

# city MAY 2026 scene

FREE EVENT  
BIKE TO  
WORK  
DAY 2026

FRIDAY, MAY 15



## FAIRFAX CITY NAMES ITS WOMAN OF INFLUENCE

The City of Fairfax Commission for Women has named Katy Nordenbrook Johnson, certified Virginia Master Naturalist and longtime Country Club Hills resident, as the recipient of the 2026 Women of Influence Award.

A city resident since 2012, Johnson is a fitness manager/director who joined the Fairfax Racquet Club staff in 1991, eventually becoming part-owner.

Johnson's commitment to environmental stewardship runs deep. In addition to being a certified Virginia Master Naturalist, she is a member of the Northern Virginia Mineral Club (with her son) and Minerals in Context. "Fun fact: the city's bedrock was formed at the same time as the first mountain-building event of the Appalachian Mountains," she observed.

She is a strong advocate for protecting native trees and plants, particularly from invasive species. She founded the City of Fairfax Home Grown National Park to encourage planting natives and removing invasives and established the Fairfax Environmental Forum to promote sustainable growth and environmental restoration.



Katy Nordenbrook Johnson

She is active in several organizations, including Tree Rescuers Fairfax – PRISM and the city's Urban Forestry program, where she volunteers as a forest rescuer. She also participates in the Potomack Chapter of the Virginia Native Plant Society, Friends of Accotink Creek, Fairfax Tree Stewards, and the Northern Virginia Bird Alliance Advocacy Committee.

"We need to speak for the trees and nature," she said. "Showing up can be hard and can take a long time, but if we stay engaged and talk to our neighbors, we can make the positive difference we're looking for."

*continued on page 4*



## Bike to Work Day

Ride your bike to work and experience an enjoyable, healthy, and sustainable way to commute. Thousands of commuters across the DMV will be participating.

Join the fun at the city's pit stop party in Old Town Square! Register in advance for your free t-shirt (while supplies last). There will also be snacks, raffle prizes, and other goodies sponsored by local businesses.

Everyone is welcome, whether this is your first ride or you've been biking for years. Biking part-way also counts — take your bike on transit, or park and ride for a longer commute. The city's pit stop will be open 6-9 a.m.

Register for Bike to Work Day at [biketoworkmetrodc.org](http://biketoworkmetrodc.org).

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# CITY NEWS

## Holiday Closure and Service Information

### Monday, May 25, Memorial Day

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

## Holiday Refuse and Recycling Collection Schedule

- May 25: no service
- May 26: Monday and Tuesday routes collected

Curbside collection may be delayed citywide May 26-30; leave items at the curb until they are collected. *Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "Refuse Holiday"), 703-385-7837*

## Public Safety Classes, May 2

Take a free public safety class offered by the Fairfax Volunteer Fire Department with the Fairfax City Fire Department. Topics include hands-only CPR/AED, stop the bleed, fire extinguisher use, and more. Classes are offered at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m., and enrollment is limited. *Info: 703-385-7940, fairfaxva.gov/news*

## FY 2027 Budget Review, Discussions, Through May 5

Join the mayor and city council in the discussion of the city's proposed annual budget and capital improvements program, scheduled for adoption May 5. Visit [engage.fairfaxva.gov/fy2027budget](https://engage.fairfaxva.gov/fy2027budget) to download the proposed budget and CIP, ask questions, read answers, and share comments. Council meetings and work sessions are held at the City Hall Annex, televised on Channel 12, and livestreamed and archived at [fairfaxva.gov/citymeetings](https://fairfaxva.gov/citymeetings).



## Saturday Farmers Market, May 9-Oct. 31

The Downtown Fairfax Coalition launches the 2026 Saturday Farmers Market beginning May 9 at 10500 Page Ave. The Saturday market will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays through Oct. 31. *Info: fairfaxweekendmarket.com*



## Real Estate Bills Mailed in May; Payments Due in June

Real estate tax bills will be mailed in mid-May, and payments are due by Monday, June 22. Payments post-marked later than June 22 are subject to a 10% penalty and a 10% annual interest charge. Those who directly pay their real estate taxes but do not receive a bill by mid-May should call 703-385-7900 for a duplicate bill. Those who receive a bill that is paid by the mortgage company should immediately forward the bill to the mortgage company. *Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "real estate tax"), 703-385-7900*



## Friday Morning Speaker Series, May 29

Gabe Derosier, director of community development, SVP, Main Street Bank, presents "Fraud & Scams: Protecting Yourself and Your Money" at 9:45 a.m. May 29 at the Sherwood Center. Arrive at 9:30 a.m. for coffee and companionship.

Admission is free for this Fairfax Village in the City event. *Info: 703-385-5738 or email at [village@fairfaxva.gov](mailto:village@fairfaxva.gov)*

## Older Americans Month, May

Celebrate Older Americans Month with the Young at Heart Senior Center. Stop by the center at 4401 Sideburn Road to find activities available to those age 55 and older: art appreciation, history, trips, fitness classes, and more. The center is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. Membership is free for city residents. Non-residents may join for \$50 a year or a drop-in fee of \$5 per day. *Info: fairfaxva.gov/seniorcenter*

## EagleBank Arena Graduation Events, May and June

EagleBank Arena is the site of many Class of 2026 graduations. George Mason University will hold the university commencement at 9:30 a.m. May 14, as well as degree celebrations by each George Mason school or college from May 14-16. Northern Virginia Community College will hold commencement at 11 a.m. on May 18 at EagleBank Arena. Other schools throughout the area hold their graduation celebrations from late May through June at EagleBank Arena. During this time, there may be increased traffic in the city and around the university. Expect delays and consider alternate routes. *Info: gmu.edu, click on "graduation"*

## Volunteer to Help at Special Events, Historic Sites

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

## Library Home Delivery Service

If you can't easily visit a branch of the Fairfax County Public Library due to a temporary or permanent disability, patrons of all ages may qualify for free home delivery of books, large print materials, magazines, CDs, and DVDs delivered by the U.S. Postal Service. (Materials are returned the same way, at no cost.) You can select your own materials or let the reader advisory staff pick titles based on your interests. Don't forget, you may use Libby to download eBooks and eAudiobooks. *Info: libAS@fairfaxcounty.gov, 703-324-8380 (TTY: 703-324-8365)*



# COUNCIL REPORTER



## PLEASE NOTE

Summaries have been edited. To read the full Council Reporter, visit [fairfaxva.gov](http://fairfaxva.gov) and click on "City Meetings" or scan the QR code at left.

## COUNCIL ACTIONS OF MARCH 10, 2026

### ACTION FROM CLOSED MEETING

- Announced the appointment of Colleen Kardasz as the new director of Fairfax City Economic Development and chief executive officer of the Fairfax City Economic Development Authority, starting with FCED on March 30.

### PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Approved the request for a special use permit amendment to allow the expansion of Rise and Shine Preschool, 10185 Main Street, from 35 to 89 children as an accessory use to the Fairfax Christian Church, with conditions.
- Held a public hearing on the proposed FY 2027 budget. (No council action.)

### ITEMS NOT REQUIRING A PUBLIC HEARING

- Approved advertising a proposed maximum real estate tax rate of \$1.095 per \$100 of assessed value. This action sets the maximum real estate tax rate that can be adopted as part of the FY 2027 budget; the action does not set the real estate tax rate for FY 2027. (Opposed: Councilmembers Hall, McQuillen, and Peterson.)

## COUNCIL ACTIONS OF MARCH 24, 2026

### CONSENT AGENDA

- Adopted a resolution establishing procedures for the use of construction management and design-build methods for construction contracting.

### PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Approved continuing the public hearing and defer action until May 12, 2026, in consideration of an ordinance amending and reenacting City Code Chapter 38 (Environment), Article II (Noise), on noise mitigation and the regulation of loud, disturbing, and unnecessary noises.
- Held a public hearing on the proposed FY 2027 budget. (No council action.)



Subscribe to see what you're missing!  
[youtube.com/user/cityoffairfaxva](https://youtube.com/user/cityoffairfaxva)



## ROCK THE BLOCK

**Rock the Block is Back!** Enjoy free live music from 6:30-9:30 p.m. on the fourth Friday of the month, May through October, in Old Town Square. The Reflex kicks off the 2026 concert series on May 22. The band will take you on an epic time-travel adventure straight to the raddest decade ever — the 1980s! This full-throttle retro concert experience recreates the sound, style, and electric energy of the era's biggest hits.

Beer garden pours, live music roars, and flavors to explore! Bring a chair or blanket and kick back for good times, great tunes, and all the feel-good vibes.

For more information on the band lineup, please visit [fairfaxva.gov/specialevents](http://fairfaxva.gov/specialevents).

## DO NOT BAG RECYCLABLES

Customers who receive trash and recycling collection services from the city should place recyclables loose in their carts. **Bagged recyclables will be tagged as a recycling violation and left at the curb.**

### YES!



All items loose in cart (not bagged) and lid closed

### NO!



[fairfaxva.gov/recycling](http://fairfaxva.gov/recycling)



5 MINUTES WITH...

# KALU TRAORE

WEB APPLICATION SPECIALIST,  
IT DEPARTMENT



I started with the city on July 2, 2025, and it's been a fantastic experience. I have a great team, and my colleagues have all been incredibly welcoming.

I grew up in Montgomery County and graduated from George Mason University, so I know the area well and love the DMV. Previously, I worked in the federal government on niche projects for small groups, and I was excited to join the city to make a more immediate impact right here in the community.

I wear many different hats and support the city's web apps. That includes maintaining and improving the city website, troubleshooting issues, finding ways to improve service, and testing new tech to help the city run more smoothly.

So far, my favorite part of the job has been learning about the different city departments, their programs, and how they connect with IT. I enjoy exploring how software can better support the city overall, and I'm excited to keep modernizing our resident-facing apps.

IT is a small team that juggles multiple projects, and we're deeply motivated to support our colleagues across departments and keep systems running smoothly for everyone who relies on our web services.



## PUB SCHOLARS

HOSTED BY FAIRFAX CITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Pub Scholars, hosted by Fairfax City Economic Development, brings together George Mason University faculty and other thought leaders to share cutting-edge ideas in technology, science, and business at local establishments. It's an opportunity to learn, connect, and engage with the community in a relaxed setting over a drink and light refreshments. The next event



is coming soon! Sign up for FCED's monthly newsletter for updates by scanning the QR code.

# JUST IN TIME JOB FAIR

*Find your next star employee.*

## May 18

1:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
Dewberry Hall  
Johnson Center  
Fairfax Campus

[careers.gmu.edu/employers](https://careers.gmu.edu/employers)



## WOMAN OF INFLUENCE

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Johnson first joined the Country Club Hills civic association as an event photographer and social media manager after moving there in 2012. She became president in 2023 and works to keep neighbors informed about community and city initiatives.

"I am not special: we all have the ability to impact our city," she said. "We can learn as much as we can, become involved, show up — and keep showing up."

Now in its seventh year, the Commission for Women has recognized 10 Fairfax City residents for their leadership, service, advocacy, and dedication to others.

*Info: [fairfaxva.gov/woi](https://fairfaxva.gov/woi)*



**SPOTLIGHT ON THE ARTS ART EXHIBIT:  
"2026 ART CONTEST FINALISTS"**

Through May 20. Sherwood Center. Free.

**FRIENDS OF THE FAIRFAX CITY LIBRARY**

Children's Spring Book Sale

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 1-3. City of Fairfax Regional Library

**FAIRFAX MUSEUM & VISITOR CENTER**

"Give Me Liberty: Virginia & The Forging of a Nation"

11 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 1-3.

**FX PLAYERS: "SOMETHING ROTTEN!"**

7 p.m. May 1; 2 p.m. May 2. Fairfax High School.

Tickets at [FXPlayers.org](http://FXPlayers.org).

**MUSIC TO FREE HANDBELL CONCERT:  
"SONGS OF MANY LANDS"**

8 p.m. May 1. Sherwood Center. \$15

**FAIRFAX ART LEAGUE ART WORKSHOP**

"Watercolors with Amanda Fletchersmith"

2:30-4:30 p.m. May 2. Sherwood Center. Free.

Reservation required: [fairfaxartleague.net](http://fairfaxartleague.net)

**THE CATHEDRAL BRASS: "A NIGHT AT THE OPERA"**

7 p.m. May 2. Sherwood Center. Free.

**COMMUNITY ART DAY!**

Art walk, Main Street Market, student art and technology showcase, live entertainment and much more!

11 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 3. Old Town Square and Old Town Fairfax.

Free. Sponsored by Spotlight on the Arts and Fairfax City Commission on the Arts

**MASON COMMUNITY ARTS ACADEMY -  
MUSIC FACULTY SHOWCASE**

"Level Up: Music Inspired by Video Games"

7 p.m. May 3. Sherwood Center. Free.

**FUNDAY MONDAY: MY GYM**

May 4, 18

**BONITA LESTINA  
OLD TOWN HALL PERFORMANCE SERIES**

"Washington Balalaika Orchestra"

8 p.m. May 8. Sherwood Center. Free.

"Chromatic Currents"

May 25-Aug. 21. Sherwood Center. Free.

Opening reception: 5:30-7:30 p.m.

**PRIDE MONTH PROCLAMATION**

7 p.m. May 26. City Hall.

SIXTH ANNUAL

asian festival

on main SUNDAY, MAY 17



This fun, free, family-friendly event features a full lineup of live entertainment and cultural performances from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. This year's festival will celebrate the "Year of the Horse."

Attendees will enjoy more than 60 Asian food vendors and food trucks, 60+ non-food vendors and exhibitions, kids' activities, cosplay runway, beer garden, and karaoke. New this year will be the Otaku Garden dedicated to Japanese pop culture, a panel discussion on Asian Food Culture, and an Asian Cultures Showcase featuring hands-on activities for all ages. *Info: [asianfestivalonmain.com](http://asianfestivalonmain.com)*

Asian Festival on Main was created by the Old Town Fairfax Business Association in 2021 to bring people together and highlight cultural diversity through food and entertainment. The annual event celebrates Asian American Native Hawaiian & Pacific Islander (AANHPI) Heritage Month in May.

"Asian Festival on Main has become one of our community's most exciting celebrations, bringing people together to experience the food, performances, and traditions of Asian cultures," said Jinson Chan, co-chair. "We're grateful for the incredible support from the City of Fairfax, our sponsors, local businesses, and volunteers who help make this festival possible each year in Old Town Fairfax."



Stroll through rows of beautifully preserved antique vehicles from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 16 at City Hall. The show features cars and trucks 25 years old and older. Enjoy live music, delicious offerings from local food vendors, and interactive Kids Safety Day activities.

*Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "antique")*

All vehicles 25 years old and older are welcome!

- Pre-registration: \$10
- Gate Registration: \$15
- First 150 to register will receive a free Dash Plaque

## SMALL BUSINESS MONTH AND FLEX CARD



Fairfax City celebrates National Small Business Month! Support the locally owned businesses that shape our community. Shop, explore, and discover something new all month long. Give the gift of local with the Fairfax City Flex Card, redeemable at more than 50 participating businesses. Scan the QR code to purchase and learn more, and visit [shopffxcity.com](http://shopffxcity.com) for the latest events and promotions.



# 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 Virginia history, 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*

## Give Me Liberty VA 250th, May 2

This program for youth ages 10-14 focuses on the Revolutionary period covered in the "Give Me Liberty" exhibit. Using visual records such as paintings and drawings, participants will be asked to determine bias and propaganda — then create their own pro-revolutionary imagery. Free. Registration required; an adult must accompany all registered participants. 10 a.m. Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center. *Info: fairfaxva.gov/visitors*

## Museum Explorers, May 7, 21

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*

## HFCI Annual Meeting, May 13

The Historic Fairfax City, Inc., annual membership meeting — which is open to all — features a presentation by Bob Deans, author of "The River Where America Began: A Journey Along the James." Free. 7 p.m. Historic Blenheim. *Info: historicfairfax.org*

## Cooking Through History, May 23

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. 10 a.m. Free. Registration required; an adult must accompany all registered participants under age 16. Historic Blenheim. *Info: fairfaxva.gov/visitors*

## Guided Tours of Ratcliffe-Allison-Pozer House, May 30

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*



## 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](http://fairfaxva.gov) and search "boards and commissions," or call 703-385-7935.





## Water Main Flushing

March through June 2026



### High Water Quality: Why We Open Hydrants Every Spring

Every spring, Fairfax Water opens each of the 30,000 fire hydrants in our system for a short time. This helps keep your drinking water high-quality.

### What to Expect: March through June

- Fairfax Water crews will be working in your neighborhood.

### What to Expect: March through May

- Your water may look a little discolored or have some sediment for a short time. This is not harmful and should pass quickly.
- You may notice a chlorine taste or smell while we use free chlorine. If you are sensitive to chlorine, keep an open container of water in the refrigerator to help the taste fade.

### Learn More

Scan the QR code above or visit [fairfaxwater.org](https://fairfaxwater.org) to learn more about this program and the temporary use of free chlorine.

### Questions?

Call Fairfax Water at 703-698-5613, TTY 711.

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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](http://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



Patriot Harley-Davidson® and the Fairfax VA Chapter, Harley Owners Group welcome you to join them for the annual Ride of the Patriots®. All bikers and bikes are welcome to join for a police-escorted ride. This signature community event honors and remembers those who fought in Vietnam and the servicemen and women in uniform who serve or have served our nation, especially honoring those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice to protect and defend our freedoms and our nation.

Steps off from  
Patriot Harley-Davidson  
9739 Fairfax Blvd.

**SUNDAY, MAY 24**  
Staging begins at 6:30 a.m.  
Ceremony at 8 a.m.  
Ride begins at 9 a.m.

[patriotharley.com/events](http://patriotharley.com/events)