

## What's New in Historic Alexandria

### Winter in Alexandria Programming

*Historic Alexandria brings the season to you!*

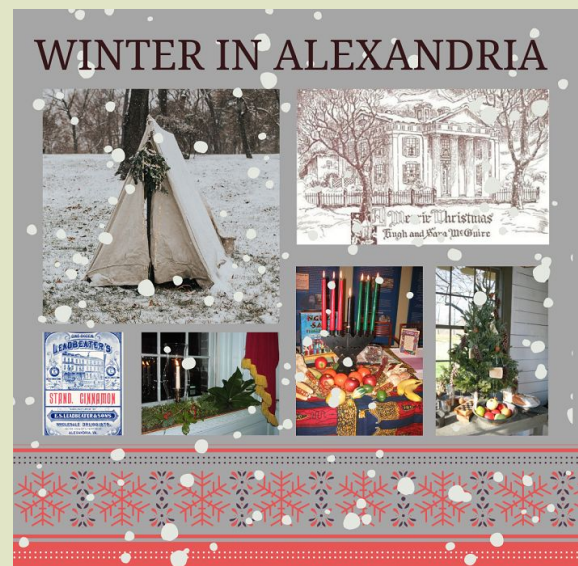
While our lives today may look different than generations past, winter still brings a common feeling of change. Even with coronavirus shifting our plans with family and friends, this season is still marked by colder days, longer nights, and holiday celebrations.

In lieu of in-person programming, Historic Alexandria is offering online and to-go options to mark the coming of winter and the holiday season. These videos, activities, and collection highlights tell the stories of the season—celebrating family and community, marking milestones, making and preserving food, and keeping warm.

A new online portal found at

[AlexandriaVA.gov/Historic](https://AlexandriaVA.gov/Historic) will go live on

November 20. Here you'll find videos and activities exploring how Alexandria has celebrated and endured this cold season through the years. Test historic recipes or try your hand at a history-inspired craft. Explore what life was like for Union soldiers wintering at Fort Ward. Learn about the Kwanzaa table and how your household can create one. Pause and reflect on the year and share your thoughts with Alexandria's collecting initiative. All ages will find things of interest to try!



On Saturday, December 5, join us over Zoom for a FREE Kwanzaa How-to Workshop! Enjoy hearing how to celebrate Kwanzaa in your home and all the family fun it brings. Learn about the principles, symbols, recipes, and crafts. Register [online](#) to receive the link to join the hour-long program from 11 a.m. to noon.

Looking for activities to do with children over the holidays? Purchase a Winter in Alexandria kit and it will be shipped on December 11, arriving in time for Winter Break. This kit provides everything you need, from materials to step-by-step instructions, to explore Alexandria's history through hands-on activities and stories. Ideal for children five and up, there will be plenty to do over Winter Break! Reservations for kits open online at [AlexandriaVa.gov/Shop](http://AlexandriaVa.gov/Shop) beginning November 20.

As we reflect on common themes—family, food, and warmth—we also remember that many families in our community are struggling to provide food and warmth for their household. The online portal will include how to support our community in tangible ways during this winter season. If you can, please support one of the many organizations helping to ensure all of Alexandria is provided for throughout the winter.

## On Sale Now

### **2020 Historic Alexandria Holiday Ornament**

*Friendship Firehouse Museum Hose-Reel Carriage*

The annual Historic Alexandria Holiday Ornament has arrived! This year highlights the Friendship Firehouse Museum Hose-Reel Carriage. Friendship Fire Company purchased the hose-reel carriage in 1858 from coachmaker and Friendship member Robert F. Prettyman. It was fitted with two large bells to sound the alarm as it was pulled through Alexandria's streets, designed to be used for both firefighting and for exhibiting prominently in parades. The hose carriage is currently receiving professional conservation. After a meticulous paint analysis and examination, it will be restored to its original ornate paint scheme of blue with gold embellishments.



This ornament is \$20 and can be purchased at [AlexandriaVa.Gov/Shop](http://AlexandriaVa.Gov/Shop) or at the Museum Shops of Gadsby's Tavern Museum, Alexandria Archaeology Museum, or the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum.

## Coming Events

### **New - “Field Trip” Mondays**

*Mondays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.*

*Gadsby’s Tavern Museum and the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum*

With many students completing asynchronous work on Mondays, Gadsby’s Tavern Museum and the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum are now open so students and their caregivers can take their learning into their community! Don’t forget, each museum offers a scavenger hunt for elementary-aged students that includes a prize.

### **Virtual Event- Washington Miniature Auction and Virtual Reception**

*Tuesday, November 17, 7:00 p.m.*

*Via Zoom, varying ticket levels, purchase at [gadsbystavernmuseum.us/events/gwvirtualmini4](https://gadsbystavernmuseum.us/events/gwvirtualmini4)*

A newly donated antique ivory miniature portrait of George Washington will be auctioned by the Potomack Company to provide funding for Gadsby’s Tavern Museum’s new Endowment Campaign. To celebrate this generous donation and the launch of the endowment, Gadsby’s Tavern Museum Society is hosting a Virtual Reception, including a to-go cheese and savory treats plate for two. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit [gadsbystavernmuseum.us/events/gwvirtualmini4](https://gadsbystavernmuseum.us/events/gwvirtualmini4).

### **Lecture - The Alexandria Story of the Syphax Family**

*Thursday, November 19, 7:00 p.m.*

*Via Zoom, \$6 per link, purchase at [alexandriava.gov/shop](https://alexandriava.gov/shop)*

Alexandria’s location has impacted the people who have lived and worked here through the centuries. Steve Hammond, local researcher and family genealogist, will share his Syphax family legacy and how it connects with Alexandria. His research is a compelling story of challenge and discovery. Working to find the African American roots of the prominent Syphax family, he forged working relationships with scholars across the nation. Through his work, Mount Vernon, Carlyle House, Arlington House, and the White House Historical Association as well as Historic Alexandria’s own Gadsby’s Tavern Museum and the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum have been able to tell a more complete story of Alexandria and the nation.

Steve Hammond is retired from the United States Department of Interior after many years of service as an earth scientist. A genealogist and family historian, Hammond has spent decades researching, writing, and lecturing about the Syphax Family and their place in Virginia history. Nancy Syphax, once enslaved by tavern keeper John Gadsby, is Mr. Hammond’s third great-grandmother.

The lecture is sponsored by the Office of Historic Alexandria. Guests will receive an email with the Zoom meeting link, Meeting ID, and password the day prior to the event. Ticket sales will close at 4 p.m. on the day of the event.

## **Beaujolais Nouveau Virtual Tasting Party - “A Study of French Wine Styles”**

*Thursday, November 19, 7:30 p.m.*

*Via Zoom, \$15, purchase at [alexandriava.gov/shop](http://alexandriava.gov/shop)*

You are cordially invited to join us on Thursday, November 19th for a special tasting of French wines, culminating with the 2020 Beaujolais Nouveau. In one evening, learn how to taste and pair French wines from a variety of styles such as effervescent sparkling wine, crisp delicious whites, bold red wines and of course the delicious Beaujolais Nouveau. Award winning wine educator and author Robert Cavanaugh leads this tasting with special tips on holiday wines, seeking out great values, and fun ways to make your food and wine pairings easier. Wegman’s in Alexandria will have selected wines available at the wine desk. Wines selected for the event include:

- Sparkling: Henri de Villamont Cremant de Bourgogne Brut Rosé (Burgundy). Pairs with salads, sushi and charcuterie.
- White: La Chapelle du Bastion Picpoul de Pinet (Languedoc). Pairs with seafood, pork and poultry.
- Red: Chateau Des Aladeres Corbieres Selection Vieilles Vignes (Languedoc-Roussillon). Pairs with beef, pasta and veal.
- Beaujolais Nouveau: Henry Fessy Beaujolais-Villages 2020 (Beaujolais). Pairs with lamb, steak, and brie.

Please remember the Beaujolais Nouveau is not available for purchase until the day of the tasting - November 19th. Tickets for the virtual tasting are \$15 and can be purchased at [AlexandriaVA.gov/Shop](http://AlexandriaVA.gov/Shop). Guests will receive an email with the Zoom meeting link, Meeting ID, and password by noon on Wednesday, November 18. Ticket sales will close at 4 p.m. November 19.

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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 Now Open**

Select Office of Historic Alexandria Museums are open with new safety protocols in place, including masks required indoors and hand sanitizing stations. Admission to all City-owned museums is free for City residents.

### **Alexandria Archaeology Museum**

*Fridays and Saturdays, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. and Sundays 1– 4 p.m.*

Visitors can view the museum’s most recent exhibit “Preserving Alexandria’s Maritime Heritage,” featuring a 1:12 scale model of the Hotel Indigo Site ship and an artifact case showing



Alexandria's links to the world. The exhibit tells the story of the vessel from excavation to preservation, and contextualizes Alexandria's role within the broader 18th century maritime world.

### **Gadsby's Tavern Museum**

*Fridays, Saturdays, and Mondays 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. and Sundays 1– 4 p.m. For a discount on admission and to guarantee your space, purchase timed entry in advance [here](#).*

Tour the Museum at your own pace and immerse yourself in the spaces and stories of the tavern. Take a selfie with the “Learned Pig.” Reenact a ball as you dance to music in the ballroom. While touring, you'll learn how all social classes and people—free and enslaved, men and women, African American and white—were part of not just the tavern but the creation of Alexandria and the young nation.

### **Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum**

*Saturdays and Mondays 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Sundays 1-4 p.m. starting November 6. For a discount on admission and to guarantee your space, purchase timed entry in advance [here](#).*

Visitors can purchase a 30-minute admission window to explore the first floor historic retail space with a newly released keepsake guidebook. Space is limited to promote physical distancing, so advance reservations are recommended.

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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 associated 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>.

## **THIS WEEK IN ALEXANDRIA'S HISTORY**

On November 17, 1927, a devastating tornado ripped through Alexandria, injuring dozens of people and causing half million dollars in damage. The front façade of Jackson Hotel on King Street was torn away and some displaced families were temporarily sheltered at the almshouse in Del Ray. The tornado sliced through eastern Fairfax County, the western edges of Alexandria, and southeast Arlington, crossing the Potomac River into the nation's capital near the Naval Air Station. The funnel-shaped cloud then passed over northeast Washington, D.C. into Prince George's County before dying out. Peak winds of 93 miles per hour were reported and damage to hundreds of buildings in Alexandria and Washington occurred within a period of several minutes. The path of the tornado spread over 17 miles long with a width ranging from 20 to over 300 yards. Witnesses described the sound of the wind as “a huge waterfall.” Fortunately there were no fatalities, but 32 people were injured in the unusual weather event.

## UPCOMING COMMISSION AND COMMITTEE EVENTS

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

### **November 16 Alexandria Sister Cities**

7-9 p.m.

Virtual meeting held via Zoom. Register to [join](#).

### **November 16 George Washington Birthday Committee**

7-9 p.m.

Virtual meeting held via Zoom. Register to [join](#).

### **November 16 Public Records Advisory Commission**

7:30-9:30 p.m.

Virtual meeting held via Zoom. Register to [join](#).

### **November 17 HARC**

7-9 p.m.

Virtual meeting held via Zoom. Register to [join](#).

### **November 18 Community Remembrance Project (ACRP) Steering Committee**

5-7 p.m.

Virtual meeting held via Zoom. Register to [join](#).

### **November 18 Alexandria Archaeological Commission (AAC)**

7-9 p.m.

Virtual meeting held via Zoom. Register to [join](#).

### **November 19 ACRP: Soil and Marker Committee**

7-8 p.m.

Virtual meeting held via Zoom. Register to [join](#).

### **November 23 ACRP: Pilgrimage Committee**

7-8 p.m.

Virtual meeting held via Zoom. Register to [join](#).