



George Washington's Birthday Parade Day



Photo courtesy of the George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee

The following events are taking place Monday, February 21 in celebration of George Washington's birthday:

Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association Breakfast

The Westin Alexandria Hotel, 400 Courthouse Square

9-10:30 a.m.

\$45 per person, [email](#) Bill Kehoe to purchase tickets.

Meet special guests and enjoy a hearty breakfast with members of this historic association. Includes an appearance by General and Martha Washington. Speaker: Mark Jinks, Retired Alexandria City Manager, relating his "hidden ghost" stories and other anecdotal experiences.

Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the Revolution

The Old Presbyterian Meeting House, 321 S. Fairfax Street

11 a.m.

Free, no registration required

Join the Daughters of the American Revolution and the Sons of the American Revolution as they honor the soldiers of the Revolution.

Armed Forces Community Covenant Ceremony

Market Square, by the parade reviewing stand corner of King and Royal Streets

12–1 p.m.

Free, no registration required

Honor our Nation's Veterans, Active Military, and their families with music and demonstrations. Speakers include Alexandria's Mayor and the commanders of major military installations in the metropolitan area. Sign the Covenant Document and show your support for our Military as we honor our first veteran.

George Washington Birthday Parade

1–3 p.m.

The nation's largest George Washington Birthday parade marches a one-mile route through the streets of his chosen hometown! For more information, including parking, maps, route, and status, visit www.washingtonbirthday.com, email gwbirthdayevents@gmail.com, or call 571.384.8170.

Museums Open on Parade Day

While in Alexandria for the parade, stop by Gadsby's Tavern Museum, 134 N. Royal Street, and the Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum, 105 S. Fairfax Street, between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m. Regular admission applies, which means City of Alexandria residents can visit for free! Guests must wear masks that cover their mouth and nose while in the buildings.

Volunteer to help with the George Washington Birthday Parade

Submit your application [here](#).

The annual George Washington Birthday Parade is planned for Monday, February 21. A variety of volunteers are needed to help make this event possible, from set-up to driving dignitaries in the parade, and more! If you are interested in volunteering or receiving more information, please submit an application [here](#) and a member of the George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee will be in touch.

Coming Events

“Hunt for Washington”

February 1-28

Download this scavenger hunt, a fun and challenging game to uncover clues about Alexandria and George Washington. The hunt, which should take about 60-90 minutes to complete, will take individuals and families to places in Old Town Alexandria associated with the General. Start by printing a clue sheet from www.washingtonbirthday.com and bring it with you as you traverse the heart of Old Town and then use your sleuthing skills to find answers to the clues. Submit your findings to gwbirthdayevents@gmail.com any time before the end of the day on February 28 for a chance to win prizes and mementos. FREE.

The Restaurant Cherry Challenge

February 1-15

The “Cherry Challenge” is a competition among the finer restaurants in Alexandria. Each restaurant will develop its own cherry cocktail, appetizer, entrée, and/or dessert in honor of our distinguished native son, of course! The competing restaurants and their entries will be listed on the George Washington Birthday Celebration website and Facebook page, and the winners will be announced on Parade Day. For a full list of participating restaurants, visit washingtonbirthday.com.

Film screening & discussion of Odessa’s Reign with filmmaker Robin Hamilton

Wednesday, February 16

Virtual Only,

7 - 8:30 p.m.

Free, Registration link [here](#).

Crowned Queen of the Underworld, a Black female gangster runs the most lucrative gambling ring in D.C. in the 1950s and manages to keep the D.C. police in her back pocket. Join the Alexandria Black History Museum for a screening of filmmaker Robin Hamilton new film with a discussion to follow with the filmmaker.

Discovering Alexandria Architecture Walking Tour

Saturday, February 19

Carlyle House Historic Park

10 a.m.

\$20 per person, Tickets available [here](#).

Alexandria has grown from a small town in the 18th century to a bustling small city in the 21st century. Join us for a tour of Alexandria as we explore looking at the various Architecture styles that adorn the city streets and make it one of the best places to live and work. Reservations are required as space is limited. Please wear comfortable shoes for this 1.5 hour guided tour. Tour is held rain or shine unless there is severe weather. Having trouble registering? Please call 703.549.2997 or email carlyle@nvrpa.org.

Washington Revels Jubilee Voices in Concert

Saturday, February 19

Virtual Only

11 a.m.

Free, Register [here](#).

The Alexandria Black History Museum presents the Washington Revels Jubilee Voices in concert. Join the Revels as their members explore the rich history of African American music.

Friendship Firehouse Museum is Open

Saturday, February 19

Friendship Firehouse Museum, 107 S. Alfred Street

11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

\$2 per person, free to City of Alexandria residents

Younger visitors will receive a free fire hat and a take-away bag of fun activities! Guests must wear masks that cover their mouth and nose while in the building.

Virtual Birthnight Banquet & Ball

Saturday, February 19

7–9 p.m.

Virtual only

\$15 per person, optional addition of dinner; purchase tickets [here](#).

Join in the celebrations that have been ongoing for hundreds of years – General Washington’s Birthnight Ball. Evening includes a newly produced video about the history of the Birthnight Ball, time for conversations with other guests and the General himself, and English Country Dancing called by our expert Dance Master that you can do from home. Period costumes of the 1790s encouraged! One virtual dance class on February 17th is included. A dinner from Gadsby’s Tavern Restaurant and traditional Birthnight Ball cake from Bittersweet are available for pickup with a separate purchase of \$50.

“George Washington’s Alexandria” Tours

Every Sunday in February (20th & 27th)

2–4 p.m.

Free

Explore historic Old Town Alexandria as George Washington knew it! This popular two-hour guided walking tour will visit sites associated with Washington and his closest colleagues. To register, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/> and search George Washington’s Alexandria.

Tell Me Your Name

February 25

Carlyle House Historic Park

5-6:15 p.m.

\$10, Tickets available [here](#).

The guided tour will explore the historical context of slavery in 18th century Alexandria, the experiences of the enslaved community at Carlyle House and his plantations, and the importance of ongoing research efforts to connect with descendants. Reservations are required as space is limited. Having trouble registering? Please call 703.549.2997 or email carlyle@nvrpa.org

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 Open on a Limited Basis

In accordance with CDC guidance, City of Alexandria Museums now require guests to wear a mask in indoor public spaces. Currently, the following City Museums are open to the public:

Alexandria Archaeology Museum

Thursdays & Fridays, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., Saturdays, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sundays, 1 – 5 p.m.

Alexandria History Museum at The Lyceum

Thursdays & Fridays, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., Saturdays, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sundays, 1 – 5 p.m.

Gadsby’s Tavern Museum

Thursdays & Fridays, 11 a.m. – 4 p.m., Saturdays, 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., Sundays, 1 – 5 p.m.

Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum

Fridays, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturdays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m., Sundays & Mondays, 1 - 5 p.m.

Friendship Firehouse Museum (February 19, March 12, and April 16)

11 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Fort Ward Museum

Fridays, 11 a.m.-4 p.m., Saturdays, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.

Please note all museums will be closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Fort Ward Museum and the Alexandria History Museum will also be closed Christmas Eve.

Visit our website and follow us on social media to discover new things about your hometown. For more information, please visit alexandriava.gov/historic.

Due to the changing nature of the COVID-19 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 February 20, 1859, St. Mary's Hall was formally opened on the northeast corner of Wolfe and South Royal streets. Built by the Young Catholic Friends Society, a benevolent organization in the St. Mary's parish, the new building had separate educational spaces for boys and girls and a central hall on the second floor for meetings and Sunday school.

UPCOMING COMMISSION AND COMMITTEE EVENTS

Due to the rise of cases in Alexandria, commissions and committees are reconsidering whether to have meetings in person or virtually in the month of February. Further updates will be posted online as more information becomes available.

Virtual: February 14, GWBCC Meeting

Registration Link [here](#).

7-8 p.m.

Virtual: February 15, HARC Meeting

Registration Link [here](#).

7-9 p.m

Virtual: February 16, Alexandria Archaeology Commission Meeting

Registration Link [here](#).

7-9 p.m

Virtual: February 22, Alexandria Sister Cities Committee Meeting

Registration Link [here](#).

7-9 p.m

February 28, Public Records Advisory Commission Meeting

Archives and Records Center

7:30-9:30 p.m.