



NEWS RELEASE

York County Public Affairs

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Gail Whittaker, Public Information Officer

757-890-3310 desk - 757-817-2665 cell

whittgl@yorkcounty.gov

Historic Yorktown Prepares to Kick Off a Festive Season of Holiday Events!

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The holiday season is filled with special community traditions in Historic Yorktown. It's a time for friends, family and neighbors to safely gather together to eat, shop and create lasting memories. From modern celebrations like the Tree Lighting and Christmas Market on Main Street to period programming like "Christmastide in Virginia" and "Yorktown Yuletide Celebration"—there are special events taking place all December long.



Christmas Tree Lighting Friday, December 3

Victory Monument & Yorktown Waterfront
Monument Festivities begin at 6:30 p.m.
Tree Lighting at 7:30 p.m.

The festive 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 commercial "Giant Everest Fir" tree placed down in Riverwalk Landing. And NEW this year—will be added ornaments to help bring the Christmas spirit to the waterfront.

Everyone is invited to gather at the Yorktown Victory Monument by 6:30 p.m. for live music, including a performance by the Fifes and Drums of York Town. From there, the procession will make its way from the Victory Monument 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 those wish lists!

Christmas Market on Main Street
Historic Main Street
Saturday, Dec. 4 | 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Sunday, Dec. 5 | 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Shoppers can search for holiday gifts for family and friends, or as a treat for themselves during the Christmas Market on Main Street! 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 nautical paintings to 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 greet families. Expect strolling musical entertainment throughout the day to add to the festive atmosphere and an ice carver set up in front of York Hall on Sunday. It simply doesn't get more "Christmas" than this!



Lighted Boat Parade
Yorktown Waterfront
Saturday, Dec. 4
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 a beach bonfire, a musical performance by the Fifes and Drums of York Town, and complimentary hot cider.

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

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

Cookies with Santa
Gallery at York Hall
Sunday, Dec. 5 | 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 and Santa will stay socially distanced. Guests are encouraged to bring their phones or cameras, wish lists, and face masks! 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.

In addition to all the special 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!

Additional photos available at <https://bit.ly/3wbg8n8>.

Additional Event Info:

- www.visityorktown.org
- York County Tourism Development: (757) 890-5900
- Facebook, Instagram & Twitter: Visit Yorktown
- **#visityorktown**