

HUNTER HOUSE VICTORIAN MUSEUM

NEWSLETTER – SUMMER 2021



Welcome to the Hunter House Newsletter! We are excited about the upcoming summer season and our new exhibit, "*Victorian Pastimes: Games of Yesteryear*". Inspired by the Hunter's extensive puzzle and game collection and the mental and emotional effects of the ongoing coronavirus pandemic in our communities, this exhibit highlights the rise and transformation of the American board game industry and the use of gaming in the home for comfort during times of hardship. We hope you will enjoy the collections on display and being at home with the Hunters this summer. This exhibit will be on display from June 5th- August 28th.

What's inside our latest issue:

UPCOMING EVENT SCHEDULE

DOCENT AND MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

GIFT SHOP UPDATE

BUFFALO SPRINGS LITHIA WATER

FREEMASON NEWS

AND MORE!



VICTORIAN PASTIMES

GAMES OF
YESTERYEAR



JUNE 5TH - AUGUST 28TH

A NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends,

As the spring turns to summer and our days run longer, I find myself yearning for opportunities to make the most of every second of warmth and light. After over a year of coronavirus-related restrictions and quarantines which kept us behind locked doors and in the darkened rooms of winter, I want nothing more than to bask in the sunlight of a 'normal' summer. Unfortunately, we now find that our return to normalcy will continue to take more time than we had hoped. Patience and resilience are the words for this summer, and as we continue on this last stretch towards normalcy it is my hope that we can begin our fall programming with the full spectrum of events of which we are accustomed. For now, though, we will continue to offer tours by reservation only and with the appropriate safeguards in place. We appreciate your understanding.

But just because we are all still walking around with masks on our faces and hand sanitizer in our pockets doesn't mean there still aren't fun times to be had. Of particular note this summer is our reflective exhibit "*Victorian Pastimes: Games of Yesteryear*", which will feature the Hunter family's extensive collection of board games, card games, and puzzles. Join us as we unveil never-before-seen items in the family's collection. This conversation-based exhibit will give visitors a multifaceted interpretation of gilded age leisure using games as mediums. We will also offer a series of teas themed around this exhibit including a Gilded Age Garden Party, an Alice in Wonderland Tea, a Bingo Tea, and a Circus Tea. Members will receive first access to all of our events, as well as a special invitation to a members-only game night and exhibit opening. We hope you will take advantage of these offerings.

If you visit us this summer, you might also notice our garden is getting a facelift. We want to extend the warmest of thanks to our Community Advisory Board member Jessica Carson for all of her hard work in overseeing the revamping of our outdoor space and literally getting her hands dirty. She is dedicated to creating a garden focused on sustainability and bursting with native plants. We cannot wait for you all to see it in all of its glory!

With that, I wish you a happy and healthy summer and look forward to seeing you all in the sunlight once more.

Yours in service,

Jackie Spainhour
Museum Director

UPCOMING EVENT SCHEDULE



BINGO TEA

Sunday, June 13th at 2 PM & 5 PM
\$30 Members/\$35 Not-yet Members/\$15 Children Under 13
Want it To-Go? \$25 per person. Pickup at 1 PM

Engage in America's favorite pastime at this afternoon tea featuring sweets, savories, and prizes for the winners who are able to shout 'Bingo!'.



GILDED AGE GARDEN PARTY

Sunday, June 27th at 2 PM
\$30 Members/\$35 Non-yet-members/\$15 Children Under 13
Want it To-Go? \$25 per person. Pickup at 1 PM

Join us in a celebration of the Victorian summer staple- the garden party. Enjoy soothing instrumental music while enjoying a picnic-style afternoon tea.



ALICE IN WONDERLAND TEA

Sunday, July 11th at 2 PM & 5 PM
\$30 Members/\$35 Not-yet Members/\$15 Children Under 13
Want it To-Go? \$25 per person. Pickup at 1 PM

Take a trip down the rabbit hole in this whimsical afternoon tea. Character appearance included.



A CIRCUS SHOW TEA

Sunday, August 22nd at 2 PM & 5 PM
\$30 Museum Members/\$35 Non-Members/\$15 Children Under 13
Want it To-Go? \$25 per person. Pickup at 1 PM

Listen and learn as our speaker offers an engaging talk on nineteenth century side shows while enjoying an afternoon tea reminiscent of evenings of popcorn and peanuts under the big tent.

DISCLAIMER

All events require advance registration and payment, unless otherwise noted. Events are subject to change or cancellation as coronavirus restrictions change. We will continue to monitor the situation closely to maintain compliance with those restrictions and keep our staff, friends, family, and guests safe. We appreciate your understanding. Please call 757-623-9814 or email [Hanna Kirby at hvhmevents@gmail.com](mailto:hvhmevents@gmail.com) to make a reservation request.

Note on Tea Events: We regret that due to the size and nature of our facility, we are unable to provide accommodations for dietary needs or restrictions. All menus are set for each event and cannot be changed. Should you wish to attend one of our teas and bring your own food from home while partaking in our tea beverage service and event atmosphere, we can offer a discounted price of \$15 for such occasions. Please make this request at the time you make your reservations.

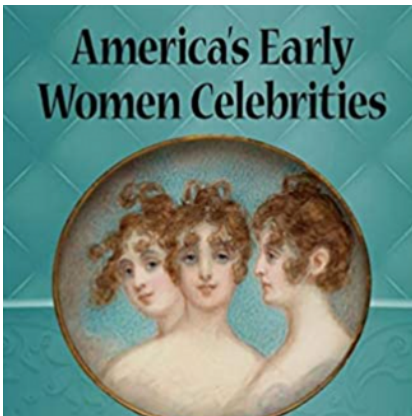
EXCLUSIVE MEMBERS ONLY EVENTS



MEMBERS-ONLY EXHIBIT OPENING

Friday, June 4th from 6-8 PM
Lecture at 7 PM
Free Admission

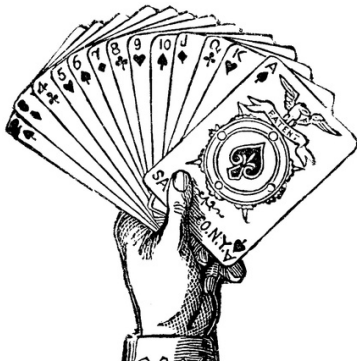
See the exhibit before the public in this evening designed especially for members featuring a brief talk on the history of gaming in the nineteenth century. Refreshments provided.



WALKERS, FLYERS, RIDERS: CELEBRITY WOMEN OF ACTION DURING THE VICTORIAN ERA - A ZOOM LECTURE

Friday, July 9th via Zoom @ 7 PM
Free for Members

At the turn of the twentieth century, doctors disagreed on whether exercise harmed or benefitted the female body. Women increasingly played tennis, croquet, and rode bicycles anyway. Some women even risked their lives to become famous. A woman of action became a new type of celebrity, but for most of these women, fame was fleeting. Join us to learn about daredevils like Maria Spelterini, who walked a tightrope over Niagara Falls, and bicycle racer Dottie Farnsworth, who sped around the track at twenty miles an hour! Author and presenter Angela Firkus is a professor of history at Cottey College. This talk is taken from a chapter of her new book *America's Early Women Celebrities: The Famous and Scorned from Martha Washington to Silent Film Star Mary Fuller*. Copies of her book are available for pre-purchase from the museum for the special price of \$30. Registration deadline for a copy of the book is June 15th.



MEMBERS HAPPY HOUR CARD NIGHT

Saturday, August 7th from 5-7 PM
Free for Members/\$10 for guests

Dust off your gaming skills as our resident historical gamer, Renee Evans, teaches you the game of Whist and other nineteenth century pastimes. Wine, cheese, and desserts will be provided.

GIFT SHOP UPDATE

By Sallie Proudfoot



This closed season we were able to complete a variety of projects including redoing our air conditioning system, putting a preservation tarp on the front face of the house, and painting the nursery!

While this might seem like a small change, it has really brightened up the room and allowed us to rearrange the shop to highlight new features and add new exhibit information.

While the room was probably never used as a proper nursery since Hattie, and Eloise were 9 and 11 when the family moved, we still have the Hunter family crib, dolls, and a variety of toys on display for your enjoyment.

We've also added a small Freemason district exhibit as well to show what the area was like at the time the Hunters lived here and showcase all the amazing things the neighborhood currently has to offer! Stop by for our hand-picked recommendations for what to eat, where to shop, and how to visit like a local.

We've also added a variety of new merchandise including face masks, books, puzzles, and tote bags. These new products, along with your favorite teas and scones, are available in our shop as well as online!

Thank you for looking into our gift shop and if you can't make it into the house yet, be sure to check out our website at hunterhousegiftshop.com and use code Newsletter15 for 15% off until July 15th!

If you have the chance to come in, mention your copy of this Newsletter and redeem 15% off in the shop as well! (cannot be combined with any other discount)



- **Miss Eloise:** This tea is a classic and is what we serve at all of our in house and to-go teas. This black tea with jasmine shines with a little sugar and a splash of cream!



- **Miss Harriet:** This is a summer go-to; Brew and serve iced for the perfect summer refresh!



- **The Doctor:** This is a strong Irish breakfast tea perfect while studying or working though the day!

DOCENT AND MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

PETER SCHULMAN - MEMBER

What drew you to the Hunter House?

I have always been drawn to the Freemason District for its elegance and timelessness. When I stroll up and down those streets its like having a vision of what Norfolk might have been like many years ago and it is restorative. I feel the same way about Hunter House only in a more heightened way. The minute I walk through its doors I feel transported to the 19th-century as though in a time warp. It's a jewel within Norfolk as it preserves a slice of Victorian life kept alive by the myriad of events you all do there!!



What event is your favorite at the museum?

It's hard to pick one as you are SO active. I'm truly amazed by the imagination and energy you all have that keeps Hunter House so vibrant. One of my favorite events was actually one I helped organize several years ago commemorating Edgar Allen Poe's time in Norfolk. It was magical as we were all outside during the readings and lectures (the Virginia poet laureate at the time Ron Smith gave a lovely reading!) I also love your thematic teas as they make the house so relevant to different times of the year but also reminds us of how elegant life was in the past!

Where are you from/ where do you live currently?

I'm originally from New York City, but now I am a proud citizen of Ghent!

GLORIA EATROFF - DOCENT

How did you find about the Hunter House?

I think I saw an article in the paper about it opening. My husband loves history. We rang the bell and checked it out. There was a lecture that day, and we instantly fell in love. I remember being so intimidated that I wouldn't be able to remember the information to give a tour! You really just learn things by being here. I love old stuff, but I didn't know anything really when I started. I started around 1980s.

What is your coffee or tea order?

I don't drink coffee. I just take plain old tea with one teaspoon of sugar. I also like lemon a lot. I'll take tea with my lemon please.

What is your favorite thing about the Hunter House? Or Favorite Hunter House Find?

The décor, I love the campeachy chair and the tilting ice water pitcher. It's hard to choose, there are so many nice things. I really couldn't begin to name all of my favorites. I think the best thing about being here is the pleasant atmosphere, how everyone is kind and how it is really like a family. It is just so pleasant. Nobody feels left out.



HERMITAGE MEMBERSHIP SWAP!



The Hermitage Museum and Gardens and Hunter House Victorian Museum are swapping members for the summer!

June 1st through August 31st, Active Members of our respective museums will enjoy a variety of member perks and exclusive offers.

Hunter House Members Visiting the Hermitage:

Members of the Hunter House are invited to visit the Hermitage Tuesday through Sunday, 10 am – 5 pm by using this exclusive link to reserve complimentary timed tickets.

Benefits offered to active Hunter House members *June 1st through August 31st*:

- Purchase a one-year Hermitage Museum membership of any level and receive two additional complimentary months of membership (14 months of membership!) Simply stop by the Hermitage Museum admissions desk with your Hunter House membership card or contact the Development Department at 757-901-4082 to purchase your membership.
- Enjoy Hermitage member pricing on ticket purchases for programs and events *To reserve tickets for a Hermitage program or event, please contact the Development Department at 757-904-4082 (This benefit does not apply to Visual Arts School offerings.)
- 10% Member discount on purchases from The Vault, the Hermitage's gift shop, when you show your Hunter House membership card at check out.
- Free admission to the Hermitage's beloved Sunsets on the River outdoor concert series beginning Thursday, June 3rd. Show your Hunter House membership card upon your arrival to gain complimentary entrance. (Please note that this event will likely sell out and space is available on a first come, first served basis.)
- Enjoy the opportunity to view the special exhibition, *Work in Progress: 13 Murals for Today*, on view beginning June 11th
- Participate in the Hermitage's monthly membership raffle: Stop by the Hermitage museum admissions desk with your active Hunter House membership card and enter to win a \$25 gift card to a small local business!
- Families are encouraged to check out our refreshed kids' activity room inside the museum! Children can find scavenger hunts, coloring sheets, and other creative activities inspired by the Hermitage.

COVID-19 Updates

Both the Hunter House and the Hermitage Museum and Gardens have modified operations due to the current covid-19 health crisis. Expect occupancy restrictions, limited access to certain programs or exhibits, and safety guidelines for visitors. Please visit the respective websites before scheduling your visit for further details.

BUFFALO SPRINGS LITHIA WATER

By Morgan Bechtle
P.A. and Medical History Intern

One of the many medical artifacts on display in Dr. Hunter's study is an aqua blue glass bottle of Buffalo Lithia Spring Water. This bottle in our collection is in very good condition as noted by the condition of the paper label. We can tell this is an original bottle, and not a knockoff reproduction) not only from its "buffalo girl" insignia but from the signature FGW on the base (which stands for Fairmount Glass Works, where the bottle was made). The exact date of production is unknown but based on the title "Buffalo Lithia Springs Water" it was most likely made somewhere from 1906-1968 (after the passage of the FDA).

The History Behind Buffalo Springs:

Buffalo Springs is a set of three springs located in Buffalo Junction, VA, a roughly 3-hour drive from Norfolk. It was named "Buffalo Springs" because when Byrd arrived, he killed a buffalo that was drinking from the spring. By the 1790s the healing properties of the springs became known and visitors started flocking to the area to drink, eat, and bathe in the mineral water. Byrd himself described the spring water as "What Adam drank in paradise". Famous guests included none other than Thomas Jefferson (3rd president of the United States). By the early 1840s the spring became a full-fledged resort comprising two hotels with two bowling alleys, a dining room fit for 250 guests, a 10-acre lake, and multiple horseback riding and hiking trails. In 1862 a stay would cost you \$2 per day, \$10 per week, or \$35 per month (which is roughly \$902 dollars today). Despite being a popular family summer destination, there was a section of the hotel called "Rowdy Row", where a line of cottages were reserved for bachelors.

In the 1840s a doctor became a part owner of the springs and used his medical influence to tout the "many healing benefits" that the spring water would provide.

Buffalo Springs Lithia Water was touted for treating a variety of ailments including:

- Gout, rheumatism
- Uric acid gravel (kidney stones)
- Disease of the kidneys and bladder
- Bright's Disease*
- chronic diarrhea
- blood poison
- Disorders of the nervous system
- Fevers of malaria and typhoid
- "affections particular to women" like difficult menstruation or morning sickness
- Eczema, acne, and other skin diseases
- Diabetes Mellitus

When taken with meals it was said to "increase appetite, promote digestion, and prevent excess acid production during digestion".

There was no standard prescription for Buffalo Lithia Water, say how many cups to drink in a day and for how long, because it varied by ailment.




THE SUNDAY HERALD, SUNDAY, APRIL 10, 1890.

BUFFALO LITHIA WATER.

THE GREAT AND ONLY KNOWN SOLVENT OF STONE IN THE BLADDER.
ITS VALUE IN RHEUMATIC GOUT.
IT DISSOLVES BOTH THE URIC ACID AND THE PHOSPHATIC SEDIMENT.
THREE PATIENTS DISCHARGE SIX AND ONE-HALF OUNCES OF STONE.

Stone in the Bladder - Rheumatism.
Case of Mr. W. H. HARRIS, of Buffalo, N. Y., cured by the use of BUFFALO LITHIA WATER.



AN ANALYSIS OF THE LITHIA WATER, MADE BY DR. J. H. HARRIS, OF BUFFALO, N. Y., SHOWS THAT IT CONTAINS THE FOLLOWING INGREDIENTS:

THE ABOVE FLAVOR IS FROM A FRUIT, AND SEPARATES THE ACID AND HEAVY OF THE GRAVELS FORMED BY URIC ACID. THEY WERE PREPARED BY THE SUNDAY HERALD, N. Y.

Mass Production:

In 1872, ownership of the springs and resort went to Colonel Thomas Francis Goode, who bought it for a mere \$750. By the 1880s a bottling plant was built to bottle and ship the mineral water across the country and the globe. The water was sold in half-gallon glass containers with 12-bottle cases costing around \$5. Nearly 20,000 grocers and pharmacists sold the spring water worldwide, including England, France, Italy, and Canada.

Wanting a part of the financial success of the spring water, reproductions of the water started being made. People even started filling empty bottles with regular water and reselling it. This became so common that the company had to issue a statement telling consumers to only buy bottles from “trusted sources” and that had their trademark on the cork and bottle.



BUFFALO LITHIA WATER

NATURE'S NERVE TONIC.

Nature's Specific for Bright's Disease.

A Powerful Nervous Tonic, it is a wonderful restorative in Nervous exhaustion, neuralgia, and affections generally of the nervous system. Both a remedy for and preventive of Mental and Physical Exhaustion from Overwork or Bright's Disease, Gout, Rheumatic Gout, Rheumatism, Acid Dyspepsia, Malarial Poisoning, &c. It is par excellence a remedy. Endorsed by medical men of the highest distinction.

Water in Cases of one dozen half gallon bottles, \$5 per case, at the Springs.
THOS. F. GOODE, Proprietor, BUFFALO LITHIA SPRINGS, VA.

STARVATION IMMINENT From Gastro-Intestinal Catarrh. Patient Perfectly Restored by BUFFALO LITHIA WATER

Case of Mrs. Dr. F. J. Gregory, of Virginia, reported by F. J. Gregory, M. D., Keysville, Va.

"For eighteen months my wife, aged forty-one years, was a sufferer from a Gastro-Intestinal Catarrh, which resisted my best-directed efforts at relief. The taking of the smallest quantity of the most-easily digested food on the stomach would produce an attack of nausea and vomiting, the severity of which is seldom witnessed, and when the stomach was free of food she would have attacks of Gastralgia of the most excruciating nature. She also suffered from habitual constipation, at times with hemorrhages from the bowels. I pursued the usual line of treatment, such as simple Bitters, dilute Hydrocyanic Acid, Bismuth, etc., and called to my help two of the most skilled physicians in South-side Virginia, who supplemented my treatment with some of the newer drugs, such as Effervescent Bicarb. Potassa, Lactopeptine, Carlsbad Mineral Salt, etc., but with no benefit, and so her condition went on from bad to worse until death seemed almost imminent from inanition. I then put her on a milk diet with a glass of BUFFALO LITHIA WATER Spring No. 2, every hour or so during the day, and after the use of the first bottle improvement was marked, and before a case of it had been used I regarded her cure as complete. It has been nearly two years since, and there has been only one slight recurrence, which was a few days since, and it readily disappeared on the use of the water for a few days."

BUFFALO LITHIA WATER

Is for sale by Grocers and Druggists generally. Pamphlets on application.
PROPRIETOR, BUFFALO LITHIA SPRINGS, VA.

"Buffalo Lithia Water" was successfully marketed as a curative until 1910 when the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia filed in the Supreme Court Case stating that the company has misbranded their product under the new Food and Drugs Act. In an attempt to circumvent this new rule, the company then changes its name from "Buffalo Lithia Water" to "Buffalo Lithia Springs Water". The thought being that the word "lithia" was not used to describe the contents of the spring water but rather was a part of the actual name of the springs.) However, their rebranding would be in vain because the US Supreme Court ruled that the use of "lithia" in marketing the mineral water was misrepresentation or false advertising. One court statement read, "for a person to obtain any therapeutic dose of lithium by drinking Buffalo Spring Water he would have to drink from 1500,000 to 225,000 gallons per day."

How Did Dr. Hunter Hear About this Product?

Given it's wild popularity at the time, Dr. Hunter probably came across an advertisement in a medical journal or it could have been recommended by a College he attended. In fact in one health primer (pamphlet that discussed the health benefits of a product) several prominent doctors from the Medical College of Virginia testified to the water's positive health effects.

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HUNTER HOUSE
VICTORIAN MUSEUM

Sponsorship Opportunities

Our Vision

We envision a more inclusive, accessible world starting with change at the community level. We offer a variety of educational programs and tours geared towards providing the public with information about our collective past so that we may be better informed in the creation of our future. We promote historic preservation, community-driven programming, and lifelong learning. We strive to be a community cornerstone.

Our Impact

Through educational programming, the museum serves visitors from the Hampton Roads region, Virginia, the country, and all corners of the world. We regularly serve boy and girl scouting troops, homeschool groups, school-aged and college-aged children and young adults, senior citizen groups, social organizations, and philanthropic societies. We exist exclusively for educational and charitable purposes. Our reach includes providing internship and volunteer opportunities for people of all ages, identities, and backgrounds. We are a proud supporter of inclusive and accessible practices and demonstrate those ideals in our hiring practices and collaborative partnerships.

Ways to Support our Mission

\$5,000 can provide:

- Two paid internships to local students interested in preserving our past and designing their own purpose-filled futures.
- Full restoration of our outdoor privy, which we would like to restore, interpret, and add to our public tours.
- Replacement wallpaper and labor for an entire room of the museum in need of restoration
- Restoration of the museum's dining room area, which needs to be reinterpreted to ensure accuracy of information and education.
- Preservation of a section of the sandstone architectural details on the façade of the building, which naturally deteriorates over time.

\$500 can provide:

- The purchase of new plants to bring our museum garden to life, or the upkeep of the garden itself.
- New statuary for our garden to be used to discuss STEM, iconography, and outdoor art in the Victorian Era.
- One girl or boy scout opportunity for an entire troop to gain up to three badges or patches.
- The creation of a 360 degree tour of the first floor of the museum
- The production of 1,000 self-guided tour brochures for our English-speaking guests.

\$2,500 can provide:

- Catering for six afternoon tea events at the museum, the proceeds from which fund our educational outreach and programs and offer educational opportunities themselves.
- Continuing education opportunities and training for our dedicated volunteer staff to learn more about diversity, equity, accessibility, education, and inclusion in museums.
- Refinishing of the wood surfaces throughout the museum, which should occur every five years.
- The development of a new exhibit on interpreting servant life at the museum from Irish Immigrant and African-American perspectives.

\$250 can provide:

- The production of 500 bilingual self-guided tour brochures for international visitors from countries such as France, Germany, Spain, and Russia.
- The repair of two books in our Hunter Family Library.
- The production of 500 scavenger hunt booklets for the local community to take self-guided tours of the Freemason District.
- The production of 1,000 scavenger hunt worksheets for schoolchildren to use when visiting the museum.

\$1,000 can provide:

- Restoration of at minimum 5 museum items held in our archival space.
- Purchase of 10 archival boxes and acid-free paper for storing our items.
- Annual cleaning needs of the draperies, rugs, and other furnishings in the museum.
- One archival quality mannequin for displaying our unique clothing collection.
- All of the fresh greens needed to decorate the home for the holiday season.
- Registration for our entire staff to attend the Virginia Association of Museums Conference

\$100 can provide:

- Floral arrangements for our dining table that are used to discuss STEM topics, nature, and social customs such as the Language of Flowers during the Victorian Era.
- One full week of cleaning services for the museum collection.
- Refreshments for one of our lecture events
- One continuing education tour for our volunteers to visit an area museum.

And so much more!

There are many opportunities for you or your organization to support our mission, including in-kind donations for raffles, silent auctions, and donations of food and beverages for community events. We are always looking for performers to donate their time and talents to us as well.

To learn more about how you can support our mission, please contact Museum Director Jackie Spainhour at hhvm1894@gmail.com or by phone at (757) 623-9814.

Thank you for considering sponsoring the Hunter House Victorian Museum.



FREEMASON NEWS

AN UPDATE FROM THE
FREEMASON COMMUNITY

The signs of Spring are everywhere - including our Freemason neighborhood. We are excited that the weather is improving, that COVID rates are on the decline, and restrictions will soon be lifted. While we may not be able to go back to the way things were done, we're looking forward to the "new normal". Summer is usually a slow time for us, but we hope to have a couple of fun events.

The Hunter Foundation
Hunter House Victorian Museum
240 W Freemason St.
Norfolk, VA 23510

Open for Tours April - December

Touring Hours:

Wednesday-Saturday:
Guided Tours 11AM, 1PM, & 3PM
Self-Guided Tours Noon & 2PM

The museum is closed on Sunday,
Monday, Tuesday, and major holidays.

Admission Rates:

\$5 - Adults
\$4 - Seniors/Military
\$2 - Students (with ID)
\$1 - Children (under 13)