The 11th Annual D-Day Commemoration is June 3rd and 4th!

The Alexandria-Caen Sister City in collaboration with the Office of Historic Alexandria is proud to honor the 77th Anniversary of D-Day with two virtual events. Join us at 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 3 for part one of the city’s annual D-Day commemoration. Former U.S. Army Historian Dr. Kim Bernard Holien presents Secrets of D-Day, discussing the events, known and unknown, in a “Rest of the Story” presentation about the secrets that made the Allies victorious on the “day of days.” Part two is the next day, June 4 at noon with Paris-based American journalist, photographer, and author Linda Hervieux discussing her book FORGOTTEN: The Untold Story of D-Day’s Black Heroes, at Home and at War.

For more on this year’s Commemoration of D-Day, please visit here.
Pride Month Virtual Lecture: Mapping the Gay Guides: Understanding Queer Spaces in Pre- & Post-Stonewall America

Thursday June 10, 7-8:30 p.m.

$6 per ticket, Register here

Dr. Eric Gonzaba will discuss his project Mapping the Gay Guides, a digital project which aims to understand the often-ignored queer geographies through an interactive web application and digital public history project. Drawing on and making accessible the Damron Guides, an early but longstanding travel guide aimed at gay men since the early 1960s, this online mapping project explores different dimensions of American gay life through time, from bars and nightlife, bookstores, cinemas, and churches.

This lecture is part of Pride Month in Alexandria. For more information on other events, please visit here.

Register Today!

A Historic Summer!
Virtual Summer Camps with Historic Alexandria

Join us this summer for a historic time! Historic Alexandria has created unique virtual programs for rising 6th through 9th graders. Cost is $130 per week, which includes daily live virtual instruction from 10-11:30am and additional activities to complete outside of class. Scholarships available. To register and get additional information, visit AlexandriaVa.Gov/Shop. All Sales are Final.

Media-Savvy Digital Movie Makers
June 28 - July 2
Create your own commercial for good! Participants will learn about media and its influence in our life through a tour of the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum’s collections, then use their media-know-how to create a Public Service Announcement on a topic of their choosing. From crafting a powerful message to storyboarding to digital movie tips, everyone will be prepared to create an amazing PSA of their own that will be featured during the final session.
Campers will need to complete daily filming and editing outside of class time, with teachers available for feedback and support. While fun for anyone wanting to learn more about messaging and digital movies, this session is designed to complete all requirements for the Cadette Girl Scout Media Journey and the Digital Movie Maker Badge and many of the requirements for the Boys Scouts of America Moviemaking Merit Badge.

Seeds of Change: Where History Meets Environmental Science
Week 1: August 9-13 * Week 2: Aug 16-20
Want a better future for all of us? D.I.Y. your part! Explore the cultural history of our area and take a closer look at our relationship with the natural environment. Through a series of fun and easy D.I.Y. projects using everyday items, we will investigate the roots of change in our nation's first 250 years. Learn lessons from the past with the help of science to create a more sustainable way forward. You can make a better community one project at a time.

Each week is different but will explore the history of nature and our relationship with it through the lens of different plants we eat; earth, air, & water; and animals we depend on. Each day includes group challenges, a project that uses items typically found around home, and fascinating facts that connect our past to our present through nature. An optional add-on camp kit is available for purchase to extend the fun.

These sessions complete some of the requirements for the Cadette Girl Scout Trees Badge, Senior Girl Scout Locavore Badge, and Boys Scouts of America Sustainability and American Heritage Merit Badges.

Coming Events

Virtual Alexandria-Caen D-Day Commemoration 2021 Lecture by Dr. Kim Bernard Holien
Thursday June 3, 7-8:45 p.m.
Free, but registration is required here.
As part of the City of Alexandria’s 11th annual D-Day commemoration, former U.S. Army Historian Dr. Kim Bernard Holien will share a 'Rest of the Story' presentation about the secrets that made the Allies victorious on the 'day of days.' Dr. Kim Bernard Holien was a professional historian with the U.S. Army for 34 years, receiving commendations from the late John Marsh, Secretary of the Army, and President Ronald Reagan. Sponsored by the the City of Alexandria and the Alexandria-Caen Sister City Committee.

Friday June 4, 12-1:30 p.m.
Free, but registration is required here.

Virtual Lecture: Mapping the Gay Guides: Understanding Queer Spaces in Pre- & Post-Stonewall America
Thursday June 10, 7-8:30 p.m.
$6 per ticket, Register here
Dr. Eric Gonzaba will discuss his project Mapping the Gay Guides, a digital project which aims to understand the often-ignored queer geographies through an interactive web application and digital public history project. Drawing on and making accessible the Damron Guides, an early but longstanding travel guide aimed at gay men since the early 1960s, this online mapping project explores different dimensions of American gay life through time, from bars and nightlife, bookstores, cinemas, and churches.
Virtual Lecture Series: Part IV, A White Historian Confronts Residential Segregation, with Susan Strasser
Saturday, June 12, 1-2:30 p.m.
Free, but registration is required here.
This is the final lecture in the series with historian Susan Strasser, an award-winning historian and a Distinguished Lecturer for the Organization of American Historians. She has been praised by the New Yorker for "retrieving what history discards: The taken-for-granted minutiae of everyday life." Sponsored by the Alexandria Community Remembrance Project. Please note this event will not be recorded.

Historic Alexandria receives City operational funding to support its mission; however, these resources do not cover the full scope of the department's strategic goals and projects. Donations, special revenue, and grant funding help supplement staff, conservation work, and educational programs. Please consider a donation today!

Museums Opening on a Limited Basis

Select Historic Alexandria Museums are open as of March 25. Here are the museum hours:

Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum
Thursdays, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., Fridays, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., Saturdays, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Alexandria Archaeology Museum
Fridays, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., Saturdays, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sundays, 1 – 5 p.m.

Gadsby's Tavern Museum
Fridays, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m., Saturdays, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sundays, 1 – 5 p.m.

Friendship Firehouse Museum (May 22, and June 19)
Select Saturdays 11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

From Armed Forces Day (May 15) through Labor Day, Historic Alexandria Museums are offering free admission to military personnel and up to five family members in collaboration with the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, and the Department of Defense. To see a full list of participating museums, visit arts.gov/BlueStarMuseums.

Visit our website and follow us on social media to discover new things about your hometown. #HistoricALX2U For updates on museum closings, please visit alexandriava.gov/historic.

In compliance with safer at home under Phase 3 of Virginia Forward, the Office of Historic Alexandria (OHA) sites’ in-person, indoor public programs are cancelled. Please refer to the Calendar for the status of Commission and other departmental meetings. Due to the changing nature of the situation, we are providing updates on our website. For additional information about the City of Alexandria's actions, visit https://www.alexandriava.gov/Coronavirus.
On June 4, 1870, the Friendship Firehouse on South Alfred Street (built 1855) was reported to be in structurally unsound condition, requiring the removal of all fire equipment stored in the building. Although the building had only been constructed fifteen years earlier, the massive steeple that then topped the building was often battered by high winds, twisting the small structure below and allowing rain water to penetrate the roof and framing. This issue, coupled with deferred maintenance during the Civil War period, required that the tall steeple be replaced by a lower cupola. Although the new cupola was an improvement, twisting and weather infiltration continued to plague the building for decades. It was only rectified when the cupola was restored and strengthened by the City of Alexandria in 2010.

UPCOMING COMMISSION AND COMMITTEE EVENTS

All Committee and Commission meetings are scheduled to be held via Zoom during the months of April and May. Further updates will be posted on this site as more information becomes available.

June 1 HARC Advisory Subcommittee Meeting
10-11 a.m.
Virtual meeting held via Zoom. Register to join.

June 3 HARC Subcommittee – HARC Composition Meeting
1:30-2:30 p.m.
La Madeleine, 500 King St.

June 7 GWBCC Fundraising Subcommittee Meeting
7-8 p.m.
Virtual meeting held via Zoom. Register to join.

June 9 Alexandria Historic Restoration and Preservation Commission Meeting
8-9:30 a.m.
Virtual meeting held via Zoom. Register to join.