



Fairfax Lions Club News

"The Bob Stahl Memorial Newsletter" for September 2025

Fairfax Lions Club - Since 1951

LINK to:  [Face Book Page](#)  [Instagram page](#)  [Web Page](#)

**WE SERVE THE WORLD AND OUR
COMMUNITY WITH PRIDE,
COMPASSION AND KINDNESS**

— Our Service —

Thank-You Note from FX Senior Center

Fairfax Host Lions Club Charities, Inc.
P.O. Box 98, Fairfax, Virginia 22038-0098

I hope you are having an enjoyable Summer. It's been a busy time-of-year for the *Young at Heart Senior Center* as we recently participated in Fairfax City's 4th of July parade and also had a burgers, hotdogs, ice cream picnic for our Senior Center members. → The Fairfax Host Lion's Club generous donation of \$1,000 from last year contributed to the success of these events. The Young at Heart Advisory Council is grateful for this donation, and we hope that the Fairfax Host Lions Club will consider extending its donation to this year as we plan our Fall events. There are fun and interesting classes, games, and athletic events happening every day at the Senior Center that benefit Fairfax City and Fairfax County senior citizens. I'd be happy to arrange a tour of the Senior Center for you and your associates so you can see how important your continued donation will be in enhancing future Young at Heart Senior Center activities.

Sincerely, Debra Sparkman 2024/2025 Chair

Thank-You Letter from Lions Youth Camp

(With a nice patch for our banner!)



Northern VA Lions Youth Camp

1520 Lions Lane

Boyce, VA 22620


Mailing address: 7623 Virginia Ave, Falls Church, VA 22043

August 14, 2025

Dear Fellow Lions,

Thank you for your recent contribution to the Northern Virginia Lions Youth Camp (NVLYC). Your donation means the world, not only to us, but to our young campers, enabling them to enjoy a safe and fun-filled camping experience. Your support has allowed renovations to be made to four of the cabins, prepare new signage throughout the camp, and maintain roads from the blacktop road all the way to the camp itself, enabling access. If you or your club would like to plan a picnic or a weekend retreat at the Lions premier outdoor camping facility, contact the camp scheduler at our website, NVLYC.org.

Sincerely,


Lion Ken Marr
President, NVLYC



Request for Hearing Aids

An email to: info@fairfaxlions.org (we get a lot of these emails; see how we respond)

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to request the application form for the Senior Hearing Aid Program on behalf of my mother, XXXX, who is 72 years old. Could you please provide the form and any additional instructions needed to proceed with the application?

Once we complete the form, we understand that you will advise us regarding the clinic and schedule an appointment with the audiologist.

Thank you very much for your assistance. XXXX

Good morning, XXX.

Your request was forwarded to me. First, I am unaware of any Senior Hearing Aid Program or form that gets you started with such a program. There is, however, a program for needy/low income adults. The details can be found in the attachment. Note that it was written for case managers trying to help homeless 'guests.' You can follow the same process to help your mother. Note that the Fairfax County Health Department (FCHD) will determine her income level and whether she has insurance before she is actually tested.

Hope this helps.

Martin Lockard, Fairfax Host Lions Club

Vision Screening to Re-Start

With kids back in school, our leader for vision and hearing screening - Lion Marty Lockard - is hard at work coordinating our schedule. So far, two vision screening events (the mornings of October 22 and 28) are scheduled.



**FHLC's SPOT
Vision Screening
Camera**

Vision is a core service for Lion's Clubs worldwide, and FHLC is no different during the nearly 75 years we've been serving this area. Not only do we do vision screening, we also support vision impaired with scholarships from Virginia Lions Eye Institute Foundation ([VLEIF](#)), support the [Inova/Lions Free Eye Clinic](#) (near Fairfax Inova Hospital on Gallows Road), and collect eyeglasses for recycling at Northern Virginia Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center ([LERC](#)).

Request for Free Eyeglasses

Another email to: info@fairfaxlions.org

My name is XXX and I came across your program on Google and I wanted to receive more information on the program and I am currently experiencing homelessness in Fairfax county Virginia! I do receive Snap benefits but with the new snap benefits rules going into effect real soon homeless individuals have to find work so I really need eyeglasses ASAP! I don't have insurance!

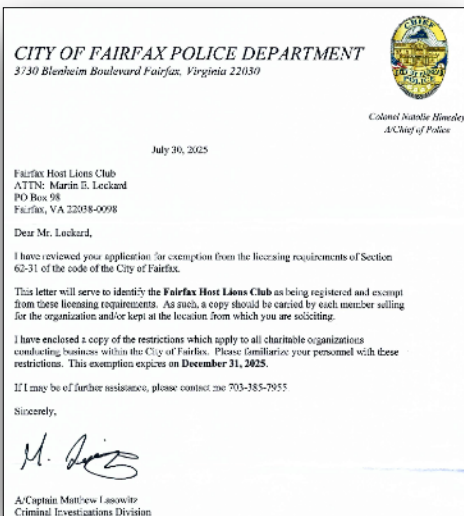
Good morning, XXX. Our old program has been superseded by another program. Basically, you make an appointment at any Fairfax County Health Department (FCHD) facility (such as the one on Blenheim Blvd in Fairfax). At that appointment, they will determine your need for glasses and your ability to pay. They will then make an appointment for you at the Inova/Lions Free Eye clinic near the Fairfax Inova hospital on Gallows Rd. At the free eye clinic, you will get an eye exam and new prescription for eyeglasses. New at that facility is a Lions organization we support called VLEIF. It pays for the glasses at a regular eyeglass business such as MyEyeDr, probably with something like a voucher. For help with getting employment and a variety of other needs, you can tap into The Lamb Center in Fairfax. It is 2 blocks from Fairfax Circle off Route #50. Hope this helps.

Martin Lockard, Fairfax Host Lions Club

- Our Charity Fund Raising - City Approval to Solicit Sales

To solicit sales in the City, a charitable organization is required to have an exemption from licensing requirements of Sect. 62-31 of the code of the City of Fairfax.

We thank Lion Marty Lockhard for preparing our application, and getting the exemption (copy shown)....we now meet local code requirements to hold our December fruit sale!



Dec 2025 Fruit Sale - Our Biggest Fund Raiser!

Help us focus on getting the public signed-up for announcements and discounts for our 2025 fruit sale. ALL - Please pass this link to your co-workers, friends and neighbors - ask them get on our email list: [**SIGN UP FOR NEWS OF FRUIT SALES**](#) (they can opt-put any time).

Club's 501(c)(3) Status

Section 70 of the Internal Revenue code exempts charitable organizations from income tax, and allows them to solicit donations which can be deducted from a donor's taxable income. Good news - Fairfax Host Lions Club Charities recently re-qualified for "501(c)(3)" status. Shown is page 1 of letter from the IRS:



Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service
Tax Exempt and Government Entities
P.O. Box 2508
Cincinnati, OH 45201

FAIRFAX HOST LIONS CLUB CHARITIES INC
PO BOX 98
FAIRFAX, VA 22038

Date: 07/21/2025
Employer ID number: 54-1743126
Person to contact: Name: D. Emmanuel
ID number: 3808081
Telephone: 718-834-3547
Accounting period ending: June 30
Public charity status: 170(b)(1)(A)(vi)
Form 990 / 990-EZ / 990-N required: Yes
Effective date of exemption: November 15, 2023
Contribution deductibility: Yes
Addendum applies: No
DLN: 26053725001904

Dear Applicant:

We're pleased to tell you we determined you're exempt from federal income tax under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 501(c)(3). Donors can deduct contributions they make to you under IRC Section 170. You're also qualified to receive tax deductible bequests, devises, transfers or gifts under Section 2055, 2106, or 2522. This letter could help resolve questions on your exempt status. Please keep it for your records.

Organizations exempt under IRC Section 501(c)(3) are further classified as either public charities or private foundations. We determined you're a public charity under the IRC Section listed at the top of this letter.

Based on the information you submitted with your application, we approved your request for reinstatement under Revenue Procedure 2014-11. Your effective date of exemption, as listed at the top of this letter, is retroactive to your date of revocation.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that you're required to file Form 990/990-EZ/990-N, our records show you're required to file an annual information return (Form 990 or Form 990-EZ) or electronic notice (Form 990-N, the e-Postcard). If you don't file a required return or notice for three consecutive years, your exempt status will be automatically revoked.

If we indicated at the top of this letter that an addendum applies, the enclosed addendum is an integral part of this letter.

Meetings

Dinner Meeting - August 5th



We were honored... Courtney and Michael DeTello, joined us at dinner (they had emailed us via info@fairfaxlions.org). Both are originally from the Tulsa, OK area; they last lived in Orlando until jobs moved them here. They currently live in the Fair Oaks area. Courtney's uncle had been a Lion, and they

look forward to possibly joining us in our service activities.

Membership Director Steve Bilowus could not stay the whole meeting. But Steve asked - if his ticket won the special drawing (proceeds reducing member costs of 75th Charter Night next March 21st) - that the prize be awarded to Courtney and Michael. Hence, this photo!



Our guest speakers were Mitzi Taylor and Deanna Payne of the City's Parks & Rec office. They told us about the detailed planning that results in the wonderful Independence Day Parade and fireworks festivities in the city each July 4th.



Mitzi and Deanna asked trivia questions (like, how when did the city start having July 4th parades? Answer: 1968, 57 years ago). Lion Pete won a prize...see Pete's new party hat?

Volunteer-of-the-Year Ceremony - August 6th

This very nice event is put on each year by the Inter-Service Club Council of Fairfax (ISCC), in the Sherwood Center (pictured on the program).

In total, 21 service club volunteers-of-the-year were recognized, along with first responders from the Fire and Police Departments.



FHLC Lion-of-the-Year Joe Rovansek was recognized. KL Gary spoke about our Club, and Joe's many contributions in his first year as a Lion.

Lion Joe received a certificate, and got to shake hands with City Mayor Catherine Reed.



L-R: ISCC President Kathy Hoffman, Mayor Catherine Reed, Lion Joe, KL Gary



Vols-of-the-Year

Dinner Meeting - August 19th

We held this dinner meeting at Foster's Grille in Vienna. Several Fairfax Lions were once members of the former Vienna Lions Club, and often met at Foster's Grille. Foster's makes a donation to our Lions charity account, based on our spending there.





Club President Gary presented a flower to Past President Karen, to thank her for her wonderful year of outstanding leadership.

We welcomed guest Chantana, a local Fairfax optometrist who is interested in working with our vision screening program.



The special raffle prize ticket winner was Foster's hostess, Bronwyn.

Board Meeting - August 26th

Heads Up: The Board approved collecting your payments for dinner meals AT DINNER MEETINGS (instead of being billed later). When you arrive at dinner meetings, be ready to swipe your credit card/apple pay/etc. (It may take a short while for the club to put this new process into action, but it is coming!)

The speaker at our Club's dinner meeting on Sep 16th, will be our very own Lion Greg DeRosa representing the District Governor. The Board agreed to hold a brief Board meeting AFTER the Sep 16 dinner meeting, in lieu of the usual Board meeting on the next Tuesday.

The Club received membership applications from Courtney and Michael DeTello (see their photo on page 8 of this newsletter). The Board set a goal of conducting their induction ceremony at the Sept 16 Dinner Meeting (TBD), and is working to schedule an orientation for Courtney & Michael. When you see them be sure to welcome them aboard our Lions Team!

PCC Harry Parker has collected over \$400 so far, in the special raffles to raise money to offset member dinner costs at Charter Night; more to come!

Never Forget

“On Sep 10th, 2001, 246 people went to sleep in preparation for morning flights. 2,606 people went to sleep in preparation for morning work in the Towers. 343 firefighters went to sleep in preparation for their morning shifts. 60 police officers went to sleep in preparation for morning patrols. 8 paramedics went to sleep in preparation for their morning shift. None of them saw past 10am, Sep 11, 2001.



In one single moment, life may never be the same. As you live and enjoy the breaths you take today, before you go to sleep in preparation for your life tomorrow, kiss the ones you love, snuggle a little tighter, and never take one second of your life for granted.” —Anonymous

Calendar

Sep 1 - Labor Day

Sep 1 - [Clifton Lions Club Car Show](#) (in Fairfax City)

Sep 2 - FHLC Dinner meeting

Sep 9 - Vote: Special Election (US House, VA 11th)

Sep 9 - Fundraiser: Foster's Grille

Sep 16 - FHLC Dinner meeting/Board meeting

Sep 23 - NO BOARD MEETING

Sep 27 - District 24L Fall Conference ([Register](#))

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Dec 13 - Holiday Party (American Legion)

Mar 21, 2026 - 75th Charter Night Celebration
(Chantilly Country Club)

Plan to attend - will be a grand event (tux/gown encouraged), plated dinner, special VIP guest.

Lion News

Some Lions design and produce "Lion's Pins." Personalized, they are popular with pin-traders. Fairfax Lion Bill Smith created the first Lions pin trading club in VA.

This photo is KL Gary's newest Lion's Pin....note: Gary was FHLC's 60th President, and is now 75th President.



Gary has created other pins. A few years ago, this pin reflected on his career field.

District 24-L News



District 24-L held its annual *Visitation Kickoff Dinner & Awards Ceremony* on Aug 16th. Lion Jeff Root attended, and received the “100% Secretary Award.” In essence, the award means Jeff was a **perfect** Club Secretary! Also, FHLC received a “Visitation Award” for 12 visits to other clubs. See [24-L Visitation News](#) for more photos.



Some of the Lions at 24L Visitation Kickoff

From District 24-L's Instagram Page



The Instagram post shows Second Vice District Gov Greg on a visitation, representing the District Governor

This photo taken at the visitation shows 102-year old WWII Veteran Lion John Hodges enjoying breakfast with Lion Lynn Wagner. Lion John is Lion Lynn's Great-Grand Uncle.



Click this link to 24-L on Instagram:

https://www.instagram.com/p/DNwa1f9Yjbs/?utm_source=ig_web_copy_link&igsh=MTk5ajhsMXh6ZjdjdhMA==

ROTC Cadet Rumberg

On Aug 15th, Nicholas Rumberg joined the Cadet Corps as he began his 1st year at Virginia Tech.



Nico's buzz-cut



Move-in team: Marisela, Lion Mike, Nicholas and Louis



2nd Bn, F Co "Strike the Colors" Formation

What's my name?



New Cadet
Nicholas
Rumberg

Miscellaneous

Understatements

Possibly the greatest understatement in history:
“The mission of this Allied Force was fulfilled at 0241 local time, May 7, 1945” - the message to the Allied high command that Nazi Germany had surrendered, and World War II in Europe was over. See more at [National Park Service](#).

TOP SECRET **TOP SECRET**
SHAEF FORWARD
STAFF MESSAGE CONTROL
OUTGOING MESSAGE

VE Day Message **TOP SECRET**
URGENT

TO : ADMAR FOR COMBINED CHIEFS OF STAFF,
AMSOO FOR BRITISH CHIEFS OF STAFF

FROM : SHAEF FORWARD, STONED EISENHOWER

REF NO : FWD-20795 TOO: 070325B

OUT 356

The mission of this Allied Force was fulfilled at 0241, local time, May 7th, 1945.

EISENHOWER

ORIGINATOR : DEVERING COMMANDER AUTHENTICATION: J B BOOTH
Lt Colonel

INFORMATION : TO ALL GENERAL AND SPECIAL STAFF DIVISIONS

Conveyed SMC Authority G-2 20/6/65

TS OUT 3674 7 MAY 1945 0324B JCB/jg REF NO: FWD-20795
TOO: 070325B

TOP SECRET

THE MAKING OF AN EXACT COPY OF THIS MESSAGE IS FORBIDDEN

115

Ike's under-
statement

USS Fairfax County

A very large, heavy, solid brass bell is displayed just off the lobby of the FX County Government Ctr:



Ship's Bell, from
the "USS Fairfax
County"

Does AI Work?

A recent conversation with CHAT GPT AI tool....

This morning, from my front door looking East, I see two unblinking and unmoving objects in the sky - one higher in the sky much brighter than the lower one. Are they planets?

Me

ChatGPT ▾

Log in

They very well *could* be planets—especially if they're bright, unmoving, unblinking, and visible in the early morning sky looking east.

Based on your description:

- Two objects
- One brighter and higher
- Unblinking and unmoving
- Seen in the eastern sky just before or around sunrise

Chat GPT

These are classic signs of **Venus** and **Jupiter**, or possibly **Mercury** or **Mars**, depending on the time of year.

Chat GPT

To figure it out more precisely, I can check exactly what planets are visible from your location this morning. Could you tell me:

1. **Your general location** (city or region)?
2. **What time exactly you saw them?**

Once I have that, I can confirm which planets you were likely seeing.

I saw them from my home in Centreville VA at 5:45am today

Me

Chat GPT

Yes — what you're most likely seeing at **5:45 AM this morning in Centreville, Virginia** are two planets: **Venus** higher in the eastern sky (very bright and steady), and **Saturn** a bit lower and dimmer.

Conclusion: CHAT GPT can be accurate and informative ... one key seems to be, pay attention to carefully frame the question for the best answer!

Spotted in An Office



Visual Dad's Joke

Two unwritten rules of life:

- 1.
- 2.

Special thanks to...

Several Lions always step up to help make this newsletter happen...**thank you** for providing ideas and/or input (whole articles, reports, photos). Such help is essential to presenting the news of this Club!

YOUR COMMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME! (News items, photos from recent trip, etc.) Send words & photos for the newsletter, anytime....they must be received by the 25th of the month to be included in the next issue. We need YOUR help to publicize information about our Club, and about you.

"The Bob Stahl Memorial Newsletter" is published on the [Fairfax Lions web page](#) (see right hand column under the section titled "Pages"). You should check the FHLC web page periodically.

Club members are alerted around the 1st of each month to the newsletter's availability on the web page. That's all folks!

Send any suggestions, or items to include in the next newsletter.

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We Serve

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