



# City Sketches

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2023

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## Christmas is coming to Gaston Plaza!

It's the most wonderful time of the year! Fairhope's season of Christmas celebrations kick off on Thursday, November 16, with the annual Lighting of the Trees Celebration. Enjoy this magical night with a snowy Tree Lighting ceremony with Christmas music playing through the streets of Downtown Fairhope. Be sure to bring your little ones to write their letter to Santa and take a photo with Mrs. Claus. The evening activities begin at 5:30 p.m., and the lights come on at 6 p.m. sharp!

The weekend continues with the 13th annual Movie in the Street: On Fairhope Avenue on Saturday, November 18, at 6:30 p.m. Take a trip to "Whoville" as we show "The Grinch" under the stars. The movie will be shown at the intersection of Section Street and Fairhope Avenue. Be sure to bring your lawn chairs and blankets from home. Children are also invited to wear their holiday pajamas.

The weekend wraps up with Fairhope's Annual Christmas Open house on Sunday, November 19, from 1 to 5 p.m. Come shop for Christmas, enjoy listening to live music, sample tasty holiday treats, bring the kids for free face painting at the Fairhope Welcome Center, and take part in this long-standing Fairhope tradition.

## NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

Fairhope Film Festival

America Recycles Day

Santa's coming to town!



## Veterans Activities

Every November, the City of Fairhope pays homage to the nation's veterans through an annual Veterans Day parade and Sunset Prayer Service. The parade will be on November 4 at 10 a.m. and will begin and end at the Fairhope Civic Center. The parade provides the public with the opportunity to salute and honor our local veteran community. Leading the parade will be Fairhope's 2023 Veteran of the Year.

The celebration will continue Saturday, November 11, at 4:45 p.m. in Henry George Park. A sunset prayer service will be held at Tears of Sorrow, Tears of Joy, the City's veterans memorial. Pastor Mike Megginson with 3 Circle Church will lead the prayer service and Taps will be performed following the prayer.



## Fairhope Film Festival

**November 9-12**

Fairhope Film Festival is back! Award-winning films from the USA and around the world will be screening at six local venues November 9-12, 2023. Opening night kicks off with an outdoor film at Coastal Community College's Halstead Amphitheater. Following that will be movies, panels, presentations, a street party, and a drive-in. You don't want to miss this year's 10th annual fest.

For more information, visit [Fairhopefilmfestival.org](http://Fairhopefilmfestival.org)

All tickets sold online exclusively at [fairhopefilmfestival.org](http://fairhopefilmfestival.org). Tickets for in-person showings and virtual are \$15 each.

## America Recycles Day

**Wednesday, November 15**

Ever wonder where your recyclable materials go once the City of Fairhope truck picks them up at your house? From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on November 15, the City's crews will be at the City Recycling Building at 451 Pecan Drive to answer your questions about recycling: what can be recycled and what can't; where the various items go and what happens to them; and how you can recycle more of what might now be going into your trash.

The city will also accept all old electronics and will have a community shredding truck from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.



## Holiday Schedule

The City of Fairhope will be **CLOSED** on:

**November 10: Veterans Day Observed**

**November 23 and 24: Thanksgiving Holiday**

**December 25 and 26: Christmas Holiday**

There will be no garbage, trash, or recycling pickup. Services will resume on the next scheduled pickup day.

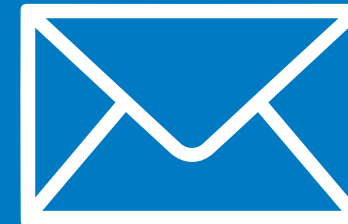


## Santa's coming to town!

Santa Claus is coming to the streets of Downtown Fairhope! Join us for Fairhope's Magical Christmas Parade on Friday, December 1 at 7 p.m. With more than 60 parade units, the crowd is sure to be dazzled with anticipation for the arrival of Santa Claus himself! The parade will start at Morphy and Section Street and continue down Section Street to Oak Street.

Also back again for the holiday season is "Santa Saturdays"! Stop by in front of the Fairhope Museum of History from 10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 2nd and Saturday, December 9th for photos with Santa Claus. Parents are encouraged to bring their own camera to take photos.

*Are you receiving the City of Fairhope bi-weekly e-newsletter?*



Get signed up today so you don't miss out! Each newsletter features important updates and announcements from City departments, project updates, construction progress, upcoming meetings, events and more.

*Visit [fairhopeal.gov](http://fairhopeal.gov) to sign up today!*



## New Year's Eve Celebration

**Sunday, December 31**

Ring in the new year with the City of Fairhope as we host our annual New Year's Eve Celebration in the streets of downtown Fairhope. Residents and visitors are invited to bring their families for the celebration. The main stage entertainment will begin playing at 8:30 p.m. at the corner of Fairhope Avenue and Church Street. Other entertainment will include face painting, fireworks, and a ball drop at midnight.

Many downtown restaurants will be open for those who wish to eat in downtown and then just hangout until midnight. Section Street will be left open to through traffic; handicap parking will be available on Section Street in designated handicap areas and in the parking lot behind Julwin's.



## LETTER FROM THE MAYOR



Greetings, I hope everyone is having a wonderful holiday season! With November and December, comes the most wonderful time of the year in Fairhope. From Fairhope's Annual Lighting of the Trees and the Movie in the Street in November to the Magical Christmas Parade and Santa Saturdays in December, Fairhope has so many opportunities for you to celebrate the Christmas season with family and friends.

It's hard to believe another year is ending and we will soon ring in 2024 with another great New Year's Eve Celebration. As we prepare to say goodbye to 2023, I want to thank our city employees, residents, and business owners. We could not do what we do without your support! I am thankful for each one of you and wish you all a happy holiday season and a healthy 2024!

*Sherry Sullivan, Mayor*

## Contact your elected officials

**Sherry Sullivan, Mayor**

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### Mayor & City Council mailing address:

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## Public Meetings Listings

**The Fairhope Planning Commission**  
MEETS AT 5PM | *City Council chambers*  
FIRST MONDAY OF EACH MONTH

**The Fairhope City Council**  
MEETS AT 6PM | *City Council chambers*  
THE SECOND AND FOURTH MONDAYS

**FairhopeAL.gov | 251-928-2136**