

FAIRFAX COUNTY HISTORY COMMISSION CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY IN FEBRUARY 2024

Day	History of Note	Events & Places to Explore
Day 1	<p>Black History Month, also called African American History Month, is a monthlong celebration of African American history and achievement. It takes place annually during the month of February in the United States. The idea for a Black History Month was first conceived by the historian Carter G. Woodson and members of his Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (now the Association for the Study of African American Life and History). It began in 1976.</p> <p>https://www.britannica.com/topic/Black-History-Month</p>	<p>Spotlights: Freedom Now! The Modern Civil Rights Movement (1945-1968), National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington, DC, 12:45 and 2:45 pm, Free</p>
Day 2	<p>Frederick Douglass - <i>Also known as: Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey</i> (born February 1818, Talbot county, Maryland, U.S.—died February 20, 1895, Washington, D.C.). African American abolitionist, orator, newspaper publisher, and author who is famous for his first autobiography, <i>Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave, Written by Himself</i>. He became the first Black U.S. marshal and was the most photographed American man of the 19th century.</p> <p>https://www.britannica.com/biography/Frederick-Douglass</p>	<p>NMAAHC Kids Learning Together: Meet a Beekeeper! National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington, DC, 11 am – 12 pm, Free Pan</p>
Day 3	<p>The community of Gum Springs was founded by West Ford, a former slave owned by George Washington’s family, who acquired the property in 1833. Gum Springs became a refuge for runaways and recently freed slaves to live. Today, Gum Springs has more than 2500 residents; as many as 500 are descendants of the original families.</p> <p>https://www.britannica.com/biography/Madam-C-J-Walker</p>	<p>Black History Month at Historic Frying Pan Church, Frying Park, Chantilly, 12-2 pm, Free</p> <p>Enslaved Lives at Historic Huntley Tour, Historic Huntley, Alexandria, 1-2 pm, \$12</p> <p>African American Emancipation in an Occupied City, Lyceum, Alexandria City, 11 am – 2 pm, Free</p>
Day 4	<p>Douglas Wilder was the first African American to serve as the Governor of Virginia and the first to serve as the governor of a U.S. state since the Reconstruction era.</p> <p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Douglas_Wilder</p>	<p>Take a Self-Guided Tour of African American History in Vienna</p>

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<p>Day 5</p>	<p>The first African American to represent Virginia in the U.S. Congress was John Mercer Langston. Born free in Virginia to a freedwoman of mixed ethnicity and a white English immigrant planter, in 1888 Langston was elected to the U.S. Congress. In 1870, Langston became dean of Howard University's law school and served as acting president of the university from 1873 to 1875. He was also the first president of Virginia Normal and Collegiate Institute (later Virginia State University).</p> <p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Mercer_Langston</p>	<p>Traveling Exhibition --"Frederick Douglass: Advocate for Equality" from the Gilder Lehrman Collection, Fairfax Museum and Visitor Center, 11 am – 4 pm, Thru 3/1/24, Free</p>
<p>Day 6</p>	<p>Don Scott (1965 – present), representing the 80th district in the Virginia House of Delegates is the first Black Speaker in the Virginia Legislature's 400-year history.</p> <p>https://www.npr.org/2024/01/10/1223953846/don-scott-becomes-first-black-speaker-in-virginia-legislatures-400-year-history</p>	<p>Slavery and Freedom Highlights Tour, National Museum of African American History and Culture, 10:15 and 11:30 am, Free</p> <p>Making A Way Out of No Way Highlight Tour, National Museum of African American History and Culture, 1:30 and 2:45 pm, Free</p>
<p>Day 7</p>	<p>Davis v. Prince Edward County, Virginia was one of the five lawsuits challenging the constitutionality of segregated schools that led to the landmark 1954 Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas decision that declared that "separate educational facilities are inherently unequal," and segregated schools should be dismantled with "all deliberate speed."</p> <p>https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?fulltext=1&search=Davis+v.+Prince+Edward+County%2C+Virginia&title=Special%3ASearch&ns0=1</p>	<p>Explore Black People and Flight, virtual Exhibit by the National Air and Space Museum</p>
<p>Day 8</p>	<p>William Harvey Carney (1840-1908) of Norfolk was a soldier during the Civil War and was the first Black Medal of Honor recipient. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for his gallantry in saving the regimental colors during the Battle of Fort Wagner in 1863.</p> <p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/William_Harvey_Carney</p>	<p>Ford Evening Book Talk: <i>The Odessey of Phyllis Wheatley</i>, Mount Vernon Presidential Library, Mount Vernon, 7- 8 pm, Free</p>

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<p>Day 9</p>	<p>Ella Fitzgerald (1917-1996) of Newport News, dubbed "The First Lady of Song," "Queen of Jazz", and "Lady Ella". She was noted for her purity of tone, impeccable diction, phrasing, timing, intonation, and a "horn-like" improvisational ability, particularly in her scat singing. was the most popular female jazz singer in the United States for more than half a century. In her lifetime, she won 13 Grammy awards and sold over 40 million albums.</p> <p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ella_Fitzgerald</p>	<p>Sweet Home Café Chef's Table with Executive Chef Ramin Coles, R/A, National Museum of African American History and Culture, 12 – 3 pm, Free to attend, menu items vary in cost</p>
<p>Day 10</p>	<p>Arthur Ashe (1943 -1993) of Richmond was a professional tennis player. He won three Grand Slam titles in singles and two in doubles. Ashe was also the first Black player selected to the United States Davis Cup team and the only Black man to ever win the singles title at Wimbledon, the US Open, and the Australian Open. He retired in 1980.</p> <p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arthur_Ashe</p>	<p>African American Soldiers from the Civil War (USCT) to Reconstruction (Buffalo Soldiers), Burke Center Library, Burke, 11 am – 12 pm, Free</p> <p>Discrimination & Diversion: Black History at Collingwood Beach & Glen Echo Park, Library Virtual Event, 2-3 pm</p> <p>Black Poetry Discussion, George Mason Regional Library, Annandale, 3-4:30 pm</p> <p>Saturday Matinee: Hidden Figures, Woodrow Wilson Library, Falls Church, 3-5:30 pm, Free</p>
<p>Day 11</p>	<p>The Laurel Grove School was built by freed slaves in the early 1880s. The one-room schoolhouse served the Black children of Franconia until 1932 as the Laurel Grove Colored School. The school survives today as the only remaining African American schoolhouse in Northern Virginia and stands as a restored, living museum of that historical period.</p> <p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Franconia,_Virginia</p>	<p>Paths of Freedom Seekers, Ellanor C. Lawrence Park, Chantilly, 1-2 pm, \$8</p> <p>Meet Frederick Douglass as portrayed by Nathan M. Richardson, Civil War Interpretative Center at Blenheim, Fairfax City, 2 – 3:30 pm, Free</p>

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Day 12	<p>Jennifer Leigh McClellan (born December 28, 1972-) is an American politician and attorney who has served as the U.S. representative for Virginia's 4th congressional district since 2023. She represented the 9th district in the Virginia State Senate from 2017 to 2023 and the 71st district in the Virginia House of Delegates from 2009 to 2017. She ran for governor of Virginia in the 2021 election. She is the first African American woman elected to represent the Commonwealth of Virginia in the House of Representatives.</p> <p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jennifer_McClellan</p>	<p>Meditation Mondays: Spirit in the Dark, National Museum of African American History and Culture, 12:15 – 1 pm, Free</p>
Day 13	<p>Dr. Edwin B. Henderson (1883-1977) settled in Falls Church, VA for more than 50 years. He is considered to be the "Grandfather of Black Basketball," because he introduced basketball to African Americans on a wide-scale, organized basis in 1904. He was also a principal organizer of the first rural branch of the NAACP.</p> <p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edwin_Henderson</p>	<p>Explore the Hip Hop Virtual Exhibit from the National Museum of African American History and Culture</p>
Day 14	<p>Catherine M. Hudgins (1944 – present) was the first African American to sit on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors, serving as the Hunter Mill Supervisor from 2000 to her retirement in 2019. During her tenure, she was a passionate advocate for the county's diversity and affordable housing.</p> <p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cathy_Hudgins</p>	<p>Douglass Day Transcribe-a-Thon, Virtual Event sponsored by Douglass Day & the Library of Congress, 12 – 3 pm, Free</p>
Day 15	<p>The United States Colored Troops (USCT) was a branch of the United States Army founded in 1863 to recruit, organize, and oversee the service of African American soldiers during the American Civil War. By the end of the Civil War, more than 185,000 men had served in the USCT, including more than 178,000 Black soldiers and approximately 7,000 white officers. At least 5,723 Black soldiers were mustered into service in Virginia. The men of the USCT saw action in every major theater of the war, with five Virginians being awarded the Medal of Honor.</p> <p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Colored_Troops</p>	<p>Visit the African American Civil War Memorial or virtually explore African American Civil War History.</p>

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Day 16	<p>Walter Nathaniel Ridley (1910-1996) became the University of Virginia's first Black graduate in June 1953 and the first African American to receive a doctorate degree from a predominantly white southern university. Ridley was admitted in September 1951, in the wake of a successful lawsuit brought the previous year by Gregory Swanson, who broke the color barrier at the law school. Because Swanson never finished his degree, Ridley became the first Black graduate of the university, earning a doctorate from the Curry School of Education.</p> <p>https://encyclopediavirginia.org/246hpr-49bbc1ecdf8db5b/</p>	<p>Getaway-Frederick Douglass Home & Portrait Gallery, Green Springs Garden Park, Annandale, 9:30 am – 3:30 pm, \$89</p>
Day 17	<p>Booker Taliaferro Washington (1856 –1915) was an American educator, author, and orator. Between 1890 and 1915, Washington was the primary leader in the African American community. Born into slavery on April 5, 1856, in Hale's Ford, Virginia, Washington was freed when U.S. troops reached the area during the Civil War. In 1881, he was named as the first leader of the new Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, an institute for black higher education. He expanded the college, enlisting students in construction of buildings. Work at the college was considered fundamental to students' larger education. Washington worked in salt furnaces and coal mines in West Virginia for several years to earn money. He made his way east to Hampton Institute, a school established in Virginia to educate formerly enslaved people and their descendants. He later attended Wayland Seminary in Washington, D.C. in 1878.</p> <p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Booker_T._Washington</p>	<p>Remembering Metilda- An Enslaved Child at the Mill, Colvin Run Mill Park, Great Falls, 1-2, \$9</p> <p>Black History Month at Historic Frying Pan Church, Frying Pan Park, Chantilly, 12-2 pm, Free</p> <p>Enslaved Lives at Historic Huntley Tour, Historic Huntley, Alexandria, 1-2 pm, \$12</p> <p>Crafty Kids: the Art of Alma Thomas, Burke Center Library, Burke, 11 am – 1 pm, Free</p>
Day 18	<p>Juneteenth - In 1863, during the American Civil War, Pres. Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which declared more than three million slaves living in the Confederate states to be free. More than two years would pass, however, before the news reached African Americans living in Texas. It was not until Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, Texas, on June 19, 1865, that the state's residents finally learned that slavery had been abolished. The former slaves immediately began to celebrate with prayer, feasting, song, and dance.</p> <p>https://www.britannica.com/topic/Juneteenth</p>	<p>Washington Revels Jubilee Voices Concert, an exploration of Gullah-Geechee culture and life, Lyceum, Alexandria City, 2 – 3 pm, Free</p>

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<p>Day 19</p>	<p>Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) are institutions of higher education in the United States that were established before the Civil Rights Act of 1964 with the intention of primarily serving African Americans.^[1] Most of these institutions were founded during the Reconstruction era after the Civil War and are concentrated in the Southern United States There are five Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in the Commonwealth of Virginia: Hampton University, Norfolk State University, Virginia State University, Virginia University of Lynchburg, and Virginia Union University.</p> <p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Historically_black_colleges_and_universities#cite_note-1</p>	<p>Visit the Freedom House Museum, Alexandria City, 1 – 5 pm, \$5 adults, \$3 children</p>
<p>Day 20</p>	<p>Davis v. Prince Edward County, Virginia was one of the five lawsuits challenging the constitutionality of segregated schools that led to the landmark 1954 Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas decision that declared that “separate educational facilities are inherently unequal,” and segregated schools should be dismantled with “all deliberate speed.”</p> <p>https://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?fulltext=1&search=Davis+v.+Prince+Edward+County%2C+Virginia&title=Special%3ASearch&ns0=1</p>	<p>Getaway-Frederick Douglass Home & Portrait Gallery, Green Springs Garden Park, Annandale, 9:30 am – 3:30 pm, \$89</p> <p>Music for Social Well-Being with Calvin Earl, City of Fairfax Regional Library, Fairfax City, 7 - 8:15 pm, Free</p> <p>African American Heritage Trail Ribbon Cutting, Founders Park, Alexandria City, 11 am – 1 pm, Free</p> <p>Song of Solomon Discourse Event, Oakton Library, Oakton, 3 – 4 pm, Free</p>
<p>Day 21</p>	<p>Oliver Hill (1907–2007), was born in Richmond. Hill earned a law degree at Howard University in 1933. In coordination with Thurgood Marshall and the NAACP, Hill argued for equal pay for Black teachers in Norfolk and presented one of the five cases that were consolidated into the US Supreme Court case Brown v. Board of Education. In 1948, he was elected to the Richmond City Council, the first African American since 1894.</p> <p>https://encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/hill-oliver-w-1907-2007/</p>	<p>Desegregation in the Northern Virginia Libraries, Reston Museum, Reston, 7 – 8 pm, Free</p> <p>Visit the Smithsonian American Art Museum, the collection includes significant works by African American artists.</p>

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<p>Day 22</p>	<p>Carter G. Woodson (1875-1950) was a pioneering scholar of Black history. Born in Canton, Virginia, to parents who were illiterate because they had been enslaved. Woodson earned a PhD from Harvard University in 1912. In 1915 he established the Association for the Study of African American Life and History and the Journal of African American History; both remain active today. Woodson believed that one of the best ways to overcome racial injustice was to educate people about the accomplishments and contributions of Black people in the United States and the world. Carter began Negro History Week, now Black History Month, in 1926.</p> <p>https://naacp.org/find-resources/history-explained/civil-rights-leaders/carter-g-woodson</p>	<p>Preschool Storytime - Black History Themed! Sherwood Regional Library, Mount Vernon, 10:30 – 11 am, Free</p> <p>Reading Ranger, Historic African Myths and Folk Tales by Dr. Carter G. Woodson, Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site, Washington, DC, 10 am, Free</p>
<p>Day 23</p>	<p>The Virginia Society for Promoting the Abolition of Slavery, and the Relief of Free Negroes and Others, Unlawfully Held in Bondage, and Other Humane Purposes was a Richmond-based antislavery organization active from 1790 to 1804. Founded by Robert Pleasants, a wealthy Quaker slaveholder-turned-abolitionist from Henrico County, the society at its high-water mark claimed more than 100 members, many of whom were Quakers and more than a few of whom were Methodists.</p> <p>https://encyclopediavirginia.org/entries/virginia-society-for-promoting-the-abolition-of-slavery-the/</p>	<p>Walking in the Steps of the Bookman Walking Tour, Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site, Washington, DC, 1 pm, Free</p> <p>"An Evening with Mary McLeod Bethune," Mary McLeod Bethune Council House National Historic Site and virtually, 6:30 pm, Free</p>
<p>Day 24</p>	<p>George Washington Carver (c. 1864-- January 5, 1943) was an American agricultural scientist and inventor who promoted alternative crops to cotton and methods to prevent soil depletion.[2] He was one of the most prominent Black scientists of the early 20th century. While a professor at Tuskegee Institute, Carver developed techniques to improve types of soils depleted by repeated plantings of cotton. He wanted poor farmers to grow other crops, such as peanuts and sweet potatoes, as a source of their own food and to improve their quality of life.</p> <p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/George_Washington_Carver</p>	<p>Saturday Cinema - Twenty Pearls, Chantilly Regional Library, Chantilly, 2 – 4 pm, Free</p> <p>Book Talk and Signing: "Black Communities of Fairfax: A History," Civil War Interpretative Center at Blenheim, Fairfax City, 2 – 4 pm, Free</p>
<p>Day 25</p>	<p>Lawrence Taylor (1959 – present) from Williamsburg was the first-round draft pick of the New York Giants in 1981. Over his 13 seasons,</p>	<p>A Mighty Long Way: My Journey to Justice at Little Rock Central High School, McLean</p>

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	<p>he redefined the linebacker position over the course of being named All-Pro 9 times and selected for 10 Pro Bowls. He was a member of 2 Super Bowl teams and was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1999.</p> <p>https://www.britannica.com/biography/Lawrence-Taylor</p>	<p>Community Center, McLean, 2 – 3 pm, Free</p> <p>Finding the Family of Joseph McCoy, Alexandria Black History Museum, Alexandria City, 2 pm, Free</p>
Day 26	<p>Maggie L. Walker (1864-1934) of Richmond was a businesswoman and teacher. In 1903, Walker became both the first African American woman to charter a bank, the St. Luke Penny Savings Bank, and the first African American to serve as a bank president. Later, Walker served as chairperson of the board of directors when the bank merged with two other Richmond banks to become The Consolidated Bank and Trust Company.</p> <p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maggie_L._Walker</p>	<p>Visit Visual Art and the American Experience exhibit at the National Museum of African American History and Culture, Washington DC, 12 – 5:30, Free</p>
Day 27	<p>Lillian Blackwell (1911-1996) was born in Arcola and raised in Arlington and Oakton. She attended the Louse Archer School in Vienna. In the 1950s Ms. Blackwell was active in the Civil Rights Movement and a leader in the local NAACP. She picketed restaurants, theaters and hospitals in the 1950s to protest the exclusion of black patrons. In 1959, Ms. Blackwell and her son were plaintiffs in a suit that led to the integration of Fairfax County schools. In 1963, Ms. Blackwell returned to the courts and won a decision that ended segregation in Virginia movie theatres.</p> <p>https://www.washingtonpost.com/archive/local/1996/05/14/fairfax-civil-rights-activist-lillian-blackwell-dies-at-85/7c0c003e-9937-4673-ab30-41ecd6fb7326/</p>	<p>Movie Matinee: The Hate U Give, Kings Park Library, Burke, 3:30 – 6 pm, Free</p>

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Day 28	<p>Henrietta Lacks (1920-1951), a Roanoke native, was the progenitor of the HeLa cell line, one of the most notable cell research discoveries ever made. Her cells led to important breakthroughs in biomedical research, including polio vaccine. Lacks was the unwitting source of these cells from a tumor biopsied during treatment for cervical cancer at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, Maryland, in 1951. These cells were then cultured by George Otto Gey, who created the cell line known as HeLa, which is still used for medical research. As was then the practice, no consent was required to culture the cells obtained from Lacks's treatment. Neither she nor her family were compensated for the extraction or use of the HeLa cells.</p> <p>https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henrietta_Lacks</p>	<p>Kidnapped into Slavery, Virtual Event sponsored by Historic Alexandria, 7 pm, Free</p> <p>Explore the Black Heritage Museum of Arlington virtually.</p>
Day 29	<p>Missy Elliot, born July 1,1971, in Portsmouth – present. American rapper and music producer who made a mark on the male-dominated hip-hop world with her talents for writing, rapping, singing, and music production. She is a 4-time Grammy Award winner.</p> <p>https://www.songhall.org/profile/missy_elliott</p>	<p>DEADLINE for "I am Black History" Pioneer Essay Contest, sponsored by Mold-en Our Youth for a Brighter Future, High School Students grades 9 -12</p> <p>Explore the African American History Inventory for Fairfax County.</p>
<p align="center">Calendar compiled by the Ethnic and Oral History Committee of the Fairfax County History Commission and Commissioner Russell Brooks</p>		
<p align="center">Commissioner Esther McCullough, Chair, Ethnic and Oral History Committee Committee Members: Commissioners Anne Barnes, Lynne Garvey-Hodge, Jenee Linder, Sallie Lyons, Tammy Mannarino, Cheryl Repetti, Anne Stuntz, and Advisory Member Barbara Peters</p>		