



Council Report – July 2026

Community Affairs Department – Jessica Wyke

Fourth of July Family Fun Day & Parade

The City successfully hosted Groveport's Fourth of July Family Fun Day and Independence Day Parade. This year's Family Fun Day was held in its new location at Groveport Middle School Central and welcomed a large crowd for an evening of family-friendly entertainment. The event featured 10 food trucks, five large inflatables, airbrush tattoo artists, and live performances by three bands on the main stage, including local favorite Shuckin' Bubba Deluxe. The celebration concluded with a spectacular fireworks display.

The Independence Day Parade on July 4 was one of Groveport's largest parades in the past few years, bringing together residents, businesses, organizations, and community groups to celebrate the holiday. Both events were well attended and provided enjoyable experiences for residents and visitors while showcasing Groveport's strong sense of community.

The City extends its sincere appreciation to Madison Township Fire Department for helping make this year's Independence Day Parade even more memorable. The department positioned its new ladder truck at the intersection of Main and Front Streets and proudly displayed a large American flag suspended above the intersection as the parade passed beneath. This impressive patriotic display served as a striking focal point for the celebration and was well received by parade participants and spectators alike. The City is grateful for Madison Township Fire Department's continued partnership and support in helping create meaningful community events.

Adult Programs

The Community Affairs Department has expanded adult programming opportunities for Groveport residents. As part of the ongoing outreach efforts at Greenfield, a new art class has been added to the schedule, joining the existing cooking and craft classes. These programs continue to provide engaging social and recreational opportunities for participants.

Programs on the Go is also underway and has been well received. Last month's excursion included a guided tour of the Rumpke Recycling Center, while this month's trip will take participants to the Baltimore Community Museum. Both outings reached full registration, demonstrating strong community interest in these educational and recreational experiences.

KidSpace – Preschool Programs

The Community Affairs Department continues to offer engaging educational and recreational opportunities through its KidSpace Preschool Programs. A new monthly partnership with the Canal Winchester Library has been well received by preschoolers and their families. Participants meet at the library each month to enjoy storytime and other library activities. Families have also enrolled in the library's Summer Reading Program, where children earn a free book of their choice each month by reading one book each day.

The popular summer creeking program has returned, giving children the opportunity to explore local waterways and learn about nature through hands-on experiences. During recent outings, participants discovered tadpoles in various stages of development and learned about their life cycle.

KidSpace also celebrated Independence Day with a festive party attended by 24 children and their families. The event featured three patriotic craft stations, snacks, and a variety of themed activities.

In addition, the City hosted a petting zoo at Blacklick Park for KidSpace families and the community. More than 100 attendees visited the event to interact with the animals, enjoy the playground, and experience one of Groveport's beautiful parks. The event provided a fun family activity while highlighting one of the City's valued recreational amenities.

August First Thursday – Paws in the Park

At the upcoming August First Thursday, a new dog-themed scavenger hunt will replace the annual dog show, providing a fun alternative during the summer heat that is safer and more comfortable for participating pets.

Attendees and their four-legged companions will be invited to stop by the City's tent to pick up a punch card before visiting participating vendors throughout the event. After collecting 10 stickers, participants can return to the City's tent and allow their furry friend to choose a dog toy as a prize. Participating vendors will also distribute complimentary dog-themed items, such as treats, toys, and bandanas, creating an interactive experience that encourages attendees to explore the event while supporting local vendors.