



Economic Development

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PARK(ING) DAY AT FAIR CITY MALL**

**Fairfax, VA – Park(ing) Day** is a global event that experiments with reclaiming vehicular space for recreation and artistic expression. Typically, this is an interactive event with installations that are engaging but also reframe one’s perspective on the use of space. This year, to adhere to safety precautions and encourage social distancing, Fairfax City will convert parking spaces at **Fair City Mall, 9560 Main Street** into a balloon garden on **Friday, September 18, 2020 between 11:00 am and 2:00 pm**. The balloon garden will be designed so that visitors can share their thoughts on their favorite things about Fairfax City. Comments will be attached to a balloon in the garden and visitors can read the thoughtful messages as they stroll through the space. In addition to the balloon garden, there will be a **performance by the Dewberry School of Music Flute Ensemble of George Mason University’s (GMU) College of Visual and Performing Arts at 11:30 am and 12:30 pm**. The activation of parking spaces at Fair City Mall also provides visibility to Fairfax City’s business community. Participating businesses will be providing giveaways and there will be a number of raffle drawings for gift cards to Fair City Mall businesses to include Cinema Arts Theatre, Kokee Tea, Mama Lucia, Yama Chen, and many more.

This is a socially-distanced outdoor event but visitors that have been diagnosed with COVID-19, awaiting test results for COVID-19, or show any symptoms of the virus are asked to stay home. To ensure the health and safety of the public, the Fairfax City Economic Development Office will be implementing comprehensive COVID-19 protocols to mitigate the spread of the virus which include:

- Temporal temperature checks upon entering;
- Limited occupancy;
- Attendees are asked to wear face coverings;
- Use of hand sanitizer for all attendees and avoidance of casual touching;
- Entrances and exits will be monitored for one-way traffic;
- Social distancing required between artists and patrons.

In the event of inclement weather, Park(ing) Day will be cancelled. If the event is cancelled, we will post cancellations to our social channels at @FairfaxCityEDA on Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook.

Park(ing) Day began in 2005 when ReBar, a San Francisco art and design studio converted a single metered parking space into a temporary public park in downtown San Francisco. Since then, the event has become an international movement with pop-up parks reactivating public spaces.

To learn more about Fairfax City’s Park(ing) Day event visit [fairfaxcityconnected.com/parkingday2020](http://fairfaxcityconnected.com/parkingday2020).