

city

JUNE 2024

Scene

4th OF July

Details – including
Schedule of Events
– on page 5!

names on walls enable us to study the common soldiers' lives as a microcosm of American history, from immigrant stories to 14-year-olds lying about their ages to fight in a conflict they may not have fully understood," said Loewenwarter.

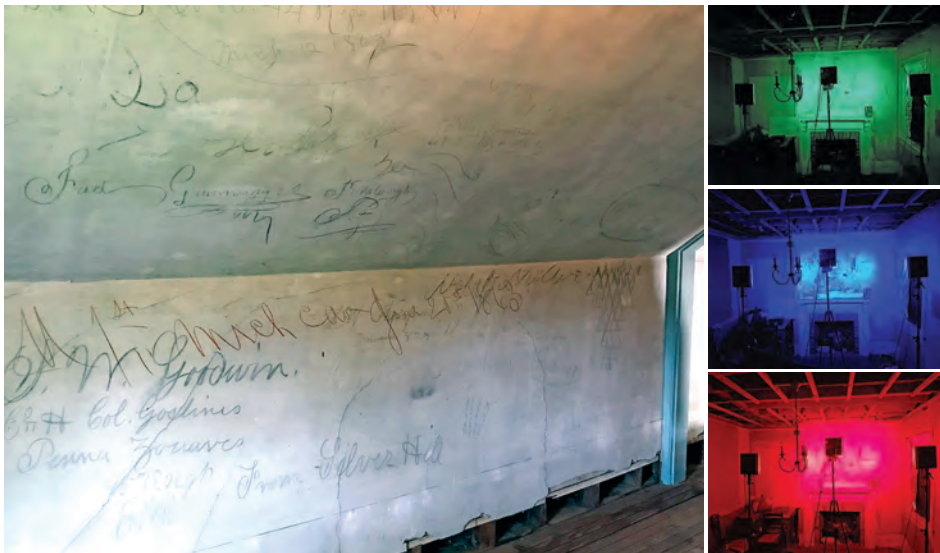
In 2019, Mike Toth began conducting multispectral imaging studies of Historic Blenheim's walls using a specialized 100-megapixel camera and LED lights to capture images the human eye cannot. The digital images he creates in the ultraviolet, visible, and infrared light spectra are huge files and require a large database for storage – and for sharing.

Enter George Mason University, which was recently awarded a \$350,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities to preserve and provide access to collections essential to scholarship, education, and public programming in the humanities. Historic Blenheim was among seven Northern Virginia historic sites that feature Civil War graffiti that will benefit from the grant.

Mason's Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media will oversee the project to create a digital archive to store images of soldiers' graffiti. Mills Kelly will manage the project, named *Off the Wall: Digital Preservation of Civil War Graffiti Houses*. The archive and related material will be made available on a website accessible to scholars, students, and the public.

"The Civil War was a cataclysmic event in our nation's history," said Loewenwarter. "Preserving and digitizing the numerous names, drawings, and thoughts of these many soldiers broadens the accessibility of the data and the knowledge and

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Blenheim Soldiers' Graffiti Goes Digital

Asa Freeman of Edinboro, Pa., was 24 years old in 1861 when he joined the 83rd Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, Co. D, to fight in the American Civil War. In his will, he stated, *"The flag over our Union must be protected as I Asa Freeman have enrolled my name in the defence [sic] of our country. I therefore expect to stand my chance in life or death with the rest in defending the rights of man...."*

Sgt. Freeman and his older brother, Private Ephraim Freeman, were killed at the Battle of Malvern Hill on July 2, 1862.

Historic resources specialist Andrea Loewenwarter shares Freeman's story with visitors at Historic Blenheim, where Freeman and at least 125 other soldiers signed their names on the interior walls of the house while encamped there from 1862-63. Loewenwarter has been deciphering the drawings, signatures, and other graffiti left on the "diary on the walls" since 1998. Based on a signature, she researches their service records and fleshes out the lives of these mysterious ghosts from Blenheim's past.

"The soldiers who left their

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CITY NEWS

City Government Offices Holiday Closures

Wednesday, June 19, Juneteenth

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

Holiday Refuse and Recycling Collection Schedule

- June 19: no service
- June 20: Wednesday and Thursday routes collected

Please note: there may be a delay in yard debris collection citywide June 17-22. Please leave items at the curb until they are collected. Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "Refuse Holiday"), 703-385-7837

Graduation Ceremonies

Congratulations to the Class of 2024! Fairfax High School will hold its commencement ceremony at 9 a.m. June 4 at FHS Stalnaker Stadium. *Info: fairfaxhs.fcps.edu.*

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



June Dual Party Primary Election Day, June 18

The June Dual Party Primary will be held June 18.

Early voting is available from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays (excluding holidays), and from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. on two Saturdays preceding the election: June 8 and June 15. Please bring your ID.

The final day to vote early in person is June 15.

The deadline to request a ballot by mail is 5 p.m. June 7.

Return your completed ballot by mail, in person at the Registrar's

Office, or in the secure ballot drop box at the City Hall entrance. Ballots returned by mail must be postmarked by June 18 and received by June 21 to be counted.

Ballots returned in person or to the drop box must be received by 7 p.m. Election Day, June 18. Ballots also may be returned to any city precinct on Election Day.

If you are not registered to vote, you may vote a provisional ballot through *Same Day Voter Registration* during early voting or at your designated polling place on Election Day.

Polls will be open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Election Day, June 18. Confirm your polling place at *vote.elections.virginia.gov/voterinformation*. Sample ballots are available online. *Info: fairfaxva.gov/vote, 703-385-7890*



Village Friday Morning Speaker Series, June 14, June 28



The free Fairfax Village in the City Friday Morning Speaker Series continues with two talks by AARP: *HomeFit* on June 14 and *Staying Safe and Spotting SCAMS Workshop* on June 28.

The series offers coffee, learning, and companionship. Coffee will be served at 9:30 a.m. and the presentation will begin at 9:45 a.m. at the Sherwood Community Center, 3740 Blenheim Blvd. *Info, registration: village@fairfaxva.gov, 703-385-5738*

Real Estate Tax and Stormwater Utility Due, June 21

Payments postmarked and paid later than June 21 are subject to a penalty and interest charge. Those who directly pay this bill but have not received it should call 703-385-7900 promptly. 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 on the City Hall driveway next to the flagpoles. 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 has adopted the FY2025 operating budget and Capital Improvements Program. The budget will be published online by July 1 at *fairfaxva.gov/budget*. *Info: 703-385-7870*

Lead Free Fairfax

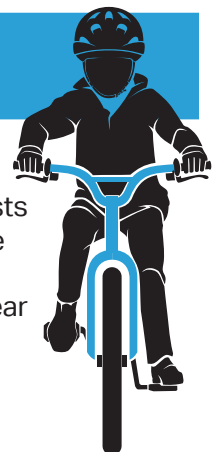


Fairfax Water is inventorying service line materials and needs your help. This inventory, to be completed by October, will identify any lead service lines within its water system. However, some data is unknown — specifically, portions of line on private property.

Fairfax Water customers are asked to take a survey to see if their pipe materials are known or unknown to Fairfax Water. Those with unknown materials will be shown photos of possible service line materials, asked to identify the material, and add a photo or document that identifies the material. *Info: fairfaxwater.org/leadfree, 703-698-5800*

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*



COUNCIL REPORTER



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

COUNCIL ACTIONS OF APRIL 9, 2024

ACTIONS OUT OF CLOSED MEETING

- Approved, unanimously, pursuant to the City Charter and City Code, the acting city manager's appointment of Melanie Zipp as assistant city manager and Melissa Shinaberry as city clerk.

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

- Presentations of proclamations acknowledging National Library Week and Earth Day and acknowledging April as Pickleball Month.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

- Approved, unanimously, the adoption of the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approved, 5-0-1, consideration of the March 26, 2024, regular meeting minutes. *(In favor: Councilmembers Bates, Greenfield, Lim, Ross, and Stehle. Abstained: Councilmember Doyle Feingold.)*
- Approved, unanimously: Consideration of the April 2, 2024, special meeting minutes; Consideration of board and commission appointments; Consideration of an award of construction contract for the Judicial Drive trail connection; Consideration of an award of professional service contracts to multiple firms for construction management, roadway evaluation, bridge evaluation, and design services; Consideration of authorization for the (acting) city manager to sign the agreement with FHWA for our Safe Streets for All funding agreement; Consideration to receive the list of delinquent taxes from the city treasurer and write off taxes in compliance with Virginia Code, and consideration to publish the list of delinquent taxes; Introduction of an ordinance amending and readopting City Code Chapter 90 pertaining to classification and taxation of certain real property Fairfax City used for or zoned for commercial and industrial purposes, and to establish a separate tax rate on such real property effective as of Jan. 1, 2024, revenues from which would be used exclusively for transportation purposes that benefit the city; Introduction of an ordinance amending City Code Chapter 90 pertaining to the additional tax imposed upon real property and improvements in the Old Town Service District; Introduction of an ordinance amending City Code Chapter 102 to set the rate for stormwater utility service furnished by the city at \$32.35 per billing unit; Introduction of an ordinance amending City Code Chapter 102 to increase the wastewater utility rate by 6% for

FY2025; and Introduction of appropriation resolutions for the general, capital, wastewater, transit, stormwater, cable, Old Town, and transportation tax funds for the FY2025 budget year.

- Approved, unanimously, introduction of an appropriation resolution of \$3.8M to fund the FY2024 spring recommended supplemental expenditures, waive the first reading, and set the public hearing for April 30, 2024.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Public hearing on the proposed FY2025 budget. *(No council action)*
- Approved, unanimously, a fee structure for publicly available city-owned electric vehicle charging stations that will provide three hours of free charging followed by a charge rate of 43¢ per kilowatt hour used after that.

COUNCIL ACTIONS OF APRIL 30, 2024

ACTIONS OUT OF CLOSED MEETING

- Approved, unanimously, the request by the commissioner of revenue and treasurer to increase their compensation.

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

- Presentation of proclamations acknowledging May 6 -10, 2024, as Teacher Appreciation Week; and acknowledging May as Bike Month, Historic Preservation Month, and Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Heritage Month.



Mayor Catherine Read proclaimed May as Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

- Presentation of the Chocolate Lovers grants.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

- Approved, unanimously, the adoption of the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approved, unanimously, consideration of the April 9, 2024, special meeting and regular meeting minutes.
- Approved, unanimously, to introduce an ordinance amending City Code Chapter 54 pertaining to loitering,

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HELPING HANDS



Carolyn Crocker, Commission on the Arts

In 1999, my family and I moved to Fairfax City. In 2008, my husband was called to serve as the rector in Newport Beach, Ca. In 2017, we moved to Texas to help my parents, then returned to Fairfax in 2018. Three of our children and all our grandchildren live in the area, and we love pretty much everything about it.

I wanted to serve the community that brings me so much joy. My gifts and interests align with the commission. As a teen, I was in a ballet company and taught myself the piano and drawing. Writing played a large part in my career as an adult; now, I write books. I will introduce my most recent book, *Unforgiveable*, at 3 p.m. June 2

at the City of Fairfax Regional Library. The Commission on the Arts works to make Fairfax a center for the arts. We give grants to arts groups, help with the Bonita Lestina Old Town Hall Performance Series, oversee the painting of murals citywide, assist with art shows, arrange regular author events, hold various contests to advance the arts, and more.

Humans are emotional beings, and the arts are a constructive way through which emotions are expressed. I remember watching a young man who had been through much hardship furiously painting an abstract red and black work of art. He didn't need to say anything; I got it. The arts allow us to communicate in a way that nothing else does. They enhance our humanity.

Our challenges are unique. The Bonita Lestina Old Town Hall Performance Series is too popular! Publicity is another challenge: many don't visit the city website regularly, so we launched a publicity committee and are posting on Facebook (@fairfaxarts).

Working on the commission is fun! It's a wonderful and diverse group. I've met individuals I would never have encountered otherwise and enjoyed it.



HELPING HANDS

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

Board of Building Code Appeals (two vacancies: one mechanical or plumbing vacancy and one city resident); **Board of Zoning Appeals** (one vacancy); **Commission for Women** (one vacancy); **Commission on Aging** (one vacancy); **Commission on the Arts** (two vacancies: one for city resident and one for business representative); **Environmental Sustainability Committee** (one vacancy); **George Mason University Fairfax Campus Advisory Board** (one vacancy); **Human Services Committee** (one vacancy); **Northern Virginia Workforce Investment Board** (one vacancy); **City Grievance Panel** (vacancies for city residents; number to be determined).

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



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

COUNCIL REPORTER

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as presented, waived the first reading, and set the public hearing on the proposed ordinance for May 14, 2024.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Public hearing on the real estate tax of \$1.035 per \$100 of assessed value based upon an assessment ratio of 100% of fair market value, and a personal property and machinery and tools tax rate of \$4.13 per \$100 of assessed value based upon an assessment ratio of 100% trade-in value. *(No council action. Tax rates set on May 7, 2024.)*
- Public hearing on an ordinance amending and readopting City

Code Chapter 90 pertaining to classification and taxation of certain real property in the city used/zoned for commercial and industrial purposes, and to establish a separate tax rate on it effective Jan. 1, 2024, revenues from which would be used exclusively for transportation purposes that benefit the city. *(No council action.)*

- Public hearing on an ordinance amending City Code Chapter 90 pertaining to the additional tax imposed upon real property and improvements in the Old Town Service District. *(No Council action.)*
- Public hearing on an ordinance amending City Code Chapter 102 to set the rate for stormwater utility service furnished by the city at \$32.35 per billing unit (BU).

(No council action.)

- Public hearing on an ordinance amending City Code Chapter 102 to increase the wastewater utility rate by 6% for FY2025. *(No council action.)*
- Approved, unanimously, an appropriation resolution of \$3.8M to fund the FY2024 spring recommended supplemental expenditures.

ITEMS NOT REQUIRING A PUBLIC HEARING

- Approved, unanimously, to defer to June 25, 2024, the consideration of a modification request to Zoning Ordinance Section 3.9 (Affordable Dwelling Unit) at 10501 Main St., 10515 Main St., and 10523 Main St. (Previously deferred from July 11, 2023, and Feb. 27, 2024.)



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

9AM

Start of Shuttle Bus Service to Downtown Fairfax

10AM-2PM

Independence Day Parade

10AM-3PM

Fairfax Museum & Visitor Center Open House

11:30AM-1:30PM

Ratcliffe-Allison-Pozer House Tours

12PM-2PM

Future Firefighters Day

1PM

End of Shuttle Bus Service to Downtown Fairfax

4:30PM

Gates Open/Bag Check at Fairfax High School

5:30PM

Start of Shuttle Bus Service to Fairfax High School

6:30PM

Evening Show Begins

8PM

Speeches & Awards

9:30PM

Fireworks Show

10:30PM

End of Evening Show

11PM

End of Shuttle Bus Service to Fairfax High School

INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

T-SHIRT SALE

Buy your t-shirts and bucket hats for the July 4th Celebrations ahead of time!

Upcoming Sale Dates

Saturday, June 8
9AM - Noon
Front Steps of City Hall
10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax

Saturday, June 22
9AM - Noon
Front Steps of City Hall
10455 Armstrong St., Fairfax

Hometown Celebration
June 30
5PM - 7PM
Veterans Amphitheatre
10455 Armstrong St, Fairfax

July 4th Parade
10am - Noon
Front of City Hall, along
Armstrong street
10455 Armstrong St, Fairfax



Cash/Credit/Check
Checks payable to IDCC
Adults- \$15
Youths- \$10
Bucket Hats- \$20
Dog Bandanas- \$5

WWW.FAIRFAXVA.GOV/JULY4



KIDZ KORNER

10:30 a.m., Old Town Square
 June 1 – Enchanted Empowerment
 June 8 – Miss Mollie Bubble Party
 June 22 – Oh Susannah! Music
 June 29 – My Gym

HOMETOWN CELEBRATION – CITY OF FAIRFAX BAND PERFORMANCE

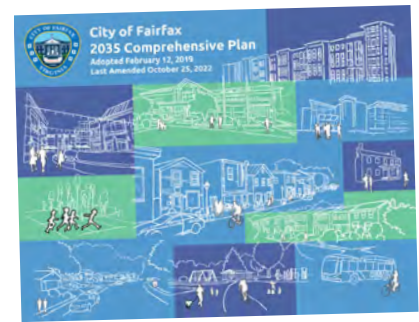
5 p.m. June 30
 Veterans Amphitheater
 Games for all ages, food trucks, and a concert at 7 p.m.

New City Manager Introduced at Public Reception



New City Manager Laszlo Palko introduces his family (his “home team”) to guests gathered at a public reception held on May 2 at Sherwood Community Center. Palko assumed his duties as city manager on April 29. He is planning a listening tour to hear from city residents and business owners.

If you’d like to invite Mr. Palko to an event in your neighborhood, or at your church, business, or nonprofit, please email we.care@fairfaxva.gov, ATTN: Communications.



Comprehensive Plan Review Open House

The City of Fairfax 2035 Comprehensive Plan, adopted in February 2019, guides many policy decisions regarding physical development of the city. As we have reached the five-year anniversary of this plan, the Code of Virginia requires the city to review it to determine if any changes should be made.

The review began last fall, and the city has received a lot of feedback and ideas from the community. We will be sharing the resulting concept changes at an **open house from 6-8 p.m. June 6** at the Sherwood Community Center. Please join us to learn more and provide your and feedback on any aspects of the comprehensive plan. Info: engage.fairfax.gov

MAKING History



Traveling Exhibition:
Politics of Yellow Fever in Alexander Hamilton's America, through June 8

Explore how party politics shaped the response to the 1793 yellow fever epidemic in Philadelphia. Free at the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St. Info: fairfaxva.gov (search “Hamilton”)

Traveling Exhibition:
Immigration: An American Story
 June 17 – July 19

View documents, maps, and images that tell select stories of those who came to America — some by force and others by choice. Free at the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 10209 Main St. Info: fairfaxva.gov (search “Immigration Story”)

Ratcliffe-Allison-Pozer House
 Guided Tours, Saturdays

Take a free guided tour with a knowledgeable docent through the Ratcliffe-Allison-Pozer House, the oldest residence in Fairfax City (10386 Main St.). The house is open from noon to 3 p.m. Saturdays through September. Info: fairfaxva.gov (search “Pozer”)

COMMUNITY FARMERS' MARKETS

Fresh fruits and vegetables and much more! Sponsored by Downtown Fairfax Coalition at 10500 Page Ave. (adjacent to the historic Fairfax Court House). **Saturday Market:** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. through Oct. 26; **Sunday Market:** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. through Oct. 20. Info: fairfaxsatdaymarket.com, fairfaxsundaymarket.com

Soldiers' Graffiti

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understanding of the common soldiers within the context of the American Civil War and its effect on our lives today.”

Historic Blenheim is located at 3610 Blenheim Blvd. Tour information is available at fairfaxva.gov/blenheim or 703-591-0560.

cityscene

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

Cityscene is produced by the city's Communications and Marketing Office

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• Large Print
• Recorded
• Braille

Cityscene is mailed to city residents and businesses by the first of the month and published on the city website. It is published by the Communications and Marketing Office to inform the public of government actions and events of interest in the city. Information is subject to change after publication.

Cityscene is available in large print, Braille, and audio upon request.

Para solicitar ayuda con servicios de la ciudad o preguntas sobre esta publicación, por favor llame al 703-385-7800 (TTY: 711).

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To report a problem or request a service, please use Fairfax City Resolve. Look for the "Report" button on fairfaxva.gov.

8 PM AT DUSK
VAN DYCK PARK
 June - September ★ 2nd Friday of the Month

SPONSORED BY: FAIRFAX CITY VAULT

FREE EVENT!
 Bring blankets and chairs!

10TH ANNUAL FAIRFAX CITY ROCK THE BLOCK

Sponsored by: DELTA DENTAL

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

Live Music / Food Trucks / Beer Garden

Fairfax Pride 2024
SATURDAY, JUNE 1
5PM - 7PM

OLD TOWN HALL
 3999 UNIVERSITY DRIVE

VENDORS • FAIRY HAIR • MUSIC
 KIDS CRAFTS • FACEPAINTING

SCAN FOR MORE PRIDE MONTH INFORMATION



JUNE 15
 A free event to celebrate Juneteenth National Independence Day, the day in 1865 when enslaved people near Galveston, Texas, first learned they were free.
fairfaxva.gov/juneteenth