

DISCUSSION ITEM

Proposal for Movie Night

From: [Katie Kight](#)
To: [Scott Mulrooney](#); [Caitlin Counihan](#)
Cc: [Dana Cross](#)
Subject: FW: Movie Night to Celebrate Parkfairfax's Birthday
Date: Tuesday, January 13, 2026 9:08:42 AM

Scott – Not sure if you want to put this on the January or February agenda, but Paul did get back to me about his proposal for the movie night.

Dana – please save this for whichever month Scott decides to put this on the agenda.

Thank you -

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From: Paul Friedman <paulfriedman@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 9:16 AM
To: Katie Kight <kkight@parkfairfax.org>
Subject: Movie Night to Celebrate Parkfairfax's Birthday

Here's the deal.

Background

This all began with our 75th birthday in 2018 when I was chair of the Parkfairfax Birthday Committee. As construction of our community was completed in 1943, I chose Casablanca as our film. It's the greatest film ever made and also from that era. Made in 1942, it won the 1943 Oscar for Best Picture in the 1944 awards ceremony.

The Contracts and the Process

Your office has copies of past contracts.

Every year I negotiate with the projector company to identify the best available date for our movie night/birthday party. My goal in recent years has been the first Saturday in August, as it is least likely to rain and it's neither too hot or cold. As well, sunset comes at about 8:15 pm, which is perfect.

I send the contract to management for it to sign and cut a check. The cost is under \$1,000. I manage the contract too. This generally gets interesting only if there is the threat of rain on the evening of the showing.

In addition, management is then alerted to seek a government permits to close the bottom portion of Preston that is closest to Coryell and for the noise caused by the gathering and the movie.

Then, there is a process to select a film. That has involved offering options to the community. This last time I employed ranked choice voting to determine the most popular choice. It produced a great crowd, which had a great time.

This summer, we will probably want to offer the newest Wicked movie and movies that relate to the 250th birthday of our nation for our community to choose among. We must always be careful to get a PG13 film which would be enticing to adults, as far fewer kids tend to join us for the film than adults.

Once the film is determined, a contract with the company that provides the IP rights must be completed. Depending upon the film, it could cost \$3-500. The IP company would then send us the film.

Then, it must be determined what other elements might be added to make the Birthday Party Celebration fun before promoting it. (Over the years, you have been very helpful with our graphic to do so)

Optional Elements

- Birthday sheet cakes or cupcakes (fee)
- Food trucks (no fees)
- Live music (fee)
- Electronic music (no fee)
- Lawn games (no fees)
- Colored chalk for drawing (fee)

The Big Day

The Activities Committee has set aside the first Saturday in August for our movie night.

As for the day itself, I arrange with management to stop the watering of the triangle for 24 hours in advance and for the placement of "No Parking" signs on both sides of Preston across from the triangle on the Coryell side for 24 hours in advance, as space is needed for the food trucks and personal safety.

Management drops off a tent, some ice water, and a table and chairs, along with garbage bags and cans. It also sets up orange tape and cones to block off the street from drivers from midday until it's all over around 11:30 pm.

The food trucks arrive at 4 pm and I'm there to greet them and am pretty much there until the end of the night. I ensure the cones and tape are properly located to keep cars out. I take photos and encourage folks on FB to come out and get food and see the film.

I greet the people providing the music and to ensure all is working correctly with them.

I greet the movie projector person to ensure they set up in the right place on the triangle.

I welcome folks periodically, such as when I introduce and thank whomever is providing music and when I thank folks for coming and introduce the film.

This past year, we gave out prizes for dressing up as characters from our film, Wicked. We might try something like that again. The kids really enjoyed it

Finally, I thank everyone for coming at the end and encourage them to come back next year.

This year, I would like to budget \$4-500 to pay to invite a portion of the George Mason University Jazz Band to open our show at 7 pm. Music draws more people out to buy food and, given the trucks don't charge, I want to do my best to ensure they do good business, so they will keep returning.

All told, I would appreciate \$2,500 for my budget to cover everything and I am happy to run it independently or in conjunction with your Activities Committee. Doing it together could help improve our promotion and provide volunteers to help run a contest we could hold in the window between the music and the movie.

I think that about covers it.

Best,

Paul