



# Special Event Process



A special event is a temporary outdoor activity held on private property, including but not limited to, seasonal sales, the display of goods and merchandise as part of a retail promotional activity, community or cultural events, musical events, celebrations, festivals, fairs, carnivals, and circuses.

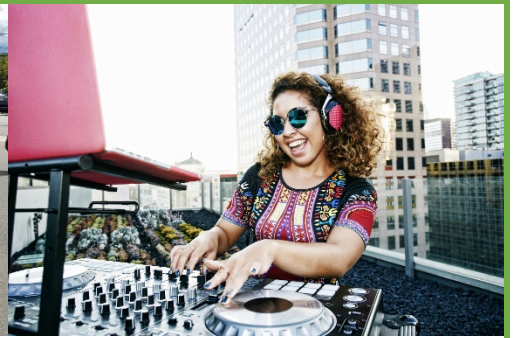
Special events may be sponsored by for-profit or non-profit entities and are limited to 21 days. This 21-day timeframe does not need to be consecutive (meaning an event may occur once a week for up to 21 weeks, select days during the summer, etc.), as approved by the Zoning Administrator. Please review the [Zoning Ordinance](#) for a list of other standards. The following provides an overview of the permit process:



### Additional Resources and Contact Information:

<b>Animal Protection Police</b>	(703) 691-2131	<a href="mailto:fcpdanimalprotection@fairfaxcounty.gov">fcpdanimalprotection@fairfaxcounty.gov</a>
<b>Fire Marshal</b>	(703) 246-4803	<a href="mailto:fire.revenuepermits@fairfaxcounty.gov">fire.revenuepermits@fairfaxcounty.gov</a>
<b>Health Department (Food Service)</b>	(703) 246-2444	<a href="mailto:hdehd@fairfaxcounty.gov">hdehd@fairfaxcounty.gov</a>
<b>Health Department (Sanitation)</b>	(703) 246-2201	<a href="mailto:hdehd@fairfaxcounty.gov">hdehd@fairfaxcounty.gov</a>
<b>Permits Administration</b>	(703) 222-0801	<a href="mailto:LDSbuildingpermits@fairfaxcounty.gov">LDSbuildingpermits@fairfaxcounty.gov</a>
<b>VDOT (Arlington/Fairfax Permits Section)</b>	(703) 259-1773	<a href="mailto:NOVAFairfaxPermits@VDOT.Virginia.gov">NOVAFairfaxPermits@VDOT.Virginia.gov</a>
<b>Zoning Permits Section</b>	(703) 222-1082	<a href="mailto:DPZMailforZPRB@fairfaxcounty.gov">DPZMailforZPRB@fairfaxcounty.gov</a>

\*For more information on the special event administrative permit process, please contact the Zoning Permits Section.



### Types of Events That May Need an Administrative Permit:

- Food, beer, or wine festival
- 5k road race
- Flea market or other type of open-air market
- Seasonal sales (such as sales of Christmas trees, fireworks, pumpkins, or other seasonal items)
- Carnival or circus
- Outdoor concert or music festival
- Pop-up parks
- Drive-in movie nights
- Reoccurring community events with food trucks

### Types of Events That May Not Need an Administrative Permit:

- Private events (such as a birthday party)
- Outdoor events in areas already approved for special events (such as certain areas of planned districts like Mosaic, Tysons, and the Lorton Workhouse Arts Center)
- Sidewalk sales accessory to a retail use
- Block party
- Portable storage container in association with a dwelling for a certain time period

