



# FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 927 • Fairfax, VA 22035-5500  
703-324-8700 • Fax: 703-324-3974 • [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks)

## Information Release

Judy Pedersen, PIO

E-mail: [parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov)

Inquiries: 703-324-8662

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## A Toy Discovered Behind a Wall has a Story to Tell

Children’s toys can do more than entertain. In the past, certain toys also were instrumental in helping children prepare for the gender-specific roles they would inherit as adults.

That’s the case with the item being featured in this month’s edition of [artiFACTS](#). Learn about the toy’s circuitous trip back to Sully Historic Site and what this toy reveals about how children in the past were groomed for their future. Chances are good that if there were girls in your house, you played with one of these miniature items as a child or as a parent, too.

See some of these hand-painted items at the Walney Visitor Center at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park. They’re on display from December 2016 through January 2017 as part of an exhibit focusing on the holidays and the Machen family.

The Park Authority has acquired millions of historical items in many ways for its collections. Our inventory includes more than 5,000 historic objects, such as quilts, chairs, baskets, machines, and clothing items; thousands of archival items, such as photographs, letters, maps, and other documents; and upwards of three million artifacts that include archaeological finds, such as spear points and pottery.

artiFACTS features a new item from the collection each month to educate, enlighten and entertain. Items as diverse as a hand-wrought nail and silk top hat can give us insight into our past.

For more information about the Park Authority’s Museum Collections, contact Heritage Resource Specialist Megan Leining at 703-631-1429 or at [megan.leining@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:megan.leining@fairfaxcounty.gov).

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If accommodations and/or alternative formats are needed, please call (703) 324-8563, at least 10 working days in advance of the registration deadline or event. TTY (703) 803-3354.