



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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Celebrate the Holidays with Museums by Candlelight

Frederick, MD - The annual **Museums by Candlelight** on **Saturday, December 12**, offers local residents and visitors of all ages the opportunity to tour 22 historic sites throughout Frederick County from 12 Noon to 5 p.m. and within the City of Frederick from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

There is no charge for this self-guided open house and museum admissions and programs are free of charge. Coinciding with Children's Weekend in Frederick, Museums by Candlelight offers fun and learning for the entire family, including hands-on activities, live entertainment, hearth cooking and craft demonstrations, refreshments, and more.

"We are thrilled to offer new presentations and activities to our visitors this year," states Elizabeth Scott Shatto, coordinator of the Frederick Historic Sites Consortium, the organization that plans the annual event. "This year, we've added the GPS coordinates for each site. With so many people using this technology for navigation, it makes sense to give visitors this type of information," explained Shatto. GPS-savvy visitors can find the coordinates on the Museums by Candlelight brochure, which is available at www.fredericktourism.org or at the Visitor Center.

This year, the Historic Preservation Training Center (HPTC), part of the U.S. National Park Service, will open their downtown Frederick site to visitors for the event. "The HPTC alternates which site they open each year, and we are pleased they will offer guided tours of their downtown facility this year," say Shatto. This former food processing complex has been transformed over the last 13 years by the HPTC. Local Historian Gil House will present an illustrated history of Frederick's industrial past, HPTC work will be on display, and hands-on activities will be available for younger visitors.

"Each year, it seems that Museums by Candlelight gets better and better—and attracts more and more people who want to experience the wonderful history and heritage that is so alive and well in Frederick County. It's a wonderful way for individuals of all ages to relax and celebrate the holidays," says Shatto.

Several activities during Museums by Candlelight provide fascinating insight into the long-ago traditions of this area, including:

- **C. Burr Artz Public Library** –Special exhibit of collectible and antique decoys and hand carved birds, Belsnickling, and handbell entertainment.
- **The Children's Museum of Rose Hill Manor Park** – Experience the ambience of the holidays in Early America while enjoying hot chocolate and marshmallows roasted over an open kettle.



- **George Alfred Townsend Museum at Gathland State Park** – “Christmas on the Mountain” celebration with hot cider, holiday cookies and a crackling fire.
- **Key Memorial Chapel, Mt. Olivet Cemetery** - Christmas music played by organists Tina Lee Logsdon and Martha Norwood on the historic organ donated to Key Memorial Chapel at Mt. Olivet Cemetery by Flint Hill United Methodist Church (3 - 5 p.m.).
- **Middletown Valley Historical Society** – Youngsters will be enchanted by storyteller Kathleen Rudesill at the Middletown Valley Historical Society from 3-3:30 p.m.
- **National Museum of Civil War Medicine** – Featuring living historians, live Civil War era music, and two new exhibits, Fort Detrick and Tools of the Trade.
- **Roger Brooke Taney House** – Coffee roasting and refreshments

Other highlights at featured sites include live holiday music, children’s crafts, costumed docents, and authentic holiday decorations. Discover our county’s rail history at The Brunswick Railroad Museum, which offers an impressive model railroad layout. The town of Brunswick celebrates Hometown Holidays on Saturday, also, with traditions reminiscent of the past and area community church tours. Ostertag Farm offers large-scale model trains on its 144 acre working farm. Authentic hearth cooking demonstrations can be found at the Schifferstadt Architectural Museum, Middletown Valley Historical Society, and Roger Brooke Taney House. Visit the birds of prey and reptile exhibits at the Scales and Tales Aviary at the Cunningham Falls State Park Visitor Center.

Due to the number of locations and the expansive area covered by the event, the Museums by Candlelight guide suggests four itineraries for visitors to follow: City of Frederick, Northern Frederick County, Western Frederick County, and Southern Frederick County. Of course, participants may visit as many or as few of the Museums by Candlelight locations as they like, in any order they choose. The Museums by Candlelight guide, including a map and descriptions, is currently available at the Frederick Visitor Center, 19 East Church Street in Frederick, and online at www.FrederickTourism.org.

Presented annually by the Frederick Historic Sites Consortium, Museums by Candlelight is made possible by the generosity of our corporate sponsor, The Plamondon Companies, including the Fairfield Inn & Suites, the Courtyard, and the Residence Inn.

For more information on Museums by Candlelight, contact the Visitor Center at 301-600-4047 or 800-999-3613 or visit www.FrederickTourism.org.

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