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Alexandria Celebrates George Washington's Birthday with Events Throughout February



Alexandria, VA – Thousands will join in the revelry for the 284th anniversary of George Washington's birth in his hometown of Alexandria, Virginia. The city celebrates the General's birthday **throughout the month of February with more than a dozen festive events**, including the George Washington Birthday Parade, the Cherry Challenge among Alexandria's finest restaurants, free admission to historic sites, popular walking tours, 18th-century dance classes, and a 10K and 2K Fun Run.

For More Information:

Connect with Visit Alexandria: www.VisitAlexandriaVA.com/GWbday

THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION AND DETAILS ABOUT ANY CELEBRATION EVENT IS PUBLISHED ON <http://www.washingtonbirthday.net>.

The George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee maintains a 24-hour phone line that will report any change of status or the cancellation of any event. Call the **HOTLINE** (703) 829-6640 at any time.

On **PARADE DAY**, **PARKING** is **FREE** at the parking lots adjacent to the Eisenhower Avenue Metro Station; from here, a **FREE DASH** shuttle bus will take you downtown and back from 11 A.M. TO 4 P.M. The free **KING STREET TROLLEY** service will also be in operation all day until 11 p.m. from King Street Metro Station going east and west along King Street. For DASH service to other events, call (703) 746-3274 or go to <http://www.dashbus.com/>

2016 Schedule of Events:

PARADE

- **George Washington Birthday Parade – February 15, 2016, 1-3 p.m.**

The nation's largest George Washington Birthday parade marches a one-mile route through the streets of Old Town Alexandria. With nearly 3,500 participants, this community parade honors one of the city's favorite sons. **FREE**.

MORE EVENTS

- **Walking with Washington Tours – Every Sunday in February (7, 14, 21, and 28), 2016, 2-3:30 p.m.**
Walk in George Washington's footsteps through his hometown, historic Alexandria, and view some of the sites connected to the General, like where he filled his prescriptions or slept overnight before returning to Mount Vernon. Begin your journey at the Ramsay House Visitors Center. FREE.
- **Cherry Challenge – January 28- February 11, 2016**
In honor of George Washington's birthday, participating restaurants will create unique, cherry-centric dishes in celebration of one of the most cherished legends surrounding our first president. This year features dishes from over 50 eateries such as prior participants Chadwick's, Mount Vernon Inn, and Murphy's Grand Irish Pub. Patrons rate their favorite dishes and winners are given special recognition at the George Washington Birthday Parade. A "Frequent Cherry Diner Award" will go to the customer who buys and rates the greatest number of Cherry Challenge entries.
- **18th Century Dance Classes –January 28, February 4 and 11, 2016, 7:30-9:30 p.m.**
In preparation for the Birthnight Ball on February 13, learn 18th-century English country dancing from expert dance instructors at Gadsby's Tavern Museum. Tickets: \$12 per class or \$30 for series.
- **Winter Warmer Tea at Gadsby's Tavern Museum – February 7, 2016, 3:00 and 3:15 p.m.**
Enjoy the warmth and hospitality of the tavern! Join guest Martha Washington for a variety of 18th-century desserts and wash them down with a cup of John Gadsby's special blend of tea or American Heritage Chocolate. Tickets: \$35 inclusive.
- **George Washington's Birthnight Banquet & Ball – February 13, 2016, 5:30-11 p.m.**
Don your dancing shoes for this famous celebration of Washington's Birthday at Gadsby's Tavern Museum, set in the year 1799. The evening includes an 18th-century banquet, English country dancing, dessert collation, character re-enactors plus the General and Mrs. Washington. Period costume optional; "after-five" attire encouraged. Tickets: Tiered, starting at \$125 for banquet and ball; \$50 for ball only.
- **"George Washington Classic" 10-K Race & 2-K Fun Run – February 14, 2016, 8 a.m.**
Start & end at the US Patent & Trademark Office. Dash through this certified course through Eisenhower Valley. Special recognition of the 150th anniversary of the Alexandria Fire Department. Awards, t-shirts and refreshments provided. All proceeds benefit the historic George Washington Birthday Celebration. Fee: \$40 for 10-K; \$10 for 2-K.
- **Revolutionary War Reenactment at Fort Ward Park – February 14, 2016, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.**
Historic camp and tactical demonstrations throughout the day including a Revolutionary War skirmish at 2 p.m. between the Redcoats and the Colonial Army. FREE.
- **Mount Vernon Open House – February 15, 2016, 8 a.m.-4 p.m.**
Enjoy free admission at George Washington's beloved home, the most visited historic estate in the United States. Observe the traditional wreath laying ceremony at Washington's tomb, hear patriotic music and delight in a meet and greet with the General, who roams the grounds all day. FREE.
- **Historic Alexandria Open Houses – February 15, 2016, times vary**
Admission is free at these historic Alexandria sites: Carlyle House, Friendship Firehouse Museum, Gadsby's Tavern Museum, Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Museum and The Lyceum, Alexandria's history museum. FREE.
- **Meeting of the Friendship Veterans Fire Engine Association – February 15, 2016, 9-10:30 a.m.,** This annual tradition at the Hotel Monaco features "George Washington's" first appearance of the day, plus an address by Representative Don Beyer, the awarding of the prestigious Ben Lynt Award and a hearty breakfast. Tickets: \$30. Ticket information at www.friendshipfire.net or at 703-751-6416.

- **Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier of the Revolution – February 15, 2016, 11 a.m.-noon** Colonial military and civilians honor the soldiers of the Revolution at the Old Presbyterian Meeting House. FREE.
- **Armed Forces Community Covenant Ceremony – February 15, 2016, 11-3:00 p.m.**
Come honor our Nation's Veterans, Active Military, and their families with music, games, and activities for children with military vehicles, demonstrations, informational booths, and displays at the Parade Reviewing Stand at Market Square. FREE.
- **National Historic Landmark Unveiling Ceremony at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial – February 27, 2016, 10-11:00 a.m.**
Just outside the Memorial's entrance, followed by a special tour of the Memorial.
- **George Washington Symposium at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial – February 27, 2016, 1-3:00 p.m.**
The George Washington Symposium is held annually on Washington's Birthday to provide the public with enlightening contemporary research on the life of George Washington. The theme of this year's symposium is "From Relics to Repositories: Preserving George Washington's Legacy Yesterday and Today." Speakers include Carol Borchert Cadou, Senior Vice President for Historic Preservation & Collections at George Washington's Mount Vernon; Martha Custis Peter, sixth-generation granddaughter of Martha Washington; and Timothy K. Winkle, Curator at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History. FREE.
- **Annual Birthday Gala at the George Washington Masonic National Memorial – February 27, 2016, 5:30-9:30 p.m.** Black tie. Tickets \$125, reservations required. Reception at 5:30, entertainment in the Memorial Theater at 6:45 p.m., Banquet in the Memorial's Grand Masonic Hall at 7:30 p.m. The Presentation of the George Washington Memorial Award will take place during the banquet.
- **"An Extraordinary Young Man: The Early Years of George Washington" at Gadsby's Tavern Museum - February 24, 2016 at 7:30 - 9 p.m.** Relatively little is known about George Washington's youth, and it has led to many myths and misrepresentations. Professor Henriques will closely examine what we do know about George Washington's first 21 years of life. While no one could have imagined the unique role that he was to play in our nation's founding, Professor Henriques demonstrates that Washington was no ordinary young man. Ticket Price: \$12 per person or \$10 for Gadsby's Tavern Museum Society members and volunteers.

Social Media Engagement:

George Washington Birthday Celebration Committee

Joseph Shumard, Chair, jshumard@washingtonbirthday.net

Public Information: 703-829-6640

Web: www.washingtonbirthday.net

Twitter: www.twitter.com/washingtonbirth

Facebook: www.facebook.com/GeorgeWashingtonsBirthdayCelebration

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Hashtag: #ExtraordinaryALX