Commemorating the lynching of Joseph McCoy

The city will hold a remembrance event to commemorate the life of lynching victim Joseph McCoy on Saturday at 3 p.m., according to a news release.

McCoy was a Black teenage resident who was killed by a lynch mob at the corner of Lee and Cameron streets 125 years ago, on April 23, 1897. At the event, community members will recognize both the lynching and the lynching's effects on the city's African American community.

The service will end with a procession from Market Square, located at 301 King St., to the corner of Cameron and Lee streets. Additionally, city hall, the old Station House door, the lamp post and George Washington Masonic Memorial will be illuminated in purple throughout the weekend in honor of McCoy.

Residents can visit the city's In Memoriam webpage to learn more about McCoy: www.alexandriava.gov/cultural-history/in-memoriam-2022-joseph-mccoy-april-23-1897. They can also view the remembrance marker placed at the site of the lynching as part of the Alexandria Community Remembrance Project, a citywide effort to educate residents about the history of racial hate crimes in Alexandria.

-oanderson@alextimes.com