

Alexandria Times

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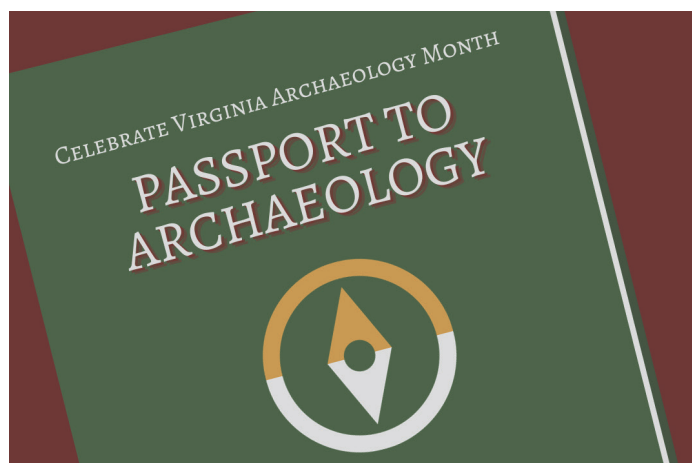
Exploring our city's archaeology

The Virginia Department of Historic Resources celebrates Archaeology Month each October through special events and programs throughout the state. This year, Alexandria Archaeology is highlighting important archaeological sites from the West End to Old Town and everywhere in between.

In the 1960s and 1970s, residents advocated to preserve archaeological resources, eventually resulting in one of the first archaeological protection codes in the country in 1989. Under the code, the City of Alexandria's Archaeology Division recovers, preserves and studies the layers left behind as the city grows and changes.

This partnership between professional archaeologists and the public continues. Evidence from those efforts can be seen in the free Alexandria Archaeology Museum on the third floor of the Torpedo Factory Art Center, in interpretive signs and heritage trails throughout the city and other resources found online at alexandria.gov/archaeology.

Alexandria is a national leader in community archaeology and the preservation of its non-renewable cultural resources. Soon it will be one of the first cities in the country to have a publicly accessible interactive archaeology map. The Alexandria Archaeology Report



PHOTO/ALEXANDRIA ARCHAEOLOGY

Passport to Archaeology: 'Celebrate Virginia Archaeology Month with events and programs throughout the city.'

Finder – nicknamed AARF for the dog lovers among us – is designed for exploring archaeological and historical research conducted throughout the city. The map launches this month and shows our shared archaeological heritage is by no means limited to Old Town.

For those that prefer to explore in person, archaeology enthusiasts of all ages are encouraged to take part in one of Alexandria Archaeology's many events this month. On Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., archaeologists will be on site at the Southern Towers Farmers' Market at 4901 Seminary Road to share artifacts and research from the nearby Stonegate Archaeological Preserve, dating back to Native American use of the land as

early as 8,500 years ago.

On October 10, the annual Ben Brenman awards will be presented by the Alexandria Archaeological Commission during the City Council meeting. On October 11 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., kids aged 6 to 12 are invited to take part in the free "Great Pottery Puzzle" program at the James M. Duncan Branch Library.

On October 14 from noon to 4 p.m., adults and children of all ages can take part in a self-guided scavenger hunt or a guided tour during the Archaeology on the Waterfront event. Participants must register in advance for a free guided tour at shop.alexandriava.gov.

The day-long Alexandria Forum, "The Waterfront Revisited: Birth and Rebirth,

1730-2023," will take place on October 20 at the Alexandria History Museum at the Lyceum. The forum will explore the waterfront through new research lenses, technologies, excavations and sources, with presentations by archaeologists and historians.

On October 21 from noon to 4 p.m., adults and families can participate in the free Art Safari event at the Torpedo Factory Art Center, including "Slip into the Past," an archaeology-based activity experimenting with 19th-century ceramic slip designs and applying temporary tattoos in the style of transfer printed ceramics.

Finally, children ages 4 to 7 can take part in the free "Science Underground" program at the Ellen Coolidge Burke Branch Library on October 25 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. to learn how archaeologists study the past by sorting and identifying artifacts.

Learn more about the upcoming events by visiting alexandria.gov/archaeology, following Alexandria Archaeology on Facebook or Instagram or visiting the free museum on the third floor of the Torpedo Factory Art Center.

*Out of the Attic is
 provided by the Office of
 Historic Alexandria.*