% COLA for public safety employees effective July 1, 2026, a 3.0% salary adjustment increase effective Jan. 1, 2027, for eligible general scale employees, and the programmed annual step increase for public safety employees.

- Approved the appropriation resolutions for all funds listed above for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2026, reflecting all changes approved as part of the FY 2027 budget adoption.



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); **Grievance Panel Board** (five vacancies for city residents); **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 - Fairfax County Public Library Board of Trustees** (one vacancy for city resident).

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



New Energy Outreach Coordinator Hired to Lead Grant-Funded Efficiency Initiative

Mackay Pierce has joined the Public Works Department as the city's new energy outreach coordinator. This part-time, one-year position is funded through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program.

Pierce will lead the implementation of a new Residential Energy Audit Program, which is expected to provide approximately 100 free or reduced-cost home energy



audits for city residents. He will also develop and carry out a comprehensive outreach and education strategy to help residents understand energy-saving opportunities, connect them with available rebates and programs, and encourage cost-saving and energy-efficient improvements. He will emphasize community engagement, equity, and making technical energy information accessible and actionable.

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INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION



A Hometown Celebration JUNE 28

Join us for an afternoon of music and community on June 28 at the Sherwood Center. The Hometown Celebration kicks off Fairfax City's July 4th festivities. Beginning at 2 p.m., there will be children's activities, games, and treats. At 3 p.m., sit back, relax, and enjoy a performance by the award-winning City of Fairfax Band.

Additionally, the Independence Day Celebration Committee will be selling its official 2026 July 4th commemorative T-shirts. Cash, check, and credit cards are accepted.

This event is sponsored by the City of Fairfax Band Association, the Independence Day Celebration Committee, and the City of Fairfax Parks and Recreation Department.

60th Annual Independence Day Celebration Parade and Evening Show

JULY 4

The City of Fairfax and the Independence Day Celebration Committee will host the annual Independence Day Parade and Evening Show & Fireworks on July 4. The celebration features a fun-filled, two-hour parade marching through historic Old Town Fairfax City from 10 a.m. to noon. An exciting evening concert featuring the band NovaKane and a fireworks display follows at Fairfax High School from 6:30-10:30 p.m. (Rain date for fireworks is July 5.) This year's theme, "VA 250th," commemorates the 250th anniversary of our country.

All bags will be checked at stadium entrances. Items that may puncture the synthetic turf are not allowed on the field.

No smoking, alcohol, weapons, or animals (except for service animals) allowed. *Info: fairfaxva.gov/July 4, 703-385-7858*



IDCC T-Shirt Sale

Purchase a commemorative 250th T-shirt for the July 4 celebrations! The Independence Day Celebration Committee will be selling T-shirts with the 2026 logo/theme, "VA 250." T-shirts will be available in tie-dye and light-blue colors, while supplies last. Navy trucker hats and visors will also be available for purchase, while supplies last.

- ★ 10 a.m. to noon, June 6 at City Hall
- ★ 10 a.m. to noon, June 13 at City Hall
- ★ 10 a.m. to noon, June 26 at Old Town Square
- ★ 2-3 p.m., June 28 at the Sherwood Center, during the Hometown Celebration

MAKING *History*

Give Me Liberty: Virginia and the Forging of a Nation, through June 8
Explore the unique and essential people, events, and sites in Virginia that helped bring liberty and democracy to a nation. This exhibit, commemorating the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, will highlight the complex, diverse, and inspiring history of Virginia, which is also the nation's story. Free. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Monday. Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center. *Info: fairfaxva.gov/visitors*

Museum Explorers, June 4, 18
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. 10:45 a.m. Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center. "
Info: fairfaxva.gov/visitors

Cooking Through History, June 6
Foodies age 6 and older are invited to tour the history of a specific dish to learn about communities and culture, take part in an activity, and cook a dish they can sample. Free. Registration required; an adult must accompany all registered participants under age 16. 10 a.m. Historic Blenheim. *Info: fairfaxva.gov/visitors*

250 Years of Maps! June 23
Learn how to read a map, use a compass, and even create your own map at this hands-on event. Youngsters ages 7-13 can explore 250 years of maps in Virginia and Fairfax and discuss how maps have changed over the centuries. Free. Registration required; an adult must accompany all registered participants. 10 a.m. Historic Blenheim. *Info: fairfaxva.gov/visitors*

Corsets and Contraband: African American Women's Labor in the Fight for Freedom, June 27

Explore the courageous contributions of African American Women during the Civil War at a drop-in program. Engage with living historians sharing the remarkable stories of The Clothesline Spy, The Confederate White House Black Dispatcher, and The Ironclad Informant, and discover how "women's work" was a vital tool of the resistance. Free. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Historic Blenheim. *Info: fairfaxva.gov/visitors*

Guided Tours of Ratcliffe-Allison-Pozer House, June 27

Walk in for a 45-minute tour of the oldest residence in Old Town Fairfax on the last Saturday of the month through August. 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. Ratcliffe-Allison-Pozer House. *Info: fairfaxva.gov/visitors*

Old Town Fairfax Walking Tours, June 27

Take a 90-minute tour of Old Town Fairfax with a knowledgeable guide from Historic Fairfax City, Inc., on the last Saturday of the month through October. Free. 11 a.m. Fairfax Courthouse, 4000 Chain Bridge Road. Space is limited; reserve your place through Eventbrite or visit historicfairfax.org/events.

Independence Day Lawn Party, July 4

Drop by the Fairfax Museum & Visitor Center on July 4, the museum's own birthday, for a 250th anniversary 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. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. *Info: fairfaxva.gov/visitors*

The Fairfax Story

Explore "The Fairfax Story" through artifacts, maps, images, and fun facts in a permanent exhibit that tells the story of the people who have called Fairfax home. Free. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday-Monday. Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center. *Info: fairfaxva.gov/visitors*



Will Quinn Hired to Lead Cultural Arts

Will Quinn has joined the Parks and Recreation Department as the new cultural arts manager. Having grown up in the Fairfax area, Quinn's passion for the arts was shaped by the community he has returned to serve. He joined the city following his tenure at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts, where he served as director of theater programming. In that role, he oversaw national Broadway tours, acted as general manager for the Broadway Center Stage series, and led community partnership initiatives that strengthened ties with local arts organizations.

Energy Outreach Coordinator

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In addition, Pierce will coordinate with regional partners, utilities, and nonprofit organizations to expand our residents' access to energy programs, while tracking participation and outcomes to meet grant reporting requirements. This work will directly advance the city's sustainability and climate goals by reducing energy consumption, lowering household energy costs, cutting greenhouse gas emissions, and expanding equitable access to energy efficiency programs across the community.



MOVIES UNDER THE MOON

8 p.m. or dusk, June 12: "Zootopia" at Pat Rodio Park, 3800 Keith Ave.

Enjoy an outdoor movie with your family and friends in one of our gorgeous city parks! Free admission. Bring your own blankets, chairs, and favorite movie snacks. Movies will be shown in different parks on the second Friday of each month through September.

ARTSCREEN, JUNE 12

"Jazz on a Summer's Day"

7 p.m. June 12. Sherwood Center. Free. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Complimentary popcorn, snacks, and refreshments. Sponsored by the City of Fairfax Commission on the Arts.

BEGINNERS PASTEL CLASS, JUNE 13

1:30-3:30 p.m. June 13. Green Acres Center, room 113. Fairfax Art League's Karina Moser teaches pastels. Free. Reserve your spot online at fairfaxartleague.net/events/2026/workshop-jun13.

ROTARY ART GALLERY

"Chromatic Currents" is on display at the Sherwood Center through Aug. 21. Free. An opening reception will be held 5:30-7:30 p.m. June 25.



ARBOR DAY



Volunteers planted 85 seedlings (10 different native species) to expand the forested buffer along Accotink Creek that helps protect the stream, improve ecosystem health, and provide flood control.

On April 25, the city celebrated 40 years as a Tree City USA with an Arbor Day tree planting at Pat Rodio Park.

More than 40 volunteers of all ages joined a park-wide effort to plant 91 trees in just a few short hours that Saturday morning. Planted native tree species included willow oak, black gum, common alder, American persimmon, witch hazel, Northern hackberry, boxelder, river birch, American hazelnut, silky willow, American sycamore, and silky dogwood. The new trees will add much-needed shade for park users and expand the forested area along Accotink Creek to help protect water resources.

The city also distributed 75 native trees to residents at the through our free tree giveaway with the Arbor Day Foundation.

Find Out if Solar Power Is Right for You



The city is participating in the Solarize Virginia program, a regional initiative led by the nonprofit Local Energy Alliance Program (LEAP) that helps residents and businesses transition to solar energy. The 2026 campaign runs through July 15.

Solarize Virginia is a community-based "group purchasing" program designed to make going solar easier and more affordable. The program provides a streamlined, one-stop process that includes free solar assessments, education, and access to pre-vetted installers offering discounted pricing through a competitive bidding process.

Residents benefit from:

- Lower costs through bulk purchasing and pre-negotiated pricing (typically below market rates)
- Trusted installers that have been competitively selected and vetted
- Free, no-obligation solar assessments to determine if your home is a good fit
- Ongoing support and education to guide you from initial interest through installation

FREE SOLAR ASSESSMENT

Participating is simple and risk-free. Property owners can sign up online to receive a free solar assessment. If your home is suitable, you are connected with a vetted installer who provides a customized proposal. There is no obligation to proceed unless you choose to sign a contract.

Learn more or sign up at solarizeva.org.

The city's continued participation in Solarize Virginia supports sustainability goals by expanding access to clean energy, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and helping residents lower long-term energy costs.

FREE WEBINAR, JUNE 10

Thinking about going solar but not sure where to start? Homeowners and businesses can learn more at a free Solarize Virginia webinar presented by LEAP. The webinar is scheduled from 2-3 p.m. on June 10. Learn how solar works, what it costs, how financing options have evolved, and what to expect, from installation to long-term savings. Get the tools to make an informed decision, ask questions, and connect with trusted local resources. Solarize Virginia guides Fairfax City homeowners through all of this, making it easy to see if solar is right for your home. Sign up for Solarize Virginia by LEAP at solarizeva.org.

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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.

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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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ROCK THE BLOCK

Rock the block with Perfekt Blend on June 26. The fun begins at 6:30 p.m. in Old Town Square. This family-friendly free concert series features live bands, a beer garden, and city restaurant vendors. Bring your own lawn chairs. The concert series continues on the fourth Friday of the month through October.



FAIRFAX CITY
Pride
celebrate with us!
SATURDAY, JUNE 6
11:00 - 1:00 PM

COMMUNITY VENDORS
 CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES
 MUSICAL ENTERTAINMENT
 & AND MORE!

THE SHERWOOD CENTER • 3740 BLENHEIM BLVD.

FAIRFAX CITY
 GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
 Fairfax ACE Hardware



JUNE 19

6-9 P.M. AT THE SHERWOOD CENTER

**HONOR OUR PAST AND
 LOOK TO OUR FUTURE DURING OUR
 ANNUAL JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION**

**ENJOY TREATS, CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES,
 AND LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**