

## New & Noteworthy in 2026 Richmond Region, Virginia

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### Notable Anniversaries

- 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of **American Independence**, with the Richmond Region central to the story
- 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of **Main Street Station**, one of the most beautiful train stations in the country
- 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of **Maymont** as a public park and museum gifted to the city by the Dooleys
- 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of tourism in the museum at **Sixth Mount Zion Baptist Church of Richmond**
- 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the **Richmond Raceway**, America’s premier short track
- 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of **James River Association**, restoring and protecting the local river
- 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the **Children’s Museum of Richmond**, inspiring learning through play
- 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the **Black History Museum & Cultural Center of Virginia**, celebrating Black Virginians through special exhibitions and programming

## Major Openings and Exhibitions

### [Berkleytown Heritage Park](#) | Town of Ashland | New in 2025

Ashland's newest park is part of the Berkleytown Heritage Project, dedicated to honoring the rich history of the Berkleytown neighborhood, a historically African American community established in the early 20th century. Throughout the park, visitors can engage with interactive exhibits, including QR codes linking to oral histories about Berkleytown residents and installations by local artists.

### [Stan the T. Rex](#) | Children's Museum of Richmond (Downtown Location) | New in September 2025

The Children's Museum of Richmond (CMoR) is roaring into a new era with the debut of Stan the T. Rex, a life-size replica of one of the most complete Tyrannosaurus rex skeletons ever discovered, now permanently on display at its Downtown location.

### [Improved Accessibility, Playground and Facilities](#) | Pole Green Park | New in October 2025

Hanover County's beloved Pole Green Park has completed several upgrades to improve the visitor experience. The playground underwent its first major renovation in 18 years to include new and accessible play equipment. New lighting for pickleball courts, new fencing and new structures at sports facilities round out the improvements.

### [Central Virginia's First LEGO Store](#) | Short Pump Town Center | New in November 2025

The first LEGO store in Central Virginia celebrated its grand opening just before the 2025 holiday shopping season. The store features a "pick & build" wall where guests can select individual LEGO brick pieces to complete their imaginative creations and a "build your own minifig" station to customize a LEGO figurine.

### [Giants: Art from the Dean Collection of Swizz Beatz & Alicia Keys](#) | Virginia Museum of Fine Arts | November 22, 2025 – March 1, 2026

This groundbreaking exhibition from musical and cultural icons Swizz Beatz and Alicia Keys showcases more than 130 works by 40 Black artists from around the world, spotlighting monumental creations by visionaries like Basquiat, Kehinde Wiley, and Amy Serrano.

### [Conex RVA](#) | Opening Fall/Winter 2025

Conex RVA is a new "container bar" and event venue, combining an indoor-outdoor restaurant, beer garden, art, and music spaces built from shipping containers. The container walls are being transformed by local artists into an outdoor gallery with unique murals that celebrate Richmond's creativity, culture, and community. Conex will feature in-house burgers (via River City Smash Burger), rotating food trucks, multiple bars, and plans for seasonal programming like ice skating in winter.

**[Christian Siriano & Ashley Longshore: The Art of Fashion](#) | The Branch Museum of Design |  
January 17 – March 2026**

Follow Christian Siriano’s evolution as a visionary designer from groundbreaking fashions that champion diversity and body positivity to the meticulous craftsmanship behind each creation. An immersive red-carpet runway will be surrounded by Siriano’s designs worn at the Oscars, Grammys and more, and some of his most iconic pieces will be displayed alongside Ashley Longshore’s pop-infused portraits, presenting a bold dialogue between fashion and art.

**New Home for Baseball at [CarMax Park](#) | Diamond District | Opening April 7, 2026**

Slide into home — the new home of the Richmond Flying Squirrels! CarMax Park opens for its inaugural game on April 7, 2026, offering a massively upgraded fan experience. New amenities include a beer garden, kids’ play area, lawn and picnic terraces, an art walk, and improved accessibility for guests with disabilities.

**[Expanding Freedom and The Lab](#) | Shockoe Institute at Main Street Station | Opening April 9, 2026**

Learn about the origins and growth of racial slavery in America, Richmond’s pivotal role in the trade of enslaved people within the United States, and how racial slavery touched virtually every aspect of American life before the Civil War in the Shockoe Institute’s first exhibition. Afterwards, partake in reflection, curated experiences and unique programs and performances led by Institute staff at The Lab.

**Reimagined & Expanded Conservatory at [Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden](#) | Opening Spring 2026**

The Conservatory at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden, the “Jewel of the Garden,” will reopen in spring 2026 after a major expansion. The reimagined Conservatory will double in size and introduce four distinct climate zones, a permanent home for butterflies in the Subtropical House, and new exhibits highlighting historic and threatened plants.

**Virginia Wildlife Trail & Mansion Reopening at [Maymont](#) | Opening Spring 2026**

The Maymont Mansion and Virginia Wildlife Trail will reopen in spring 2026, following the most ambitious preservation project in Maymont’s history. The Mansion will debut with a new historically accurate red slate roof and other infrastructure improvements to protect its treasured collections. The Wildlife Trail will feature enhanced pathways and viewing areas, plus new habitats for porcupines and coyotes. Maymont also celebrates its 100th anniversary as a public attraction in 2026.

**Legacy Restored at [Skipwith Roper Cottage](#) | Jackson Ward | Opening Spring 2026**

The Skipwith–Roper Cottage will open during Jackson Ward’s Founding Week as part of *The JXN Project’s* initiative honoring Abraham Peyton Skipwith, the first known Black homeowner in Jackson Ward, circa 1793. The restored site will permanently display the *House to Highway: Reclaiming a Community History* exhibition, celebrating the neighborhood’s enduring legacy and role in America’s story.

## **[IllumiNATION](#) | Virginia Museum of History & Culture | June 25-28, 2026**

As the nation marks America's 250th anniversary, the Virginia Museum of History & Culture will host a nightly block party in late June featuring a groundbreaking light and sound show telling the story of America over its 250 years. Visitors will watch a monumental-sized account of the nation unfold in a film that will illuminate and sculpt to the Museum's entire 18,000-square-foot, block-long facade.

## **[80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Richmond Raceway + NASCAR Weekend](#) | Richmond Raceway | August 14-15, 2026**

Get revved up for the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Richmond Raceway during NASCAR weekend in RVA featuring a Craftsman Truck Series race on Friday and a NASCAR Cup Series competition on Saturday under the lights. Established in 1946, this legendary D-shaped short track has been the stage for racing heroes and unforgettable moments for eight decades. Celebrate 80 years of speed, tradition, and NASCAR history all year long at America's premier short track.

## **New Riverfront Recreation at [Brown's Island](#) | Expected Completion: October 2026**

The Brown's Island Improvement Project will transform one of Richmond's most beloved riverfront spaces in 2026, bringing new recreational features such as river terraces, play areas, and shaded seating as well as major upgrades like restrooms, ADA-accessible pathways, and potable water. When events return in late fall 2026, visitors can expect an even more dynamic and accessible destination for concerts, festivals, and outdoor enjoyment along the James River.

## **[The Impressionist Revolution: Monet to Matisse](#) | Virginia Museum of Fine Arts | November 2026 – March 2027**

Trace the bold journey of the Impressionists from their pioneering debut in 1874 to their lasting influence on modern art in this exhibit from the Dallas Museum of Art.

## **Landmark Progress along the [Fall Line Trail](#) | Central Virginia & Hanover County | Ongoing**

The Fall Line Trail continues to make exciting progress, with a newly completed 4.8-mile section linking Ashland in Hanover County to Woodman Road in Henrico County — marking the first regional connection along the 43-mile corridor. This milestone brings the vision of a continuous, multiuse trail connecting seven localities across Central Virginia closer to reality, with about 20 miles expected to be completed or under construction by the end of 2026. Currently, trail users can enjoy two fully opened segments, including the stretch from Carter Park to the Ashland Trolley Line and another connecting Henrico's Spring Park to Richmond's Bryan Park. When finished, the path will create new opportunities for recreation, active transportation, and regional connectivity for residents and visitors alike.

## **Richmond Region 250: Always Revolutionary**

Rooted in the place where Patrick Henry’s call for liberty first echoed and revolutionary ideas helped shape a new nation, the Richmond Region’s “Always Revolutionary” commemoration honors the area’s enduring role in America’s fight for freedom. Throughout 2026, the region will bring history to life with special exhibitions, performances, and community events that celebrate its revolutionary spirit — past, present, and future.

### **VA250 Commemorative Passport Program | Various Locations | Launching November 2025**

Highlighting Virginia’s rich historic destinations through a unified, engaging experience for visitors, the Virginia Museum of History & Culture is spearheading a statewide collaboration with more than 50 historic sites to encourage visitation across the Commonwealth in the leadup to the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of American independence.

### **“Always Revolutionary” Richmond Region Digital Trail | Various Locations | Launching November 2025**

Celebrate VA250 with this new digital trail that connects travelers to the people and places that helped shape America. Visitors can explore historic landmarks, earn rewards, and experience how the Richmond Region’s revolutionary spirit still thrives today.

### **Give Me Liberty: Virginia and the Forging of a Nation | Virginia Museum of History & Culture | Now through January 4, 2026**

Gain a deep appreciation for the continental and global forces as well as the individual actions by both iconic and ordinary people that brought about a model of democratic government that would change the world.

### **Liberty or Death Reenactments | Historic St. John’s Church | Various Dates**

As Virginia marked 250 years since Patrick Henry’s legendary cry for freedom in 2025, St. John’s Church continues to invite visitors to stand where history was made. The 1741 landmark hosts powerful reenactments of Patrick Henry’s 1775 “Give me liberty or give me death!” speech among nine Founding Fathers on summer Sundays between Memorial Day and Labor Day — a must-see experience honoring the spark that ignited the American Revolution.

### **Dissent! Liberty & Loyalty in Early Richmond | The Valentine | February 26, 2026 – January 31, 2027**

Step into a turning point in American history, 1770s-1830s, when the Richmond Region took center stage as Virginians wrestled with how, and if, they would truly fulfill the ideals of the Declaration of Independence.

### **We the People | Virginia Museum of History & Culture | March 21 – September 7, 2026**

Trace centuries of immigration to Virginia, highlighting the diverse people from around the world who have shaped their unique place in America and beyond.

## [Historic Garden Week: Richmond Church Hill Tour](#) | Church Hill Neighborhood | April 18-25, 2026

The nation's only statewide house and garden tour features more than 250 private homes and gardens. Be sure to take Richmond's Church Hill tour which includes historic homes, gardens, and civic buildings that hold a unique place in America's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary story.

## [Richmond Sailfest](#) | Dock Street Park & Intermediate Terminal | June 12-15, 2026

Kick off Central Virginia's countdown to America's 250th anniversary with the awe-inspiring arrival of magnificent international tall ships on the James River. This free weekend festival will include ship tours, live music, performances, historical re-enactors, and art and history exhibitions.

## [Americana](#) | The Branch Museum of Design | Opens July 2, 2026

Through design, fashion, advertising, and media, see how cultural symbols – from cowboy hats to Hollywood westerns to NASA astronauts – have been packaged and projected, influencing how Americans understand themselves and how the world understands America.

## [Patrick Henry Governor Celebration](#) | Patrick Henry's Scotchtown | September 19, 2026

Join in on the fun at Scotchtown to honor Patrick Henry, Virginia's first governor and famed orator of "Give me liberty or give me death." Enjoy a day of celebration filled with history, live entertainment, and music by the Hanover Concert Band at Henry's former home.

## Arts, History, and Culture

### [Poe Comes to Life: Augmented Reality](#) | The Poe Museum & Visit Richmond VA | Available Now

Visit Richmond VA has introduced an immersive augmented reality (AR) experience featuring the animated bust of Edgar Allan Poe at the Poe Museum, paired with a "Mysterious & Spooky Richmond Region" self-guided adventure. Guests can interact with the AR technology on-site at the museum or summon Poe anywhere through their mobile device. The iconic writer and master of the macabre spent much of his early life in Richmond, and the Poe Museum holds the world's largest collection of Poe memorabilia, ephemera, and artifacts.

### [Un/Bound: Free Black Virginians, 1619-1865](#) | Virginia Museum of History & Culture | Now - April 4, 2027

Discover the untold stories of free Black Virginians in one of the first exhibitions to deeply explore their lives from the arrival of the first captive Africans in 1619 through the abolition of slavery in 1865.

## [The Power of Poison](#) | Science Museum of Virginia | Now – April 19, 2026

Investigate the many roles of poison in nature, myth, history, and medicine through immersive dioramas, interactive experiences, and intriguing mysteries, organized by the American Museum of Natural History.

## [Generations: Stories of Asian Americans in Richmond](#) | The Valentine | Now – May 25, 2026

Learn the stories of Richmond's rapidly growing Asian American communities, exploring personal journeys, cultural identity, and their vital role in the region today.

## [Gary Flowers Walking the Ward Motorcoach Tours](#) | Jackson Ward | Launching Fall 2025

Walking the Ward with Gary Flowers, the acclaimed 20-stop walking tour of historic Jackson Ward, is now expanding its offerings to include motorcoach tours, enabling groups to experience the city's rich Black heritage in new ways. Led by Gary L. Flowers—fourth-generation Jackson Ward resident and historian—the tours continue to illuminate the neighborhood's legacy as “Black Wall Street” and “The Harlem of the South.”

## [Virginia & the Vietnam War](#) | Virginia Museum of History & Culture | November 23, 2025 – July 6, 2026

On the 50th anniversary of the fall of Saigon, now is the time to ask new questions about Virginia and the Vietnam War. This display will provide guests access to the VMHC's collected oral histories.

## [Framed: Step into Art](#) | Children's Museum of Richmond, Downtown | January – September 2026

Walk through the frame and into the fun in this traveling exhibit that transforms famous paintings into life-sized, interactive worlds where kids can play, explore, and discover.

## [James River Association's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala](#) | Historic Tredegar | March 21, 2026

Celebrate five decades of restoration and protection efforts that have transformed the James River into one of Richmond's most remarkable success stories.

## [Survival of the Slowest](#) | Science Museum of Virginia | May 23 – September 7, 2026

This exhibit showcases live animals whose surprising disadvantages help them thrive, revealing the clever trade-offs that ensure survival in nature.

## [Memorial Day Ceremony](#) | Virginia War Memorial | May 25, 2026

The Commonwealth of Virginia's annual ceremony includes patriotic music, military tributes, speakers and time to remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice in U.S. service, followed by the Say Their Names Marathon, a full reading of the names listed on the Shrine of Memory walls.

## [Alebrijes](#) | Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden | June – September 2026

Discover the magic of Mexican folk art through 16 vibrant papier-mâché sculptures—fantastical, colorful creatures that blend unexpected animal forms in imaginative ways.

## [Rescue](#) | Science Museum of Virginia | July 13, 2026 – January 17, 2027

Step into the high-stakes world of search and rescue through interactive simulations, hands-on technology, and real-life emergency response scenarios.

## [Fall/Winter Solo Exhibitions](#) | Institute for Contemporary Art at Virginia Commonwealth University (ICA at VCU) | September 18, 2026 – February 21, 2027

[Tony Cokes](#): Known for his bold use of color, text, and sound, Cokes challenges viewers to rethink culture, power, and identity through his distinctive and politically charged visual language.

[Cassi Namoda](#): This exhibition immerses viewers in Namoda’s vibrant, magical realist worlds that weave together postcolonial history, global mythologies, and the emotional textures of modern life.

[Diane Severin Nguyen](#): Nguyen explores themes of power, propaganda, and transformation, creating visually arresting works that blur the line between beauty and tension, blending photography, film, and installation.

## Food and Drink

### [Auntie Ning’s Filipino Food](#) | Now Open

Auntie Ning’s Filipino Food transitions from food truck to brick-and-mortar, serving beloved Filipino classics like lumpia, lechon kawali, pancit, and adobo, along with expanded vegan options and morning coffee and boba offerings

### [Baltik’s Bagel](#) | Now Open

Baltik’s Bagel, founded by Lithuanian-American chef Yero Rudzinkas, brings a chef-driven twist to kettle-boiled, hand-rolled bagels in RVA’s South Side, pairing tradition with innovation in flavors and presentation. Baltik’s Bagel won the People’s Choice award at New York BagelFest in 2025.

### [Bar Buoy](#) | Now Open

Drawing from her Northern Neck roots, Brittany Anderson (James Beard Award semi-finalist, *Top Chef* star) serves up fried fish plates, Southern snacks, and plenty of shellfish alongside playful cocktails and nostalgic “boat drinks” in a space designed to feel like a modern coastal getaway.

## [The Benedict on Cary](#) | **Now Open**

The region's newest brunch spot, The Benedict on Cary, brings a modern flair to classic breakfast and lunch favorites in a bright setting with an inviting atmosphere and fresh, elevated menu.

## [Big Bamboo](#) | **Now Open**

Downtown Richmond is home to this new Asian-fusion restaurant, where savory dishes and a tequila bar come together in a unique pairing. This is the third restaurant in the Richmond Region from owners Sandy Wang, Andy Wu and Johnny Lin, and it's opened to rave reviews.

## [Bolo's Eatery](#) | **Now Open**

The newest addition to the Lindsey Food Group, Bolo's Eatery and rooftop restaurant invites guests to enjoy Chef Mike Lindsey's signature blend of comfort food and culinary creativity with stunning rooftop views. Featuring fried chicken, fresh oysters, and craft drinks from the in-house Blackwell & Brainstorm Brewhouse, Bolo's offers a lively new dining destination that celebrates flavor, family, and community.

## [Brazen](#) | **Now Open**

Brazen is a bold new entry in The Fan District, specializing in slow-braised dishes crafted with flavor-forward techniques. With a menu that embraces inclusivity across dietary preferences, this locally owned eatery offers spirited cooking and warm hospitality.

## [Coalescence Coffee](#) | **Now Open**

Coalescence Coffee is a café and community hub, located in Richmond's Art District, with a mission to bring people together, no matter their background, over specialty coffee and shared space.

## [Daisy's at Tredegar](#) | **Now Open**

This new dining destination offers elevated Southern-inspired cuisine at the historic Tredegar Iron Works complex next to the new Allianz Amphitheater at Riverfront. Daisy's brings a fresh culinary experience to one of the city's most iconic settings, celebrating regional flavors.

## [Grace Farmhouse Cookery](#) | **Now Open**

Grace is a new wood-fired, produce-forward restaurant by chef Jessica Wilson. With intuitive, seasonally driven cooking in an intimate, sustainably designed space, Grace aims to offer a fresh, flavorful dining experience rooted in place.

## [Janet's Cafe & Bakery](#) | Now Open

Janet's Café & Bakery is a warm, homey café where locals can enjoy fresh-baked pastries, breads, and a full breakfast and lunch menu. Co-owned by longtime baking pros Janey Gioiosa and Will Darsie, Janet's aims to be a "no-frills hangout" grounded in community and the joy of good food.

## [Morty's Market & Deli](#) | Now Open

Morty's Market is a new go-to neighborhood grocer, mixing local flavor with everyday convenience. With fresh produce, artisanal goods, and plenty of RVA charm, it's the perfect spot to grab something special in a welcoming space.

## [Old School Cider House](#) | Now Open

Located in a restored historic schoolhouse in the heart of New Kent, Old School Cider House offers a fresh take on Virginia dining with chef-driven dishes and a wide selection of handcrafted ciders on tap. Blending rustic charm with modern flair, it's a must-visit destination for cider lovers.

## [The Purrfect Bean](#) | Now Open

The Purrfect Bean is RVA's new and only cat café, located in the Fan neighborhood, where guests can enjoy specialty coffee, tea, and pastries downstairs, then head upstairs by reservation to mingle with adoptable cats from Purring Hearts VA.

## [Taco Vegana](#) | Now Open

Taco Vegana is located in the Church Hill neighborhood as Richmond's first fully vegan Mexican taqueria with a full bar. Led by Milton and Rachel Rodriguez, the menu blends Mexican, Tex-Mex, and Baja flavors to create flavor beyond expectation.

## [The Granite Grill](#) | Fall 2025

The Granite Grill & Bar will open in fall 2025, the newest concept from Big Kitchen Hospitality, parent company of Tazza Kitchen and Conejo. Located in the Stony Point Village shopping center, it'll serve up American grill classics alongside cocktails and year-round patio dining.

## [The Brooklyn](#) | Fall 2025

From the team behind Lillian restaurant, The Brooklyn is the newest addition to the Scott's Addition neighborhood—a moody, intimate wine and cocktail bar perfect for a cozy dinner, late-night drink, or spontaneous snack, promising to become your newest go-to date night spot.

## [Lucky AF \(New Locations\)](#) | Fall 2025 & January 2026

Two new Lucky AF locations are on the horizon: one opening this fall on Forest Hill Avenue, and another slated for January in Short Pump Town Center. These expansions build on the original Scott's Addition location and bring more of the restaurant's playful, elevated sushi experience to the region.

## [Richmond Black Restaurant Experience](#) | March 2026

Join the celebration of Black culture and cuisine with a week of specials, new and returning favorite dishes, food trucks, and more.

## [Chesterfield Restaurant Week](#) | April 2026

Chesterfield County will host their third annual event celebrating the county's culinary scene in 2026.

## [Henrico Restaurant Week](#) | April 2026

Henrico Restaurant Week will feature special fixed-price, three-course dinners and/or two-course lunches from participating restaurants. \$1 from each lunch and \$3 from each dinner will be donated to Safe Harbor, which supports survivors of sexual and domestic violence and human trafficking.

## [Richmond Restaurant Week](#) | April and October 2026

During this biannual celebration of the local culinary scene, participating restaurants create a special prix-fixe meal. Each meal purchased generates a monetary donation to Feed More, a local organization dedicated to hunger relief in Central Virginia.

## [Dine Out for Pride](#) | June 2026

Order a signature item at participating Richmond Region restaurants and a donation will be made to [OutRVA](#) and Diversity Richmond in honor of National Pride Month.

## **Festivals, Events, and Performances**

### [The Black Book Expo: A Conscious Literary Festival](#) | Pine Camp Arts Center | April 11-12, 2026

Find your next great read during this showcase of literature related to Black history, spirituality, politics, science, African Diasporic culture and more. Meet celebrity and independent authors and enjoy live entertainment. Presented by [Elegba Folklore Society](#).

## [5<sup>th</sup> Annual Fiber Festival](#) | Historic Scotchtown | April 11, 2026

Spin into tradition with demonstrations of sheep shearing and wool fiber production, historic house tours, craft vendors, food trucks and more.

## [Inaugural Gala: Avant Garden](#) | Institute of Contemporary Art | April 18, 2026

Experience the art of giving at this immersive, unforgettable event, the first in support of the Institute. This special event features curated experiences influenced by contemporary art and culture that are designed to uplift and delight. Proceeds directly support the ICA's mission to listen, to create, and to make art public.

## [Richmond Ren Faire](#) | Dorey Park | April 18-19, 2026

The Richmond Ren Faire returns to Dorey Park, bringing to life a fresh, community-driven take on the Renaissance period. Inspired by the Silk Road's spirit of exchange, the event highlights Richmond's diverse artists, performers, and makers, celebrating creativity, connection, and the everyday people who shaped history.

## [Ashland Train Day](#) | Downtown Ashland | April 25, 2026

This annual festival and railroad extravaganza celebrates Ashland's love for trains with Touch a Truck, kid zones, a scavenger hunt, model trains, real trains, music, games, food and more.

## [Dominion Energy Riverrock](#) | Downtown Riverfront at Historic Tredegar | May 15-17, 2026

The nation's premier outdoor sports and music festival offers a mud run, trail runs, bouldering, concerts and demos. Free for spectators.

## Juneteenth | June 19, 2026

[Elegba Folklore Society](#): Gather with family and friends for the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Richmond's flagship Juneteenth event to commemorate and celebrate, engage in moving historical storytelling, and enjoy entertainment designed for inspiration and joy.

[Henrico County](#): Henrico County's festival returns to Dorey Park for a day of family fun with performances on two stages, a vendor fair, historical and educational exhibits, a kids' zone and fireworks.

[Juneteenth Jamboree](#): Join the festivities at various programs and events throughout the month of June, culminating with the annual Chesterfield Juneteenth Celebration.

## [Hanover Tomato Festival](#) | Pole Green Park | July 2026

This popular tradition features craft vendors, music, kids' activities, and the world's best tomatoes.

## [Carytown Watermelon Festival presented by Publix](#) | Carytown | August 2026

Slice into summer with sidewalk sales, live music, and plenty of juicy watermelon.

## [Down Home Family Reunion](#) | Abner Clay Park | August 14-15, 2026

A weekend celebration of African American folklife, this event includes world music and dance, an expansive market, children's events, interactive site demonstrations and down-home healthy food. Presented by [Elegba Folklore Society](#).

## [Virginia Pridefest](#) | Midtown Green | September 2026

Celebrating unity and diversity, this annual event features dozens of vendors, food and music in an atmosphere welcoming to all. Sponsored by OutRVA.

## [Run Richmond 16.19](#) | Kanawha Plaza | September 2026

Be immersed in 400 years of Black history on a unique running course where every step carries the weight of history and the promise of progress. Founded by actor Djimon Hounsou.

## [2nd Street Festival](#) | Jackson Ward | October 2026

Step into history and feel the rhythm of Jackson Ward's rich cultural legacy as the neighborhood fills with live music on multiple stages, flavorful food, and a buzzing open-air marketplace.

## [Richmond Folk Festival](#) | Brown's Island | October 2026

An eclectic mix of musicians, artisans and dancers from all over the world bring their unique cultural traditions to the Richmond riverfront. A hearty food selection rounds out the experience.

## [Garden Glow](#) | Maymont | October 14 - November 15, 2026

Enchanting nights await when dramatic lighting and glowing sculptures transform scenic gardens into an unforgettable after-dark experience. Gather with family and friends in the lively Glow Village complete with food, a Glow Bar and interactive fun.

## [Craft + Design](#) | Main Street Station | November 2026

This museum-quality show presented by the Visual Arts Center of Richmond brings together extraordinary artists and makers from across the country, showcasing everything from contemporary jewelry and glass to fine furniture, ceramics and wearable art.

## [Light Up the Tracks](#) | Downtown Ashland | November – December 2026

Downtown Ashland hosts a mile-long holiday light display and six weeks of special events.

## [GardenFest of Lights](#) | Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden | November 2026 – January 2027

Stroll through dazzling displays of more than half a million lights, hand-crafted botanical decorations, model trains, a fairy village, warming fires with hot chocolate and s'mores, and festive entertainment.

## [Annual Colonial Heights Christmas Parade](#) | Boulevard, Colonial Heights | December 2026

Shine bright during the holiday season at the region's only nighttime Christmas parade featuring twinkling floats, marching bands and holiday cheer.

## [Capital City Kwanzaa Festival](#) | Greater Richmond Convention Center | December 27, 2026

One of the largest Kwanzaa festivals on the East Coast, Richmond's celebration includes a ceremony, performances, food, workshops, children's activities and The African Market. Sponsored by [Elegba Folklore Society](#).

## **Sports and Active Events**

### [A-10 Women's Basketball Championship](#) | Henrico Sports & Events Center | March 4-8, 2026

The Atlantic 10 Women's Basketball Championship returns to Richmond with teams competing for an A-10 Conference championship and an automatic berth into the NCAA Tournament.

### [River City Half Marathon](#) | March 7, 2026

Soak in the early signs of spring on this scenic course that takes you along the James River and through picturesque neighborhoods, finishing on the campus of the University of Richmond.

### [Virginia Derby](#) | Colonial Downs Racetrack & Rosie's Gaming Emporium | March 14, 2026

The Virginia Derby returns to the national stage in 2026 as an official Kentucky Derby qualifier for the second consecutive year. The race plans to build on last year's sold-out success and highlights Virginia's fast-growing prominence in the world of thoroughbred racing on one of the best turf tracks in the country.

### [Ukrops Monument Avenue 10k presented by Kroger](#) | April 18, 2026

This RVA spring tradition features a Dress Up and Run contest and 10k Spirit Contest, where even the bystanders can win prizes for pumping up the crowd and runners.

### [Racing Season](#) | Colonial Downs | July – September 2026

Experience the thrill of live horse racing and enjoy trackside entertainment, family-friendly activities, festive food and drink, and special themed events.

## [Allianz Partners Richmond Marathon](#) | **November 14, 2026**

Known as America's Friendliest Marathon, this race welcomes runners of all ages with unmatched course support, community spirit, and lively celebrations. Choose from three distances and enjoy an epic post-race party. Starts at 1st and Broad Street.

## [CarMax Tacky Light Run](#) | **Mid-lothian Mines Park | December 12, 2026**

Dress up in your tackiest gear for a holiday fun run through one of the region's most festive neighborhoods with dozens of homes decorated in over-the-top style.

## **2027 and Beyond**

### [LEGO Group](#) | **Expected Completion: 2027**

The first United States manufacturing facility is coming soon to Chesterfield County.

### [Virginia Museum of Fine Arts \(VMFA\)](#) | **Expected Completion: 2028**

A transformative expansion is underway through 2028, adding 173,000 square feet to the 718,000 square foot museum, making it the fourth largest comprehensive art museum in the United States. This is the largest expansion and renovation project in the museum's history, adding a new wing to the museum and expanding the galleries for the Photography collection and European art.

### [Buc-ee's](#) | **Expected Completion: 2031**

New Kent County will be home to the Commonwealth of Virginia's second Buc-ee's location following the completion of construction on the nearest interchange, part of the Interstate 64 widening project.

### [The Shockoe Project](#) | **Expected Completion: 2037**

The Shockoe Project is a multi-phase revitalization and reimagining of Richmond's Shockoe Bottom neighborhood, with plans to contextualize and commemorate the area's significant historical sites—including the Shockoe Burial Ground and Lumpkins Slave Jail—and the creation of the Richmond National Slavery Museum. The project's completion will make Shockoe Bottom a world class, global Site of Conscience in time to celebrate the City of Richmond's 300th birthday in 2037.