



# Fairfax Lions Club - Since 1951

## The Bob Stahl Memorial Newsletter for July 2026

*Club's internet presence; click on each link (it's safe!)*



[Face Book](#)



[Instagram](#)



[Home Page](#)

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

## Happy New Lions Year!

Since 1917, July 1st marks the beginning of a new Lions year. As we close out our Club's 75th year, we thank ALL Club members for their presence, engagement, camaraderie, ideas, leadership, and SERVICE over the past 12 months. And, we give a special thanks to our past Club President Gary Maxwell for his dedication and commitment to our Club. King Lion's message to all:

*Dear Fairfax Lions,*

*It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your King Lion for our Club's Diamond Anniversary. It is hard to believe that this club has served the*



*Fairfax community for over 75 years, and still going strong. I look forward to being a part of this club for years to come.*

*I would like to thank each and every member that has contributed to another wonderful year of our community outreach. We all strive in our own ways to make Fairfax Lions the best club in District 24 L.*

*We continue to have great leadership with our incoming Board of Directors, led by KL Jim Kaplan at the helm. All of our past District Governors and our own VDG Greg DeRosa lead us into the next 75 years and nurture the future leaders of our club.*

*Lord willing, I will be at the centennial celebration in 2051, at the young age of 19, I mean 91!*

*Thank you again for this honor as your 60th and 75th president.*

***IT'S GREAT TO BE A FAIRFAX HOST LION!!***

*Warmest regards,*

*Gary Maxwell*

*703-475-1069 [liongem1@yahoo.com](mailto:liongem1@yahoo.com)*

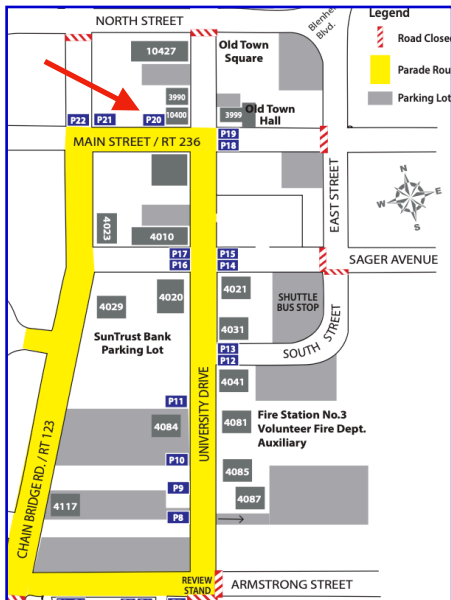
*Proud Member Fairfax Host Lions Club, Serving those in need for over 75 years [www.FairfaxLions.org](http://www.FairfaxLions.org)*

# - Our Charity Fund Raising - Vehicle Donation Program

A club member recently donated a used vehicle to our program (I think this was his second car donation). Our agent, *Charitable Adult Rides & Services (CARS)*, picks up donated vehicles, sells them, sends a receipt to the donor; proceeds go to our Charity account. It's an easy way to generate charity revenue - help us advertise! See our web page: [Vehicle Donations](#)

## July 4th Food Booth

Will you be there?  
Still time to sign-up to help: [Signup-genius](#)  
Our location is site P20 on the map, our usual space. Invite family & friends to help; school kids earn service hours.



# Club Meetings

## Dinner Meeting - June 2nd

1VP Jim Kaplan introduced our speaker, Tammy Mannarino - Secretary of the County's 250 Commission and Vice Chair of the County's History Department.



Centennial = 100 years

Quin(t) = 5

Quincentennial = 500

Semi = ½

Semiquincentennial = 250

Tammy taught us how to pronounce “Semiquincentennial” and oriented us on various activities of [FX County 250](#). planned over the year.

One 250 event was at the “Bunnyman Beer Brewery” in Chantilly. Replying to our question, Tammy explained: the name “Bunnyman” is from a *Fairfax County Urban Legend* that started in 1970 (see more information on that Bunnyman legend near the end of this newsletter).



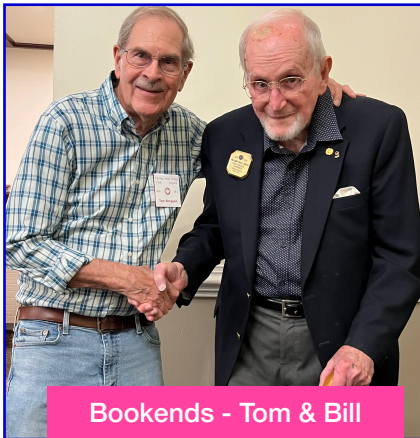
KL Gary, 1VP Jim thank Tammy for her Presentation

Another highlight of this meeting was an award presentation by Past-President/Past-District-Governor Bill Smith. Bill recognized KL Gary Maxwell for serving as a Lions Club President THREE TIMES: once for Manassas LC, and now completing his second term as President of FHLC. The award is a display of all Lions Pins created for Fairfax Lions Club; Bill designed all but one pin, that Gary designed (pin at bottom right in photo).



You may know, PDG Bill Smith has served as the President of [Lions International Pin Trading Club](#), and the [Lions Pin Traders Club of Virginia](#). When asked, Bill replied he personally has between 60-70 THOUSAND(!) Lions pins in his collection. (See a little history of Lions Pin Trading at this [link](#).)

Coincidentally, at dinner, PDG Bill Smith (who is the longest serving member of FHLC) sat next to Lion Tom Simpson (FHLC's newest member). Bill Smith joined Lions Nov 1, 1968; Tom Simpson Dec 2, 2025. (You may find data like that on the [Lions Portal](#).)



Bookends - Tom & Bill

By the way...past newsletters have featured Lions Pins of interest to our club. Here are photos of two that were shown in a past newsletter (can you spot these two pins in the photo of the display of Lions Pins presented to KL Gary?).



**Pin recognizing 40th anniversary of FHLC, produced in 1991**



**Produced in 1997, a representation of the old Fairfax Hardware store owned by Lion Scott Dulaney's dad, Lion Hubert Dulaney**

## Dinner Meeting - June 16th

At this “Spouses Night,” Anne Yang (R, in photo) was a visiting guest. She had to leave early, so she spoke before dinner about the human organ harvesting in China, and circulated a petition supporting a bill passed by the US House to impose sanctions against such practices.



After dinner, District 2VP Lion Greg made official the installation of officers and directors for the new year.



Sometime during the meeting, outgoing President Gary misplaced the King Lion’s gavel. When time came to “*pass the gavel*” to the incoming President, Gary had to improvise with “*pass a dinner knife.*”

Turns out, incoming President Jim had the gavel hidden in his coat pocket all along, so transfer of responsibility proceeded.



gavel



Stacie Kaplan pins LIONS PRESIDENT PIN on Jim

Out-going President Gary receives the Past President pin.



July 2026

Lions Joe Rovanskek was called up-front to receive the Melvin Jones Award. PCC Bill Bartlett read the citation and presented the award.



Suzy Rovansek pins MJ lapel pin on Joe.



A surprise special award was presented by District 2VP Greg to Lion Jeff Root: the coveted Lions International Leadership Medal.



And, King Lion Gary presented the Lion of the Year award, to his 1VP, Lion Jim Kaplan.

Gary reminded all Lions, that Lion-of-the-Year Jim will be honored on August 5th in the special ceremony for City of Fairfax Volunteers-of-the-Year. All are invited!

New President Jim closed out the meeting securing the King Lions gavel firmly in his possession!



## **Board of Directors Meeting - June 23**

The out-going & in-coming Boards met to pursue club business, culminating in outgoing President Gary Maxwell officially handing off the leadership role to new President Jim Kaplan.

The Board approved two key items:

1. The 2026-27 charity outreach budget, and
2. Club to expand its Hearing Screening service by joining the District's "Listen Up" Hearing Screening

Charities supported in 2026-27 Charity Budget (ask any Board member about details)

Community	Hearing/Sight	Youth
Food Bank	Audiometer & SPOT system maintenance	Reading Action
Vets Day AL Post 180	Canine Companions	Sprout
FX Senior Ctr	Fn Fighting Blindness	Hooves
Food Baskets	VA Lions Eye Institute	Bland contest
The Lamb Center	Leader Dog	Peace Poster contest
Lions of VA Fn		Youth Camp cabin
	Other: Melvin Jones Fn	Eric Monday Fn

Listen Up (use a passive hearing screening device to effectively screen younger children's hearing)

This is a District led hearing service our club will participate in.

- Next Listen Up training: Friday, July 10, 2-6 PM at the Trinity Presbyterian Church, 651 Dranesville Road, Herndon, VA. (Enter church through front door, look for fellowship hall to immediate left).
- RSVP by July 8 if you can attend...email Lion Gordon Tillery or Marty Lockard.

## Calendar

- July 4 - Lions Food Booth at City Independence Day Parade... [Click to Signup](#) to help!
- July 7 - FHLC Dinner meeting
- July 10 - Listen Up training
- July 14 - "Dining for Dollars," Vienna Fosters Grille
- July 18 - District Cabinet Meeting (Installation)
- July 19 - FIFA World Cup - Final Match
- July 20 - Moon Day: Commemorating 1st manned landing on the Moon, 1969
- July 21 - FHLC Dinner meeting
- July 24 - Deadline to [request absentee ballot](#) (Aug 4)
- July 28 - Board Meeting
- July 28 - 1st installm't FX County real estate tax due
- Coming up
- Aug 4 - Virginia primary elections (for all offices on Nov general election ballot)
- Aug 4 - Lions Dinner Meeting
- Aug 5 - Fairfax **Volunteer-of-the-Year** Ceremony (7:30pm, Sherwood Center)
- Aug 22 - Lions Visitation Kick-Off & Awards Lunch

## Fairfax Inter-Service Club Council (ISCC)

### Volunteer of the Year Awards Ceremony

The signature event hosted by ISCC is the annual Volunteer of the Year Ceremony. The selected members from participating ISCC organizations (including Fairfax Lions Club) receive the Volunteer of the Year Award, and acknowledgment for their service and dedication to their community. **All are invited to come to see our dedicated community members be honored.**

#### Recognition & Reception

August 5, 2026

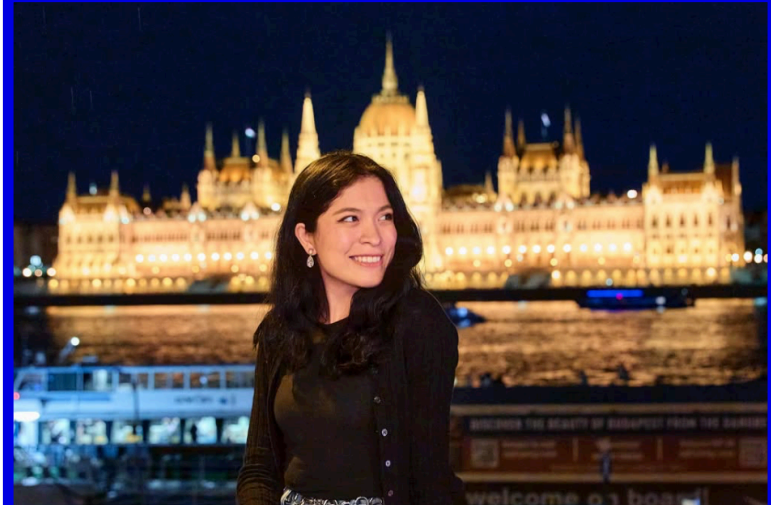
7:30PM

Stacey C. Sherwood Center  
3740 Blenheim Blvd, Fairfax

## Lion News

### Fairfax Lions

Look where Lion Cindy Roman has been! The photo of Cindy (on the next page) is from her Instagram feed. (Follow Cindy on Instagram: *@cindythecins* )



Caption: “Budapest, it’s been 8 years since the last time I visited. One of the beautiful cities I enjoy going back to.”

## 2027 LCI Convention in DC!

Did you know...in 2027, the International Lions Convention (**LionsCon27**), will be in Washington DC, July 2-6, 2027? (*Location: Walter E. Washington Convention Center, accessible by Metro*)

This is something to put on our personal calendars...won't be another chance to attend an LCI convention this close to home! [Web page](#)

## **Homelessness in Fairfax County: A Snapshot** *Update from The Lamb Center*

A 2026 count identified 1,365 homeless people in Fairfax County; a 3% increase from 2025, and a 32% rise since 2019. Sadly, each year, the numbers climb. The trend is steady, and it is upward.

At The Lamb Center, we see this reality every day. Many of our neighbors are experiencing chronic homelessness - they have experienced homelessness repeatedly or for more than a year, alongside a disabling condition. This year, chronic homelessness in our area rose 24%. Tragically, veterans were among those impacted. Their numbers rose 19% in the past year.

The findings of the 2026 count make one thing clear: the need for permanent, supportive housing in Fairfax County has never been greater. Beacon Landing is The Lamb Center's direct answer to that need.

One block from The Lamb Center, Beacon Landing will bring 54 affordable apartments and on-site services to our neighbors experiencing chronic homelessness, making it the largest Permanent Supportive Housing community in Northern Virginia. Last week, we reached a major construction milestone: the Topping Out— the placement of the final beam at the top of the structure.

## From [District 24L Web page](#)

### District 24L's Instagram Posts

Yes, District 24L has Instagram page; it's updated often. Follow 24L at: [https://www.instagram.com/virginia\\_lions\\_24/](https://www.instagram.com/virginia_lions_24/)

### Multiple District 24 Lions of VA Convention

(May 28-31, 2026 Bristol, VA)

Report on the District web page says 250 people attended; click to read [notes](#) from the convention. Fairfax Lions Harry Parker, Greg & Karen DeRosa were spotted in photos taken at the Convention...



## DG's End-of-Year Message

See DG Dan Visone's message at this [link](#).

### Other News

## Help Stop Spotted Lanternflies Early

Spotted lanternfly season is here, and Fairfax County residents can help control these invasive insects while they are still small.

In June, spotted lanternflies are usually in their young nymph stage. They are glossy black with white spots and about the size of a pea. By July, they begin turning into adults, making now an important time to act.



If you see spotted lanternfly nymphs around your home, patio, garden, or outdoor furniture, Fairfax County recommends squashing or vacuuming them when possible. This is one of the easiest ways to reduce their spread without using pesticides, which can harm beneficial insects and wildlife.

Spotted lanternflies can damage young plants and create a sticky mess later in the summer. Taking action now can help protect our trees, gardens, and neighborhoods.

## **Solar Energy Fires Up in Fairfax County**

A 5-megawatt solar array (approximately 12,000 panels), built on top of trash buried 30 years ago, is working.



Energy generated will go to county facilities to reduce energy costs. The array is likely to generate \$12 million in cost avoidance for Fairfax County over a 30-year Power Purchase Agreement with a reduction of carbon dioxide emissions by 136,000 metric tons over 30 years. After years of remaining empty, some 37 acres of rolling hills at the I-95 Landfill Complex in Lorton are now serving this purpose. The area's largest solar project has enabled the county to convert the land into productive energy infrastructure, expanding local energy supply and helping meet growing regional energy demand. The project, the first on a closed landfill in VA is a model for future clean energy projects on county property.

The 5.0-megawatt solar array is expected to generate 5 percent of all electricity used in county government facilities, about enough energy to power 1,000 homes annually.

In addition to savings for the county government, the project could mean savings for county residents. Under the Solar Freedom Act, which focuses on renewable energy, residents and businesses can purchase electricity through renewable sources, such as solar energy. Residents can also invest in solar energy through the county's [Going Solar program](#).

## The Bunny Man Urban Legend

As reported above, our June 2nd dinner speaker spoke about a “FX County 250” event at Bunnyman Beer Brewery in Chantilly. She explained...the name Bunnyman comes from the Bunny Man Urban Legend.

The Bunny Man legend originated in 1904, when a prison bus broke down in the woods of Fairfax Station and convicts escaped. Most were caught, but two - Marcus Wallster and Douglas Grifon - remained at large. A search of the woods turned up half-eaten rabbits, and led to discovering Wallster's body near the Fairfax Station bridge. From then on, the other escapee - Grifon - was known as the "Bunny Man."

The plot thickened in 1970: two incidents were reported around Halloween...they advanced the legend, and it spread throughout the DC and Maryland areas.

The legend typically says those alleged incidents were based around Colchester Overpass, a Southern Railway overpass spanning Colchester Road near Clifton, VA....sometimes referred to as "Bunny Man Bridge."



In October 1970, two carloads of people parked on Guinea Road in Fairfax looked up to see a man in a white bunny suit swinging a hatchet.

The legend has many variations; most involve a man wearing a rabbit costume who attacks people with an axe or hatchet. Versions of the legend vary in the Bunny Man's name, motives, weapons, victims, description of the bunny costume or lack thereof, and sometimes even his possible death. In some accounts, victims' bodies are mutilated, and in some variations, the Bunny Man's ghost or aging spirit is said to come out of his place of death each year on Halloween to commemorate his death.

Read more about the legend of Bunnyman at [link](#).

Pause,  
Breathe,  
Be Thankful

**1. If there's food in your fridge, clothes on your body, a roof above, and a bed to sleep in, you're richer than 75% of the world.**

**2. If you have some money and the freedom to move, you're already in the top 18%.**

**3. If your body is healthy today, you're luckier than a million people who won't survive this week.**

**4. And if you can read this, see this, understand this, you're more fortunate than 3 billion people who can't.**

So pause. **Breathe. Be thankful.**

Thanks



## As Usual, 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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AND OUR LOCAL  
COMMUNITY WITH PRIDE,  
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KINDNESS**

**Fairfax Lions Club**



**We Serve**

Since 1951