

cityscene

What's happening in the City of Fairfax

NOVEMBER 2022



New Road Opens in Northfax



Pictured in the photo, from left to right: Fairfax City Councilmembers Tom Ross, So Lim, and Janice Miller; Fairfax City Mayor David Meyer, Councilmember Jon Stehle, Fairfax City Public Works Department Director David Summers, and Terry Yates, manager of Virginia Department of Transportation's NOVA District Local Assistance Program.

The University Drive extension between Fairfax Boulevard and Eaton Place, in the Northfax area of Fairfax City, is now open. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held Sept. 13 to mark the completion of the project. The new road and roundabout support economic development and provide a new vehicular,

pedestrian, and bicycle connection within redeveloping Northfax.

The city received \$10M in SmartScale funding from the Virginia Department of Transportation to construct this project. This is the first project in Fairfax City funded through SmartScale.



MYSTERY ARTIST REVEALED

The lovely painting of the late Kathryn Higgins that appeared on the cover of the October *Cityscene* was painted by artist Merri Davis.



SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY ELF HUNT

SEE PAGE 8

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CITY NEWS

Public Works Now Accepting Stormwater Utility Appeal Applications



CITY OF FAIRFAX
STORMWATER
MANAGEMENT

Property owners who are subject to the city stormwater utility fee may request an adjustment to the fee by submitting an appeal application within 30 calendar days after the date the bill is mailed or otherwise issued. Grounds for an adjustment of the fee are limited to the items listed in Ordinance 2021-12 Sec.102-208, such as an error in calculating impervious area; exempt properties; fee calculation error; incorrect owner; and an approved credit incorrectly applied. Adjustments must be approved by the public works director. Once an appeal is approved, the updated billing unit information will be carried forward each year without the need to reapply.
Info: fairfaxva.gov/stormwaterutility or stormwaterutility@fairfaxva.gov

Holiday Closure and Service Information

Tuesday, Nov. 8, Election Day

- Closed: DMV Select Services
General District Court
- Open: City government offices,
Fairfax Museum and Visitor
Center, Historic Blenheim

Friday, Nov. 11, Veterans Day

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

Wednesday, Nov. 23, Thanksgiving Holiday

- Closed at noon: DMV Select
Services, General District Court
- Open: City government offices

Thursday, Nov. 24, Thanksgiving

- Closed: City government offices,

DMV Select Services, General District Court, Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, Historic Blenheim

■ CUE Bus: no service Friday, Nov. 25, Day After Thanksgiving

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

Holiday Refuse & Recycling Collection Schedule

- Nov. 10: Thursday and Friday routes collected
- Nov. 11: no service
- Nov. 24: no service
- Nov. 25: Thursday and Friday routes collected

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

Don't Bag It! Rake Loose Leaves to Curb for Collection, Through Dec. 30

From Oct. 31 through Dec. 30, the city provides curbside leaf collection in neighborhoods that receive city refuse collection service. Please rake leaves loose to the curb. *Bagged leaves are not collected during this time.* Leaf piles may include light yard debris in leaf piles (grass clippings and weeds) — but not stones, branches, and other large items, which may injure workers and damage equipment. *Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "Leaf"), 703-385-LEAF.* Sign up for electronic leaf collection updates on Fairfax City Alert: fairfaxva.gov/fairfaxcityalert.

Sherwood Giving Tree 2022

We need your support! Fairfax City Parks and Recreation is partnering with Fairfax City Schools to help families in need this holiday season. Giving options include sponsoring a small or large family, gift card or monetary donations, purchasing gifts

from Amazon Wishlist, and donating wrapping supplies.

Please visit fairfaxva.gov/givingtree for more details and to complete the 2022 sponsor form. All donations are tax deductible. *Questions? parksrec@fairfaxva.gov, 703-385-7858*

Fairfax Turkey Trot 5K, Virtual Runs Support Fire Department Benevolent Fund, Nov. 24

Lace up your running shoes and run for fun, and to support the City of Fairfax Fire Department Benevolent Fund in a 5K run on Thanksgiving Day, Nov. 24. This year, participants can run the course in and around Old Town Fairfax — or participate virtually wherever you run. Not a runner? Not a problem: donate virtually (and sweat-free) to the worthy cause. *Info: runpacers.com/pages/events, click on "Fairfax Turkey Trot 5K"*

Real Estate Tax, Stormwater Utility Bills Mailed; Due Dec. 5

City of Fairfax real estate tax bills, which include the stormwater utility fee, will be mailed by early November and are due Dec. 5. If you pay real estate taxes directly and have not received a tax bill, call 703-385-7900. If you receive a real estate tax bill but your mortgage company escrows the payment, please immediately forward the bill to your mortgage company.

Real Estate Taxes: Payment Options

Payment may be made via e-check, credit card, phone, or PayPal; a convenience fee may be charged by the provider. A secure drop box is located at City Hall, on the circular driveway on Armstrong Street. *Information: 703-385-7900 fairfaxva.gov (How Do I... click on "Pay Tax & Bills").*

Interest-Free Loans Available for Tax Payments

City residents may apply for interest-free loans to pay real estate taxes

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COUNCIL REPORTER

PLEASE NOTE: summaries have been edited. To read the full Council Reporter, visit fairfaxva.gov and click on “City Meetings.”

COUNCIL ACTIONS OF SEPT. 6, 2022

- Approved, unanimously, remote participation by Councilmember Lim.
- Closed meeting to discuss personnel matters.
- Approved, unanimously, the city council concur with the city manager’s appointment of Stacey Sommerfield as the new Parks and Recreation Department director.
- Approved, unanimously, to introduce an ordinance authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds of the City of Fairfax, Virginia, in the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$14.8 million to finance wastewater utility capital project costs. Further moved to waive the first reading and set the public hearing for consideration of the ordinance for September 13, 2022.
- Approved, unanimously, to introduce an ordinance approving and authorizing a blanket conditional license to use certain to be designated small portions of city right-of-way necessary to implement the City of Fairfax seasonal outdoor dining pilot program. Further moved to waive the first reading and to set the public hearing on consideration of the proposed ordinance for September 13, 2022.
- Closed meeting to discuss acquisition of real property for public purposes, consultation with legal counsel for legal advice.

COUNCIL ACTIONS OF SEPT. 13, 2022

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

- Presentation of a commendation to Tom Casey acknowledging his quick actions calling first responders for the fire at Artie’s restaurant.
- Presentation of a proclamation acknowledging September as National Preparedness Month in the City of Fairfax.
- Presentation of a proclamation acknowledging September 22, 2022, as Car Free Day in the City of Fairfax.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

- Approved, unanimously, the adoption of the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approved, unanimously: Consideration of a fourth amendment to employment agreement for the city manager; Consideration of an award of professional services contract to BKV Group DC, PLLC for the Fire Station 3 feasibility study; Consideration of a resolution authorizing the city manager to enter a funding agreement with Fairfax County to construct CUE Bus stop improvements in the county; Introduction of an ordinance authorizing “quick-take” condemnation of a permanent sight distance easement on real property at 3732 Chain Bridge Road; Introduction of an ordinance authorizing “quick-take” condemnation of a permanent sidewalk easement and a permanent sight distance easement on real property at 10500 Cedar Ave.; Intro-

duction of an ordinance amending City Code Chapter 86 (Subdivisions) to amend portions of articles and sections contained therein, including but not limited to: design and improvements and administration pertaining to floodplain regulations; Introduction of an ordinance amending City Code Chapter 54 (Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions); Consideration of authorization to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding between the City and the County of Fairfax for animal shelter services.

- Approved, unanimously, after discussion, consideration of an award of construction contract for pump station force main lining.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Approved, unanimously, to enact an ordinance approving and authorizing a blanket conditional license to use certain to be designated small portions of city right-of-way necessary to implement the City of Fairfax Seasonal Outdoor Dining Pilot Program.
- Approved, unanimously, an ordinance authorizing the issuance of revenue bonds of the city in the maximum aggregate principal amount of \$14.8 million, to finance wastewater utility capital project costs.

ITEMS NOT REQUIRING A PUBLIC HEARING

- Approved, unanimously, a resolution providing for the issuance and sale of a taxable sewer system revenue bond, series 2022, of the city, in a principal amount not to exceed \$14.8 million, and providing for the form, details and payment thereof.
- Approved, unanimously, a resolution adopting the Seasonal Outdoor Dining Pilot Permit Program.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Approved, unanimously, the July 12, 2022, Regular Meeting minutes.
- Approved, unanimously the July 26, 2022, Regular Meeting minutes.

CLOSED MEETING

- Closed meeting to discuss personnel matters, possible acquisition of real property for public purposes, and for consultation with legal counsel for legal advice.

COUNCIL ACTIONS OF SEPT. 27, 2022

CLOSED MEETING

- Convened a closed meeting to conduct interviews for and discuss appointments to boards and commissions.

PRESENTATIONS AND PROCLAMATIONS

- Approved, unanimously, remote participation by Councilmember Harmon.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

- Approved, unanimously, the adoption of the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approved, unanimously: Consideration of the 2023 City of Fairfax special event run requests pursuant to City Council Road Race and Road Closure Policy; Consideration of a Fourth Amendment to Employment Agreement for the City Manager (amended); Introduction of an ordinance amending City Code Chapter 2 (Administration), Article VI (Finance), Division 3 (Procurement Procedures) to provide for procurement under the Virginia Public-

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HELPING HANDS

THE CITY NEEDS PEOPLE LIKE YOU

SERVE ON BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

Board of Architectural Review (one vacancy for a business representative, and one city resident); **Board of Building Code Appeals** (one mechanical or plumbing vacancy); **Commission for Women** (three vacancies); **Commission on the Arts** (one vacancy); **Environmental Sustainability Committee** (one vacancy); **Fairfax Village in the City Advisory Board** (one vacancy); **Human Services Committee** (one vacancy) **Parks and Recreation Advisory Board** (three vacancies). Vacancies are subject to change.

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



CLEAN UP AFTER YOUR DOG

CITY NEWS

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and personal property taxes through the Taxpayer Assistance Program (TAP). Borrow \$250 - \$15,000 and repay monthly for six to 10 months. Apply in-person with the Treasurer's Office. There is a 7.5% application fee. Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "TAP"), 703-385-7900.

Tax Relief Available

Fairfax City provides real estate tax relief options to qualified senior citizens and homeowners with disabilities: basic tax relief, tax deferral, tax freeze, or combination tax freeze and deferral. Additionally, disabled veterans (or their surviving spouses) may be eligible for real estate tax exemptions on their principal residences. Applications are due April 17, 2023. fairfaxva.gov/government/finance, 703-359-2486.

Fruit Sale Supports Local Charities

The Fairfax Lions Club will hold fruit sales Nov. 17-19 and Dec. 15-17, to support local charities. Sales include fresh Florida oranges, mandarins, and grapefruit; Vermont maple syrup; and Virginia peanuts. This year, sales will be held at the American Legion Post 177 (3939 Oak St.). Pre-ordering is available. Sign up for email notifications and discounts at fairfaxlions.org/citrus-sale-notification.

COUNCIL REPORTER

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Private Education Facilities and Infrastructure Act ("PPEA") and associated City Guidelines for Implementation.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

- Approved, unanimously, to enact an ordinance authorizing the initiation of "quick-take" condemnation proceeding for the acquisition of a permanent sight distance easement on property at 3732 Chain Bridge Road.
- Approved, unanimously, to enact an ordinance authorizing the initiation of "quick-take" condemnation proceedings for the acquisition of a permanent sidewalk easement and a permanent sight distance easement on property at 10500 Cedar Ave.
- Approved, unanimously, to enact an ordinance amending various provisions of City Code Chapter 54 (Offenses and Miscellaneous Provisions).

APPOINTMENTS TO BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

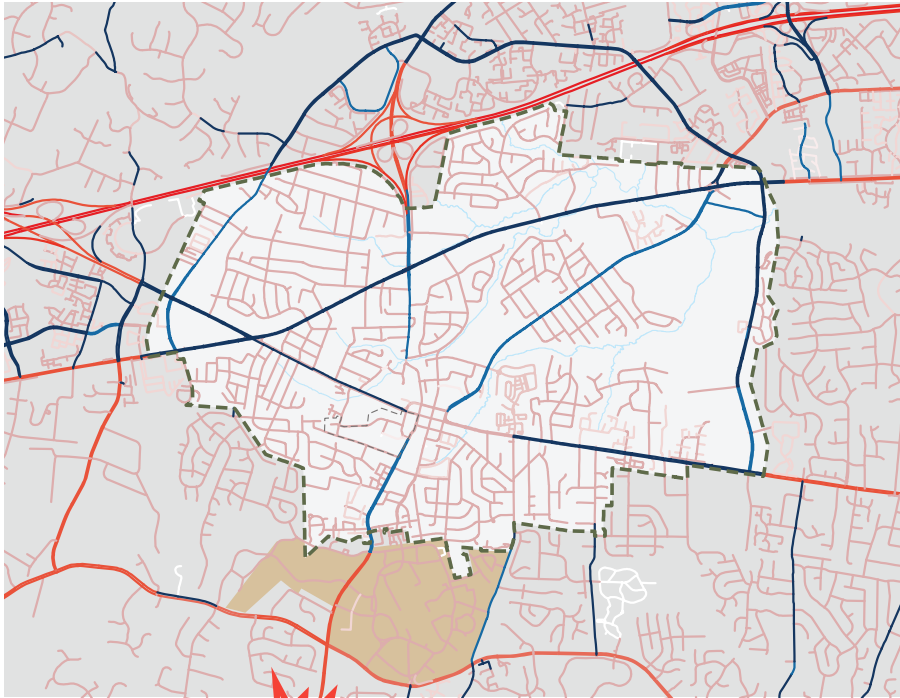
- Approved, unanimously, to reappoint Robert Beaty to the Board of Architectural Review, and Melissa Grow to the Commission on the Arts.
- Approved, unanimously, to appoint Dawn McGruder to the Economic Development Authority.



YouTube

www.youtube.com/user/cityoffairfaxva

Are You Driving too Fast?



402

vehicular crashes in 2021

2

fatal accidents in 2019

1

fatal accident in 2020

1

fatal accident in 2021

One way to make Fairfax City safer for pedestrians and cyclists is for motorists to obey the speed limit. Slowing down makes city streets and intersections safer for all users.

Did you know most Fairfax City streets have a posted speed limit of 25 mph? (Speed limits in school zones decrease during morning and afternoon drop-off times, and the lower speed limits are enforced by cameras.)

Check out the map above to see how well you know city speed limits. Answers on page 6.



Meet the New Parks & Recreation Director

Stacey Sommerfield was selected to lead the city's parks and recreation department following a national search to fill the position which became vacant when Cathy Salgado retired in August. Her start date was Sept. 26.

Sommerfield, a NRPA Certified Parks and Recreation Professional, formerly served as the director of

parks and recreation for the Moon Township in Allegheny County, Pa., a municipality of 25,000 northwest of Pittsburgh. She has served as executive director of the Buffalo Valley Recreation Authority in Lewisburg, Pa. Previously, Sommerfield was the assistant director of service learning at Bucknell University.



Fall Community Cleanup

The fall community cleanup event will be held 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 6. The city will host a pit-stop at Van Dyck Park, where volunteers can pick up cleanup supplies (gloves, reflective vests, picker tools, and trash bags) and learn how to prevent pollution and protect the well-being of local ecosystems. From the pit-stop, volunteers proceed to a designated cleanup location. At the end of the event, city refuse crews will pick up the collected litter. City property owners who participate in community cleanup events will be eligible to apply for stormwater utility credits. Residents and volunteer groups are asked to register by Nov. 4 at fairfaxva.gov/communitycleanup.

Prevent Expensive, Messy Sewer Backups

The holiday season is approaching, which means home cooking for large gatherings of family and friends. Your outspoken distant relative with controversial views isn't the only thing that could spoil an otherwise enjoyable meal. Rinsing fats, oil, and grease down the drain could block your pipes and result in a messy backup. Warm fats, oils, and grease solidify quickly as they cool inside your pipes.

To avoid a problem only a plumber can fix, place used cooking oil, lard, shortening, meat fats, sauces, gravy, and other rich foods in the trash.



Upcoming programs and performances are listed in the events calendar at fairfaxva.gov.

LIVE LIFE IN THE ARTS



5 MINUTES WITH ...

CHARLIE BLEVINS

ASPHALT SUPERVISOR



Charlie Blevins has 25 years of service with Fairfax City. He oversees the city's street maintenance crew. Additionally, he inspects capital improvement projects and manages the paving and asphalt sidewalk rehabilitation budgets.

Blevins says his goal is to pave city streets with minimal disruption to residents. "Maintaining a consistent flow of traffic throughout the work zone is almost always a challenge during main road paving operations," he said.

Blevins' route to his current role as crew supervisor began when he joined the city as a truck driver in the streets division. He moved to operations as a utility worker II, and then returned to the streets division as a utility worker III before being promoted to his supervisory role.

Bonita Lestina Old Town Hall Performance Series: Ensemble 29

8 p.m. Nov. 4, Old Town Hall. Ensemble 29 is a dynamic and energetic brass quintet featuring some of our areas most talented and active musicians and educators. The program will feature selections from Leonard Bernstein's "West Side Story," Bruce Broughton's "Silverado," local composer Kevin McKee's exciting "Escape," and much more!



European folk melodies and rhythms that reflect their passion for blending the old with the new, in a style that is fresh, lively, and beautiful.

Nrityagram Dance Ensemble

7 p.m., Sherwood Center. Weaving together two dance vocabularies – Odissi from India and



Kandyan from Sri Lanka – their performance of Āhuti (Sanskrit for "invoking" and Pali for "offering") features live flute, violin, harmonium, manjira, and drums.

City of Fairfax Band: Music of the Knights

4 p.m. Nov. 13, Capital One Hall.

Bonita Lestina Old Town Hall Performance Series: Gerdan (Ukrainian Folk Music)

8 p.m. Nov. 18, Old Town Hall. The ensemble creates original arrangements of traditional Eastern

BETTER BUS

How can **the bus** work **better** for you?

The **Better Bus** initiative will take a fresh look at Metrobus and CUE bus routes to serve you better. The project will create a **fast, frequent, and reliable** bus network that is easier to understand and takes more people where they want to go.

Sign up for the newsletter at wmata.com/betterbus

Take the survey by **November 11** and be entered for a chance to win a **\$50 SmarTrip card!**

QR code and logos for CUE and Metro.

ANSWERS TO SPEED QUIZ ON PAGE 5

- Fairfax Boulevard - 35 mph
- Old Lee Highway - 30 mph
- Chain Bridge Road - 30 mph (except near Old Town Fairfax)
- Pickett Road - mostly 35 mph (30 near intersection with 236)
- North Street, University Drive, and George Mason Boulevard - 25 mph

MAKING *History*

True Sons: Virginia's African American Soldiers in World War I
Nov. 13

Barbara Batson, the exhibitions coordinator for the Library of Virginia, provides illuminating details about the African American Virginian World War I soldiers portrayed in the True Sons of Freedom exhibit currently on display at the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center. The history talk is at 2 p.m. Nov. 13 at the Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center. Free. Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "Batson")

George Mason and the 1776 Virginia Declaration of Rights
Nov. 19

Gunston Hall executive director Scott Stroh discusses the historical context and continuing contemporary relevance of the Virginia Declaration of Rights, and how it contradicts George Mason's views on slavery. The history talk is at 2 p.m. Nov. 19 at Historic Blenheim. Free. Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "Stroh")

Traveling Exhibition:

Freedom: A History of US

Check out graphic reproductions of important historical documents — such as the 1776 printing of the Declaration of Independence and handwritten letters by leading historical figures — in the traveling exhibition Freedom: A History of US, from the Gilder-Lehrman Institute of American History. From Nov. 8 through Dec. 2, see the exhibit at the Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim. The center is open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday (excluding some holidays). Free. Info: fairfaxva.gov (search "Gilder-Lehrman"), 703-591-6728

HOW TO VOTE IN THE NOV. 8 GENERAL ELECTIONS

EARLY VOTING

- **In Person:** Early voting is available from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays through Nov. 4, and from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays through Nov. 5, in the City Hall Annex. *Please bring your ID.*
- **By Mail:** Return your completed ballot in-person at the Office of Elections **OR** place in the secure ballot drop box at the City Hall Atrium east entrance (facing George Mason Boulevard) by 7 p.m. Nov. 8 **OR** return by mail (postmarked by Nov. 8 and received by noon Nov. 14 to be counted). Voted ballots also may be returned at any city precinct on Election Day.

ELECTION DAY, NOV. 8

- Polls are open from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. Voters who are in line to vote at 7 p.m. will be permitted to vote.
- eConfirm your designated polling place via vote.elections.virginia.gov/VoterInformation.
- If you are not registered to vote, you may register and vote a provisional ballot during early voting or at your designated polling place on Election Day.
- Voters who requested by-mail ballots but wish to vote in person may do so. Please bring the by-mail ballot to the polling location; you will be asked to spoil the ballot before voting in-person.

Info: fairfaxva.gov/vote, 703-385-7891



Shop Local with Fairfax City's NEW eGift Card Program



fairfaxcityconnected.com/flexcard

Why Shop Local?

- More money stays in your community.
- Create local jobs.
- Invest in entrepreneurship.
- Local businesses give back to their community!



cityscene

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

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- Large Print
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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.

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@CityofFairfaxVA



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



36th Annual Holiday Craft Show

Find unique gifts created by more than 200 artisans at the City of Fairfax Holiday Craft Show Nov. 19-20 at Fairfax High School (3501 Lion Run). The show is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday. A free accessible shuttle will be available Saturday only, running from 9:45 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. between 10306 Eaton Place and the high school.

2022 Small Business Saturday Elf Scavenger Hunt

Fairfax City
NOV 26 - DEC 5
fairfaxcityconnected.com/22elf

Logos: FAIRFAX CITY Economic Development, Central Fairfax Chamber of Commerce, OLD TOWN FAIRFAX BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

Purchase a daily pass for \$5/person or a two-day pass for \$8/person. Free entry for 18 and under. Santa will make a special appearance at the

show this year. Grab a photo with the jolly old elf! Vendor map and info: fairfaxholidayshow.com, 703-385-1710 or specialevents@fairfaxva.gov