



NEWS RELEASE

York County Public Affairs

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Yorktown Market Days Hosting Five Free Family-Friendly Events this Fall

August 31, 2023

Fall is right around the corner, and Yorktown is hosting five “a-maize-ing” Market Days in September, October, and November for family and friends to enjoy for FREE: **First Responders Market, Fall Festival, Paws at the River, Maritime Festival, and the Harvest Festival.**

More than 50 vendors, artists, and food trucks will participate in these events. Shoppers can purchase seasonal fruits and vegetables, grass-fed meats, dairy products, baked goods, nitro-brewed coffee, wine, soaps, candles, and much more. Talented artists will also be showcasing stained glass, paintings, and custom jewelry.

First Responders Market Saturday, September 9, from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

This market salutes the firefighters, sheriff's deputies, 911 and emergency communications dispatchers, public works personnel, and other first responders who protect the community every day. Stop by the **First Responders Market** and let them know how much they are appreciated. Vendors and artists will give discounts to first responders who shop at the market.

Several emergency vehicles and personnel will be on-site to educate the public and answer questions. York County Fire & Life Safety will bring its ladder truck and safe house. The York-Poquoson Sheriff's Office will display a patrol car, crime prevention trailer, motorcycles, and its K-9 unit along Water Street. Don't miss your chance to also meet the U.S. Navy's Naval Weapons Station Bomb Squad.



Fall Festival
Saturday, October 14 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

During the **Fall Festival**, guests will have the opportunity to purchase seasonal “gourd-ous” and tasty treats like pumpkins, apples, mums, and kettle corn. Visitors can participate in several family-oriented activities: hayride, face painting, hay maze, petting zoo featuring miniature animals, and pumpkin painting.

Guests of all ages can take the *Guess the Weight of the Giant Pumpkin* challenge. Stop by the table near the Visit Yorktown booth to examine the plump pumpkin and enter your guess. The person with the closest estimate without going over will win a gift basket of goodies from various market vendors. Carrot Tree Kitchens, located in Riverwalk Landing, will be selling its famous caramel apples and apple cider. DJ Ben Herrick will play music on the Riverwalk Landing stage from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Paws at the River
Saturday, October 28 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Paws at the River brings awareness to animal rescue organizations and helps place adoptable pets in their “forever” homes. On this “purrfectly” adorable day, the market extends to Riverwalk Landing businesses, where visitors will find information booths and other educational opportunities. Purchase delicious doggy delights at FiDough Homemade Dog Treats at the market or Gangsta Dog, located in Riverwalk Landing.



Staff will snap free photos of visitors and their canine companions ([uploaded to Visit Yorktown on Facebook](#)) from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Stick around for the annual Halloween Pet Costume Parade at 1 p.m. This popular trick-or-treating event will feature several Yorktown businesses and rescue organizations. A map will be posted online and also available on-site. The York-Poquoson Sheriff’s Office will be bringing a furry member of its K-9 unit. Phil Poteat is scheduled to perform on the Riverwalk Landing stage from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Maritime Festival
Saturday, November 11 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

This event is sure to float a water-lover’s boat. Visitors to the **Maritime Festival** can enjoy some of the best local and seasonal seafood including clam chowder, Virginia blue crabs, oysters and fresh fried fish. Guests can also shop for nautical-inspired art and jewelry.

Pirates invade the waterfront to talk to kids about seafaring life, and educational information will be available for mariners of all ages. Clan MacCool Gang will perform live sea shanties on the Riverwalk Landing stage from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Stop by the History Fair inside the Freight Shed to hear the untold stories of Yorktown, then cruise on over to the Riverwalk Landing Piers for historic workboat tours. Other family-friendly activities include: face painting, kids crafts, and blacksmith demos.



Harvest Festival **Saturday, November 18 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

You'll be grateful for all that our Harvest Festival has to offer! During this family affair, kids young and old will be able to engage in a cornucopia of fun. Festivities include a live animal show, petting zoo, inflatable axe throwing, balloon art, kids' crafts, and even a pie-eating contest. Ralph Motley and the Last Minute Grass will perform bluegrass from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the Riverwalk Landing stage.

Guests will also be able to purchase traditional holiday foods like turkey, sweet potatoes, green beans, dinner rolls, and pumpkin pie. Additionally, local jewelers, artists, and photographers will be selling their holiday handiwork.

Important Parking Information

Free parking for events is available in several lots throughout Historic Yorktown, including the two-level parking terrace on Water Street. Please be advised that sections of the upper deck of the parking garage will be closed for maintenance from October 9 to mid-December. The free Yorktown Trolley runs from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

Yorktown Market Days is held, rain or shine. The vendors and artists will move to the lower level of the parking terrace in the case of inclement weather. Special activities, however, may be canceled and will not be rescheduled. Visitors are encouraged to follow Visit Yorktown's social media accounts for all event-related changes and announcements.

Additional Event Info:

- www.yorktownmarketdays.com
- York County Economic & Tourism Development: 757-890-5900
- Event Weather Hotline: 757-890-3520
- Facebook, Instagram & TikTok: @VisitYorktown

Additional Photos are available at <https://bit.ly/3QGFbe3>.

*Special thanks to **TSP Lawns & Landscapes** and **Yorktown Feed Seed 'N More** for generously donating labor and materials for this year's hay maze. Yorktown Market Days also receives generous support from our 2023 **Barn Raising Sponsor** State Farm Agent Mark Irwin and **Cultivator Sponsors** Langley Federal Credit Union, Raising Cane's, Park's Orthodontics, and LeafFilter Gutter Protection. Additional recognition goes to **Harvester Sponsor** Amory Funeral Home.*

Yorktown Market Days and its activities are presented by York County and the Riverwalk Landing Business Association.