

Th:Jefferson MONTICELLO

WINTER 2009

www.monticello.org

VOLUME 20, NUMBER 2

New operating hours go into effect in 2010

TIMES are changing at Monticello.

Literally.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2010, Monticello will institute new operating hours, with different opening and closing times during the year that reflect both visitation trends and visitors' preferences.

"We took a long, hard look at a lot of data and weighed a variety of factors," said Gary Sandling, Monticello's vice president of visitor programs and services. "We made changes to our operating hours that we believe will better suit the vast majority of our visitors. We are extending hours when most visitors come, thereby giving us the opportunity to serve them better."

Monticello will still have two sets of "regular" opening and closing times — 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in December, January, and February, and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. from March through November. However, these operating hours will be extended during peak visitation periods, including most weekends and around all major holidays.

COMMENTS?
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For example, during the winter of 2010 Monticello's gates will open at 9 a.m. and close

5 p.m. on
Jan. 16-18
(Martin Luther King Day weekend) and
Feb. 13-

15 (Presidents Day weekend). In March and April, the closing time will be extended until 6 p.m. on 23 dates, including five Fridays and five Saturdays. And from May through November, Monticello will remain open until 6 p.m. on 39 dates and until 7 p.m. on 16 more, including every

Saturday from June 19 through Aug. 14.

Monticello will continue to be open every day of the year except Christmas — though there will be limited hours, from 9 a.m. to noon, on Thanksgiving and Christmas Eve — and the grounds will continue to remain open for one hour after the posted closing time.

The hours of operation for each day in 2010 will be available on the "Plan Your Visit" section of the Web site monticello.org.



In 2010, Monticello will have extended hours during peak visitation periods, such as tulip season. Andrew Shurtleff

2010 hours

JANUARY-FEBRUARY

Regular: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Extended: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.: Jan. 16-18; Feb. 13-15.

MARCH-NOVEMBER

Regular: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Extended: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.: March 27-31; April 1-10, 16-24, 30; May 1, 8, 14, 15, 21, 28; June 5, 6, 12, 13, 20, 27; July 2, 4, 5, 11, 18, 25; Aug. 1, 8, 15, 21, 22, 28, 29; Sept. 4, 5; Oct. 8, 11, 15, 17, 22, 24, 30, 31; Nov. 6, 13, 26, 27.

Extended: 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.: May 22, 29, 30; June 19, 26; July 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; Aug. 7, 14; Oct. 9, 10, 16, 23.

Limited: 9 a.m. to noon: Nov. 25.

DECEMBER

Regular: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Extended: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.: Dec. 26-30.

Limited: 9 a.m. to noon: Dec. 24.

Closed: Dec. 25.

"This is a big change for us, and we will use every means at our disposal to communicate our operating hours to our visitors so they can plan their visits most effectively," Sandling said. "Extending our hours during our peak visitation periods will allow visitors to Monticello to enjoy more than the house tour. They'll be able to take advantage of our outdoor tours, learning activities, and the exhibitions and amenities at the Thomas Jefferson Visitors Center, our new gateway to Monticello, and have a more complete experience here."

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Monticello is a newsletter published twice each year by the Thomas Jefferson Foundation, Inc. The Thomas Jefferson Foundation is the private, nonprofit corporation that has owned and operated Monticello since 1923. Its mission is preservation and education.
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