

Get a Taste of History and More at Port Tobacco Market Day

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If you've never visited the **Port Tobacco Historic Village in Charles County**, this spring might be the perfect time to do so. The 8th Annual Port Tobacco Market Day will take place on **Saturday, May 20, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.**, on the grounds of the Historic Port Tobacco Courthouse.

Mary Fenton is on the board of directors of the Society for the Restoration of Port Tobacco. While plans for this year's event are still being finalized, she says last year "over 40 vendors came together to provide a true 'market' experience with something for everyone on the courthouse's beautiful grounds."

You can expect many of the same vendors as in previous years, with artwork as varied as pottery, sea glass art, driftwood art, oyster shell creations and jewelry; farmers including Hancock, Edelen, Persistence Creek and Herbert Farms offering everything from local meats to jams and jellies; displays of hanging baskets and windchimes; and demonstrations of blacksmithing by Yellow Dog Forge and soapmaking by Joan Burgess. It's sure to be a delight for all the senses. The Society will hold a bake sale to satisfy your sweet tooth, while Deputy Dogs and other food vendors will offer more satiating fare. Musical entertainment will likely be provided by Port Tobacco Pickers, Breaking Blue and Southern Mix.

Other vendors will offer antiques and collectibles, and community organizations will be on hand as well. The Charles County Garden Club will host its annual plant sale and offer gardening tips.

Port Tobacco was the original Charles County seat. Tours of three historic buildings in the area will be offered, some by costumed docents. The buildings include the Port Tobacco Courthouse, which has been carefully rebuilt to look like the original 1819 courthouse, the historic home Stag Hall, and Burch House, nicknamed Catslide House because of the steep pitch of its roof.

Says Fenton, "It's a wonderful day. We have kids, grown-ups. You can get a cake to take home for dessert, you can listen to music, you can go home with fresh vegetables and meat from local farmers, you can buy an antique or something new and different."

Historic Port Tobacco Village is located at 8430 Commerce St. (Chapel Point Rd.). The rain date for this event is May 20. For more information, visit charlescountymd.gov or find the Society for the Restoration of Port Tobacco on Facebook.

-Caroline Miller King