



FAIRFAX CITY INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

THURSDAY, JULY 4th, 2013, FAIRFAX CITY



THE WHAT, WHY, WHO, HOW, WHEN, AND WHERE

WHAT: The highlight of the annual City of Fairfax July 4th celebration is the parade. Our lodge will proudly participate in this huge event this year for the seventh consecutive time. (You can see a clip of last year's unit on parade starting at the 1-hour-06-minute spot at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PO2dipxzAng>. Some photos are on our lodge web site at http://www.italianheritagelodge.org/linked_pages/images/Photos%20parade%202012/index.htm.) After the parade participants will enjoy a free indoor/outdoor **picnic** and watch the rebroadcast of the parade together **on television!** (See TV schedule on the next page.)

WHY: By participating in the celebration, parade participants show **pride** in our **Italian culture** and pride in the **contributions of Italians and Italian Americans** to the United States of America. We also take advantage of an opportunity to obtain favorable publicity for our lodge—a potential help in **recruiting** new members. Although the parade is very short, it will be filled with many fond memories for us all along the way. In short, it's a lot of **fun!**

WHO: **You** are invited, as well as **whoever else you invite** to fill our parade unit's ranks. Since many of our members will be away or otherwise committed for the holiday, we need as many paraders as possible in order to make the impression we seek. So, please invite your friends and neighbors; they need not be of Italian ancestry, as long as they appreciate Italian culture. There are only a few other considerations: Participants must be at least six years old, unless they ride in a decorated wheeled vehicle, such as a stroller or wagon.

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They must not be a “unit” that would normally need to apply to the Fairfax parade committee to participate; in any case they will represent our lodge, which in itself represents the Italian American community. They are also “strongly discouraged” from bringing pets. And, of course, they must not in any anyway be a potential source of embarrassment.

HOW: Since there will be several convertibles in our unit, as well as a large truck (Thank you, R.E. Lee Electric Company!), you or your guests who cannot (or choose not) to **walk** the leisurely one-mile parade route, should be able to **ride**. Children, however, will not be permitted aboard the truck. Participants who have difficulty walking will have priority according to severity, of course; and all truck riders will be asked to sign a standard liability waiver.

Wear an OSIA shirt, if you have one; otherwise, **wear** one or more **USA patriotic colors and/or** one or more colors of the Italian flag (**red, white, green**). Of course, don't forget sunscreen and good walking shoes. Hopefully you will not need an umbrella. In fact, if rain is very likely, the parade will be cancelled. If in doubt, check the official city parade web site at <http://www.fairfaxva.gov/specialevents/IDC/IDC.asp> . If still in doubt, phone the lodge parade chairman's cell phone at 703-475-6962.

WHEN: Please meet at the staging area around **9:00 AM** to help decorate. **If** you are running **late**, don't worry; **just come**, for our unit will appear about the midpoint of the parade. However, please allow time for traffic and detours. It will all be **over before noon**.

WHERE: Previous participants please note that we will assemble in **a different place** this year! We'll meet right across **Judicial Drive** from Red, Hot, & Blue BBQ **at** the intersection with **Rt. 123**. See the second **map on the next page**. We are in **Division 3**. Go there and look for **Position 316** or for familiar faces. Enter the area by turning from Rt. 236 in Fairfax City onto Judicial Drive. If, and only, if you have permission and a pass to drive your vehicle in the parade continue on Judicial Drive to the Division 3 meeting point at the corner of Rt. 123. Otherwise, from Judicial Drive turn left onto Page Avenue and Park in Parking Garage B on your left. Then walk the short distance to the meeting point. After the parade, just go back to Judicial Drive and follow the signs.

NOTES

About the **telecast**:

- Our friends who stay home can see the Parade live on the City's Channel 12 (Cox & Verizon), and you can watch the replay every day at 2:00 PM, July 4 – 31.
 - We can all see it online at www.fairfaxva.gov; click on “Cityscreen-12 Live,” toward the bottom of the page.
 - Naturally, it will also be a YouTube “sensation,” beginning July 8; access it from the City's webpage, above, and click on the “YouTube” icon.
- Finally, we can purchase a DVD for \$15; send a letter requesting the Parade DVD and check made payable to “City of Fairfax” to City of Fairfax Channel 12, Attn: Rachael Roth, 10455 Armstrong Street, Fairfax, VA 22030

Any **questions?**

- For information about other celebratory events of the day in the City of Fairfax, such as **fireworks and bands**, see <http://www.fairfaxva.gov/specialEvents/IDC/IDC.asp>.
- Get directions to the after-parade **picnic** site at the parade staging area.
- For any questions about the Italian Heritage Lodge's participation in the **parade**, please phone our lodge Parade Committee Chairman at 703-475-6962 (cell) or email joe.lamarca@italianheritagelodge.org .

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