

COUNTY OF YORK

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 23, 2023
TO: York County Board of Supervisors
FROM: Neil A. Morgan, County Administrator
SUBJECT: 2023 Holiday Events in Yorktown



The holiday season is upon us, and there is no better place to celebrate all things Christmas than in Yorktown. As always, the team at Economic and Tourism Development has been working diligently behind the scenes preparing a full calendar of family-friendly events that are scheduled throughout Historic Yorktown. The official kick-off event at the waterfront is just a couple of weeks away.

Please make plans to join us for the Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on Friday, December 1. A press release is attached with all the details. Also attached is a flyer with many other events and dates.

If you have a few minutes, I think you will find the holiday blog post on Visit Yorktown, an informative and fun read about all the ways *Yorktown Celebrates Christmas*.

Olsen/3525

Attachments:

- Press Release
- Flyer



NEWS RELEASE

York County Public Affairs
www.yorkcounty.gov



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Don't Miss Out on Festive Holiday Fun in Historic Yorktown

November 21, 2023

The holiday season is filled with special community traditions in Historic Yorktown. It's a time for friends, family, and neighbors to gather together to eat, shop, and create unforgettable memories. The first week of December offers a splendiferous itinerary of holiday events and activities.



Christmas Tree Lighting
Friday, December 1
York Hall & Riverwalk Landing
York Hall Festivities Begin at 6:30 p.m.
Tree Lighting at 7:30 p.m.

The weekend kicks off with Yorktown's annual [Tree Lighting Ceremony](#). This community tradition goes all the way back to 1945. That's the year Reverend Claud G. Barkley, Pastor of Yorktown Baptist Church, and staff from the County Clerk's office decorated a cedar tree that stood at the corner of Main and Ballard Streets. The York County Historical Committee works hard to keep this ritual going! The tree that is used today is a 20-foot artificial "Giant Everest Fir" placed at Riverwalk Landing.

This year, everyone is invited to gather at York Hall by 6:30 p.m. for live music from local elementary school students, as well as a performance by the Fifes and Drums of York Town. From there, the procession will make its way to Riverwalk Landing, where the tree lighting ceremony will begin. Parents and grandparents are encouraged to stay for a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, who will be eager to hear all about those wish lists! Be sure to also stop by the Freight Shed to sign holiday cards for first responders and members of the U.S. military.



Christmas Market on Main
Historic Main Street
Saturday, December 2 | 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Sunday, December 3 | 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Shoppers can search for holiday gifts for family and friends, or a treat for themselves, during the [Christmas Market on Main](#)! This is one of the most anticipated Yorktown events every holiday season, which is why, in recent years, the event was extended to two days. Close to 100 vendors line the street selling everything from jewelry and handmade soaps to Christmas ornaments and wreaths! The Town Crier will ring in the market at 10 a.m. on Saturday, followed by a performance from the Fifes and Drums of York Town to officially open the market. Then, Santa Claus himself will ride in on York County's first fire truck and will be available for photos on Main Street. Kids can make Colonial ornaments and view a model train demo in the basement of York Hall on Saturday. Expect strolling musical entertainment during both days to add to the festive atmosphere, and an ice carving demonstration in front of York Hall on Sunday. It simply doesn't get more "Christmas" than this!



Lighted Boat Parade
Yorktown Waterfront
Saturday, December 2
Pre-Parade Festivities begin at 6 p.m.
Boat Parade begins at 7 p.m.

The [Lighted Boat Parade](#) is one of the most unique holiday events in Yorktown. Pre-parade festivities begin at 6 p.m. and include caroling around illuminated braziers, a musical performance by the Fifes and Drums of York Town and complimentary hot cider from a local Boy Scout troop.

The boats will finish out the evening as they make their way down the river in a dazzling show of lights that starts at 7 p.m. This annual community tradition has been taking place for more than two decades and brings neighbors together to celebrate the season. As an added safety precaution, families are encouraged to bring flashlights to assist in navigation around town at night.



This special parade is sponsored by the Yorktown Lighted Boat Parade Committee.

Cookies with Santa
Gallery at York Hall
Sunday, December 3 | 1 to 4 p.m.

The Gallery at York Hall once again hosts [Cookies with Santa](#)—a community event designed to make the season bright. It's free for families. Guests are encouraged to bring their cameras and wish lists! Don't forget to stop *inside* the Gallery to pick up unique Christmas gifts handcrafted by local artists. The Gallery is filled with local one-of-a-kind art pieces from hundreds of local artists in all types of mediums.



Continue your Christmas journey to experience a unique “mari-time” event at the Watermen’s Museum. Observe a Victorian reenactment and hear St. Nicolas contrast both eras’ contributions to today’s holiday celebrations. [The Viking Yuletide Celebration](#) will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, December 2, and from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, December 3.

Grace Episcopal Church will also be hosting its annual [Fair Trade Christmas Market](#) where you can purchase handmade items like ornaments and décor, as well as coffee, tea, and chocolate. The market will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, December 2, and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, December 3. Sales benefit the church’s outreach program.

In addition to all the special holiday events, Historic Yorktown's many shops and restaurants will get in the spirit of the season by offering pre-made gift baskets, gift certificates, and other unique stocking stuffer ideas. Be sure to follow Visit Yorktown on Facebook so you don't miss our annual Holiday Gift Guide that takes you inside our museums, galleries and other local businesses!

No rain dates are scheduled for holiday-related weekend activities. If rain, storms or heavy winds are in the forecast, please call the Event Weather Hotline (757.890.3520) before heading into town.

Additional Photos are available at <https://bit.ly/YTChristmas2023>

Additional Event Info:

- www.visityorktown.org
- Email: tourism@yorkcounty.gov
- Facebook, Instagram & TikTok: [@VisitYorktown](#)
- [#visityorktown](#) [#york757](#)

2023

Yorktown Celebrates Christmas

Christmas Tree Lighting

Friday, December 1 • 7:30 PM • Riverwalk Landing

Christmas Market on Main

Saturday, December 2 • 10 AM to 3 PM &
Sunday, December 3 • 11 AM to 3 PM • Historic Main Street

Lighted Boat Parade

Saturday, December 2 • 7 PM • Yorktown Waterfront

Cookies with Santa

Sunday, December 3 • 1 to 4 PM • York Hall

An Enchanted Evening on Main Street

Friday, December 8 • 5 to 9 PM • Historic Main Street

Mistletoe Market

Saturday, December 9 • 9 AM to 3 PM • Riverwalk Landing

SPECIAL HOLIDAY EXHIBITS & EVENTS

Viking Yuletide Celebration

Saturday, December 2 • 10 AM to 5 PM &
Sunday, December 3 • 10 AM to 4 PM • Watermen's Museum

Wreaths Across America Ceremony

Saturday, December 16 • 12 PM • Yorktown National Cemetery

Christmastide in Virginia

December 16-31 • 9 AM to 5 PM (closed Christmas Day)
American Revolution Museum at Yorktown

Weather Hotline: 757.890.3520 | VISITYORKTOWN.ORG



COUNTY OF YORK

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 22, 2023

TO: Walter T. Latham, Jr., General Registrar

FROM: Mark L. Bellamy, Jr., Deputy County Administrator

SUBJECT: Commendation on Recent Election



Congratulations to you, the Electoral Board, your employees and all of the County poll workers on the recent election which transpired so seamlessly. It was a tremendous success due to the exceptional collaboration by you, the Electoral Board and all your workers for which everyone involved is to be greatly applauded. Needless to say, the leadership and organization skills displayed especially by the Electoral Board and yourself played a critical role in ensuring the day progressed without a hitch.

Thank you for a job well done! Please convey my sincere gratitude to the Electoral Board and the entire team for their hard work, dedication, and the exemplary manner in which they executed their responsibilities.

MLBjr:vhd

COUNTY OF YORK

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 21, 2023

TO: York County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Mark L. Bellamy Jr., York County Interim County Administrator 

SUBJECT: Opioid Abatement Fund

Background

Due to numerous national settlements involving opioid manufacturers and distributors and the Virginia Opioid Abatement Fund and Settlement Allocation Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), York County has been allocated \$76,309 in direct distribution from the State of Virginia. This funding has the potential to increase with the finalization of new settlements. Initially directed to the Opioid Abatement Authority, the funding is subsequently distributed among all localities within the state, exclusively intended for mitigating the impacts of the opioid crisis in our community. In addition to direct distribution, localities also have the opportunity to request individual additional grant funds directly from the Opioid Abatement Authority as well as through regional collaborations.

In March 2023, an informational meeting on Opioid Abatement Funding took place at the Tabb Library. Various County departments' staff were invited to gain insight into the opioid settlement, covering terms, scope, guidelines, and funding constraints. Discussions centered around potential projects and programs, exploring opportunities for additional funding, fostering regional cooperation, and defining the process for fund distribution.

County department staff were requested to submit proposals to the Grants Coordinator in the Finance Department for screening before being presented to the County Administrator for selection. The proposed projects aligning with regional support guidelines will be submitted to the Opioid Abatement Authority for regional consideration. These projects include:

- **Project FRIEND (First Responder Increased Education and Naloxone Distribution):** A proposal to allocate funds for a part-time paramedic providing follow-up services to citizens after naloxone use in an opioid-related crisis.
- **Regional Opioid-Related Incident Dashboard:** Funding for licensing two software programs tracking naloxone use during emergency response calls.

Projects eligible for local funding by York County, under consideration by the Opioid Abatement Authority, include:

- **Herren Project Clubs:** An after-school substance-free prevention program at the Boys and Girls Club promoting healthy choices, decision-making skills, self-care, and stress management among students.
- **Library Speaking Engagement:** A one-time speaking engagement at the Yorktown Library is proposed to feature Beth Macy, journalist and author of “Raising Lazarus” (2022) and “Dopesick” (2018). This engagement aims to provide educational and engaging hour-long talks focusing on the risks and dangers of opioids.

The selected proposals will be submitted as an application to the Opioid Abatement Authority for funding, with the goal of implementing these programs in 2024. For further information or inquiries, please contact Sheri Newcomb, Acting Director of Community Services, at 890-5287.

Newcomb/5287