

artiFACTS Brings History to Life



If you like mysteries and history, you'll love the Park Authority's artiFACTS web page chock full of interesting tidbits about Fairfax County history. For example, there's the story of the child-size tea set salvaged from a yard sale. It turns out to be part of Sully Historic Site's past.

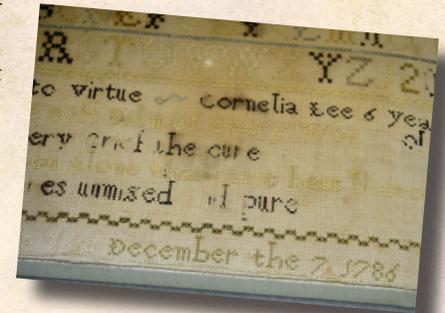
There's also the story behind a mysterious object and a cryptic note left in the dead of night at Colvin Run Mill. What is the object used for, and why was it taken from the mill 20 years earlier?

Then there's the snippet of history from a 1917 newspaper clipping about women's suffrage that was found during the demolition of an old, unsalvageable Fairfax County house. The discovery comes in the 100th anniversary year of the ratification of the 19th Amendment, giving U.S. women the right to vote.

These are among thousands of historical artifacts managed by the Fairfax County Park Authority's Archaeology and Collections Branch. Each item comes with a story, like the now 145-year old time capsule discovered in 1980 during a renovation at Walney Visitor Center at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park. What was found in it and why were the objects considered keepsakes?

The Park Authority's archaeology artifacts date from prehistoric times to the 20th century. Some people may not understand the importance of these un-earthed finds, such as pottery fragments, stone tools, straight pins or beads, but they're all very important clues to the past and the people who have lived here in Fairfax County. Learn how our history detectives piece together fragments to restore items like an earthenware vessel dating between 1760 and 1820. It came from a slave quarters site. Curious? Check it out in artiFACTS online: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/artifacts.

The County Archaeological Research Team also shares stories about vintage finds on its blog, C.A.R.T Archaeology. Read it online: <https://cartarchaeology.wordpress.com>.



Lucky Dogs Make a Splash with

Virtual Dog Daze!



COVID-19 may have closed the Water Mine for the season, but it couldn't stop the Dog Daze fun! Since the Water Mine at Lake Fairfax was off limits this year, the inaugural Virtual Dog Daze celebration gave pet lovers a chance to submit a picture of their pet pooch having fun in or near any body of water, including the bathtub! Out of five favorites, Koda, an energetic canine from Springfield was declared the overall top dog by guest judge and Hunter Mill Supervisor Walter Alcorn. All 40 entrants received participation prizes thanks to sponsors Aquatic Paws, Weber's Pet Supermarket and Giant. The 2020 virtual event was presented by the Fairfax County Park Foundation in partnership with the Fairfax County Park Authority. Donations were gratefully accepted and will benefit the Fairfax County Animal Shelter and the Park Foundation in memory of Harley, a beloved rescue dog who loved running with the big dogs in Fairfax County parks.