



Holiday Seasons Kicks off Weekend of Nov. 30 – Dec. 2

Yorktown, November 19—Historic Yorktown will be full of holiday cheer Friday, November 30 through Sunday, December 2, as it kicks off the holiday season with four special events.

The weekend begins the evening of **Friday, November 30**, with the annual **Illumination and Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony**. **Santa Bones**, a trombone quartet, will entertain guests at the Yorktown Victory Monument from 6 to 7 p.m., followed by a performance of **The Fifes & Drums of York Town**, and a brief narrative history of the village. 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., proceed down historic Main Street to Ballard Street and 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 p.m. to receive a free light stick and to enjoy the seasonal entertainment. The tree lighting ceremonies will include holiday selections by the **Gentlemen of the College**, an A Capella group from the College of William and Mary, music of the season by **Mount Vernon Children's School Mustang Choir**, and a visit from Santa, who will visit with children of all ages until 9 p.m.! This event is **free** and sponsored by the York County Historical Committee.

The excitement continues **Saturday, December 1**, with the 2nd Annual **Christmas Market on Main Street**. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., visitors to Yorktown can enjoy musical entertainment, demonstrations, arts & crafts vendors with unique shopping opportunities, living history exhibits, antique classic cars, roasted chestnuts, hot cider, food and more. Historic buildings, including the Nelson House and Custom House, the Watermen's Museum (admission fee), Grace Episcopal Church, the York County Historical Museum,

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and The Gallery at York Hall will all be open and decorated for the holidays.

The **Town Crier** will ring in the market at 10 a.m., followed by a performance of **The Fifes and Drums of York Town** to officially open the market. Main Street entertainment begins at 10:30 a.m. with the **Dickens Trio**, a strolling instrumental ensemble in period costume, followed by **Santa Brass** at 12:30 p.m. and **Publick Times Show Chorus** at 2:30 p.m. performing holiday arrangements. Don't miss **Santa Claus** on Main Street from 10 to 11:15 a.m.

Grace Church will be the scene of several performances beginning with Instrumentalist **Timothy Seaman** at 10:30 a.m., followed by the **Yorktown Chorale** at 12:30 p.m. and concluding with a 2:30 p.m. performance by **Stephen Cristoff**.

Riverwalk Landing will also feature seasonal entertainment throughout the day. At 10:30 a.m. Classical Guitarist **Chris Basford** will perform followed by the **Doorway Singers** at 12:30 p.m. The entertainment concludes with a 2:30 p.m. caroling performance by the **Fire & Ice Women's Barbershop Quartet**. Look for Santa Claus at Riverwalk Landing from 11:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The 1st Regiment Virginia Volunteer CSA will demonstrate a Civil War Christmas camp with an artillery exhibit on the East Lawn of York Hall from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Local collectors will display antique classic cars along historic Main Street.

Schedules for the Christmas Market are available at yorkcounty.gov/tourism and will also be available on Saturday, December 1, at York Hall, 301 Main Street. The Christmas market is co-sponsored by the York County Board of Supervisors and York County Historical Museum. Entertainment is provided by the Celebrate Yorktown Committee, made possible by a grant from the York County Arts Commission.

Following the Christmas Market, the waterfront will light up with the spectacular **11th Annual Yorktown Lighted Boat Parade**. Area work and pleasure boats of various styles and sizes, decorated in their finest holiday spirit, parade in competition for "Best of Show."

Entertainment begins at the waterfront at 6 p.m. with a roaring beach bonfire, complimentary cider, and holiday music while awaiting the arrival of the magnificent

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parade of lights. The bonfire site will feature performances by the **Yorktown Chorale** as well as holiday tunes by **The Fifes & Drums of York Town**. Parade judging begins at 7 p.m. Families are encouraged to bring flashlights to assist in navigation around town at night as an added safety precaution. This event is **free** and is sponsored by the Celebrate Yorktown Committee and Wormley Creek Marina.

On **Sunday, December 2**, from 1 to 4 p.m., the Gallery at York Hall will feature **Cookies with Santa**. Children and parents of all ages are welcome. Complimentary digital photos will be taken of each child with Santa and made available to parents via email. Refreshments will be available both Saturday and Sunday. Artwork featured in The Gallery at York Hall is available for purchase and will make the perfect holiday gift. The Gallery at York Hall exhibits fine arts in all media by local artists and features selected artists on a revolving basis. For more information on the exhibits, call the Gallery at York Hall at 890-4490.

Public parking will be available at the Riverwalk Landing parking terrace on Water Street, York Hall, County Administration Building, and Courts and Offices parking lots on Ballard Street. Additional handicapped parking will be made available Friday, November 30, on the lower level of the Riverwalk Landing parking terrace. To access the handicapped parking area, enter Yorktown from the west side of US 17 to Water Street and into the parking terrace.

Yorktown Trolley transportation will be provided on **Saturday, December 1**, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The trolley will run its normal route stopping at nine locations throughout town. The Yorktown Trolley is handicapped accessible.

No rain dates are scheduled for the holiday weekend events. For directions to Yorktown and a more detailed schedule of events, visit yorkcounty.gov/tourism. Specific inquiries may be addressed by calling 890-4970 or 890-3500.

