



Historic Yorktown's holiday season begins weekend of December 2

Four special events bring holiday cheer Dec. 2, 3, & 4

November 18, 2016

Historic Yorktown will be full of holiday cheer Friday, December 2, through Sunday, December 4, as the holiday season begins with four special events: the Christmas Tree Lighting, Christmas Market on Historic Main Street, Lighted Boat Parade, and Cookies with Santa.

The weekend begins the evening of **Friday, December 2**, with the annual **Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony**. Guests will be entertained by the Mt. Vernon Elementary School Mustang Chorus with seasonal selections at the Yorktown Victory Monument from 6:30 to 7:10 p.m., followed by a performance of the Fifes & Drums of York Town.

The Procession of Lights, led by the Town Crier and the Fifes & Drums, will step off from the Victory Monument at 7:30 p.m. and proceed down historic Main Street to Ballard Street, then down the hill to Riverwalk Landing where the official tree lighting ceremony begins. Participants are encouraged to gather at the Yorktown Victory Monument by 6:30 p.m. The first 600 people to arrive will receive a complimentary digital candle to keep and carry during the procession to Riverwalk Landing.

Those opting to proceed directly to the site of the tree lighting ceremony at Riverwalk Landing will be treated to holiday music by the TRADOC Band Victory Brass Quintet at 7 p.m.

Once the procession makes its way from the Victory Monument to Riverwalk Landing, the tree lighting ceremony will begin and will be immediately followed by a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus who will stay and visit with children until 8:30 p.m.

This free event is sponsored by the York County Historical Committee.

The excitement continues **Saturday, December 3**, with the **11th Annual Christmas Market on Main Street**. From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., visitors can enjoy musical entertainment, roasted chestnuts, arts & crafts vendors with unique shopping opportunities, a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus, food, and more. Historic buildings and museums, including the Custom House, American Revolution Museum at Yorktown, Yorktown Battlefield, the York County Historical Museum and Museum on Main, along with the Main and Ballard Street galleries, will be open and decorated for the holidays. Main and Ballard Street galleries include the Gallery at York Hall, Black Dog Gallery, On the Hill Gallery, Nancy Thomas Gallery and Redcoat Antiques.

The Town Crier will ring in the market at 10 a.m., followed by a Fifes & Drums of York Town performance to officially open the market. Main Street entertainment begins at 10:30 a.m. with strolling instrumental ensembles, caroling, and holiday arrangements, concluding at 1:45 p.m. Don't miss Santa and Mrs. Claus visiting children young and old throughout Yorktown!

The Peninsula Model Railroad Club will present an exhibit of antique model trains in the lower level of York Hall.

The free Christmas Market is co-sponsored by Village Events and York County.

Following the Christmas Market, the waterfront will light up with the spectacular **20th Annual Yorktown Lighted Boat Parade** with events beginning at 6 p.m.! Decorated in holiday spirit, local sail, pleasure, and work boats parade the York River in competition for “Best in Show.”

Waterfront events begin at 6 p.m. with complimentary hot cider served by Boy Scout Troop 123 of Seaford. Musical performances by the Yorktown Chorale and the Fifes & Drums of York Town are presented in the glow of a beach bonfire while awaiting the magnificent parade of lights. Parade judging of the dazzling display begins at 7 p.m. Join the festivities as you cheer for your favorite! As an added safety precaution, families are encouraged to bring flashlights to assist in navigation around town at night.

This free event is sponsored by the Yorktown Lighted Boat Parade Committee and Wormley Creek Marina.

On **Sunday, December 4**, from 1 to 4 p.m., the Gallery at York Hall will feature **Cookies with Santa**. Children and parents can visit with Santa and do some holiday shopping. Parents are encouraged to bring cameras to capture the children’s excitement! Refreshments will be available. This free event is sponsored by the Celebrate Yorktown Committee. Artwork featured in the Gallery at York Hall is available for purchase and will make the perfect holiday gift. The Gallery showcases fine arts in all media by local artists and features selected artists on a revolving basis. For information on exhibits, call the Gallery at York Hall at (757) 890-4490.

Public parking will be available at the Riverwalk Landing parking terrace on Water Street, York Hall (with the exception of Friday night), County Administration Building, and Courts and Office Center parking lots on Ballard Street.

Yorktown Trolley transportation will be provided on Saturday, December 3, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for the Market on Main Street event and will run its normal route stopping at several locations throughout town. Additionally, the trolley will operate continuously during the Lighted Boat Parade that evening from 5 to 9 p.m. The modified trolley route for the evening includes stops at the Victory Monument, intersection of Water and Read Street, intersection of Ballard and Main Street, and Courts and Office Center. The Yorktown Trolley is handicapped accessible. Guests attending the Lighted Boat Parade are encouraged to park at the Courts and Office Center and the County Administration Building and ride the free trolley to the waterfront activities.

No rain dates are scheduled for the holiday weekend events. In the event weather conditions pose a threat, please call the York County event weather hotline for the most current information at (757) 890-3520.

For directions to Yorktown and a more detailed schedule of events, visit www.visitryorktown.org. Specific inquiries may be addressed by calling (757) 890-3500.



