

Profile

VIRGINIA BEACH, NORFOLK & SOUTH HAMPTON ROADS VIRGINIA



CLEAR PATH

The Way to Manage Smart Growth

LAND Coastal Development • **WATER** Powering Industry
PEOPLE Many Voices • **GOODWILL** International Gathering

[WORD OF MOUTH]

WHAT PEOPLE ARE TALKING ABOUT IN HAMPTON ROADS, VA



Missy Elliott
Loyal to Her Hometown



Azalea Festival
Celebrating Art and Culture



Cavalier Hotel
Hospitality on the Hill

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[PROFILE SERIES]

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MAN-MADE MARVELS

Virginia's BRIDGE-TUNNELS make travel faster and more fascinating.

IF YOU'RE INTERESTED in dramatic feats of engineering, the Hampton Roads area has more than enough to impress. Separated by water, the communities that make up Hampton Roads are linked by a series of bridges and tunnels.

To the west, the Monitor-Merrimac Memorial Bridge-Tunnel joins Portsmouth and Newport News.

The \$400 million structure, which may be crossed without paying a toll, is named for a battle between two Civil War ironclads that took place less than a mile away. The four-lane tunnel is 4,800 feet long, and from it, you can see the Newport News Marine Terminal and Shipyards and the Norfolk naval base.

You can usually see a few Nimitz-class aircraft carriers in the distance, as well.

Heading east, the Hampton Roads Bridge-Tunnel is a 3.5-mile-long, toll-free crossing between Norfolk and Hampton. It is composed of bridge trestles, man-made islands, and tunnels that run under the shipping channels of Hampton Roads harbor.

The roadway is 108 feet below sea level at its lowest point. During peak summer traffic, the number of vehicles crossing the Hampton

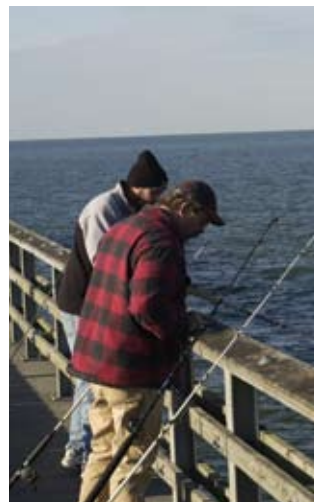
Roads Bridge-Tunnel can exceed 100,000 per day.

Even more impressive than its sister structures, the Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel connects Virginia Beach to Virginia's Eastern Shore. At 17.6 miles long, it is the largest structure of its kind in the world.

After it opened in 1964, the bridge-tunnel was named one of the "Seven Engineering Wonders of the Modern World." It consists of 12 miles of low-level trestle, two 1-mile-long tunnels, two bridges, 2 miles of causeway, and four man-made islands.

Perhaps the most amazing fact about the construction is that, despite its \$450 million price tag, not a cent of federal, state, or local tax money was used to build the bridge-tunnel.

The structure is a time saver and a tourist attraction. It cuts nearly 100 miles from the journey between Virginia Beach/Norfolk and New York. For a better look, stop at Sea Gull Island, the southernmost point of the man-made islands, 3.5 miles from Virginia Beach. There, you can grab a bite to eat, go fishing, or simply enjoy the sights and sounds of the Chesapeake Bay.



Fishing on Sea Gull Island



Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel

[WORD OF MOUTH]

COOL TREATS



Al Doumar

ASK HIM, and Al Doumar will pause in his work at Doumar's drive-in in Norfolk to tell you the story of how his uncle invented the first ice cream cone.

As he tells it, Syrian immigrant Abe Doumar bought a waffle at the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis, rolled it into a cone and filled it with a scoop of ice cream from a nearby vendor. Abe was soon selling cones up and down the East Coast.

"Ice cream cones were a novelty, so it was an easy sell," says Al, who is 83.

In 1934, Abe's brother, George, opened Doumar's on Monticello Avenue. The staff still scurries among cars, serving burgers and, of course, ice cream.

[Eat More Crabs]

Enjoy the bounty of the Chesapeake, including hard-shell crabs, at the Blue Crab in Norfolk. You can expect exceptional seafood with a modern, savory twist, and a noteworthy wine list. Call ahead for a table.



Missy Elliott

ROCKING THE BOAT

When it's time to take a break from her hip-hop empire, MISSY ELLIOTT comes home.

MISSY ELLIOTT is one of the most prolific artists in the music business today. Born Melissa Arnette Elliott on July 1, 1971, in Portsmouth, the five-time Grammy winner has come a long way from her difficult childhood, which inspired some of the music on her sixth album, *The Cookbook*. The local celebrity has written and produced not only her own CDs, but also hits for Whitney Houston, Aaliyah, and Destiny's Child.

Elliott and other Hampton Roads artists can often be found working together. Longtime friend and producer Timbaland, born in Norfolk and known for his unique sound, has produced virtually all of Elliott's hit albums. The Neptunes' Pharrell Williams, a native of Virginia Beach, collaborated with Elliott on *The Cookbook*.

It's not an accident, according to Elliott, that the area is home to other hip-hop pace-setters. "Down South, you're in a vacuum," she says. "We would always get music so late, and we never got a chance to really hear the hot records until they were old everywhere else. That benefited folks like me, Timbaland, and Pharrell because it forced us to create our own sound instead of allowing us to be influenced by what everybody else was doing."

Elliott, who now owns a home in Virginia Beach, says the area has changed a lot. She gets lost going to the mall sometimes.

"It's crazy with all the new roads and buildings," she says. "But some things never change—people are still hanging out at the beach, and football and basketball games are still important."



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www.norfolk.gov



www.norfolkcvb.com



www.norfolkdevelopment.com

[WORD OF MOUTH]

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The Coronation of Queen Azalea and Her Court

LIFE IN BLOOM

Visitors flock to the INTERNATIONAL AZALEA FESTIVAL in a show of goodwill.

WHEN THE AZALEAS are blooming in April, you can visit 26 countries in a single day if you happen to be in Norfolk.

During the International Azalea Festival this year, thousands will attend events April 24-30, that celebrate the culture of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's 26 nations. Each year a different nation is honored. This year, it's Canada.

The festival began in 1953, one year after a NATO command was established in Norfolk, as a way for residents to salute the presence of the allied forces and to create new friendships within the international community. Norfolk is the only city in the United States that is home to a NATO command.

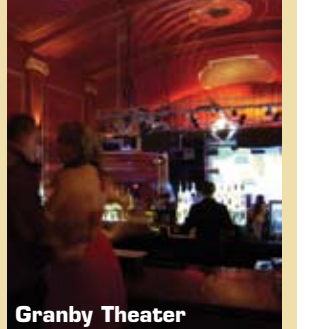
The festival is touted as one of the Top 20 Events in the Southeast by the Southeast

Tourism Society. It has an estimated annual economic impact of \$1.5 million, drawing dignitaries from all over the world. The most-attended event of the week is NATO Fest at Town Pointe Park, where visitors will encounter food, entertainment, and people from each of the member nations.

"Everyone who attends loves it," says Ashley McLeod, executive director of the festival. "It's wonderful—how many people get to visit with someone from Latvia?"

The Coronation of Queen Azalea and Her Court is another popular event. The Renaissance Garden, site of the coronation, is just one of 20 theme gardens on 155 acres at Norfolk Botanical Garden, which can be viewed by tram, boat, or foot. Find out more at azaleafestival.org.

WHERE IT'S AT



Granby Theater

THE EMERGENCE of Granby Street's "Restaurant Row" in downtown Norfolk has brought fine restaurants, funky cafés, martini bars, and beer pubs that attract visitors heading to and from theaters, clubs, and other venues nearby.

During the day, the row's galleries, specialty shops, and designer boutiques give local artists a show place.

Club Soda

111 W Tazewell St. (Off Granby St.) Enjoy a pineapple upside-down cake martini or a Veuve cocktail in a sleek setting.

Blues Alley Bistro and Café

455 Granby St. The most serious jazz joint in town, with a cognac lounge in the rear, is a good bet for late-night tunes.

Empire Little Bar & Bistro

245 Granby St. Locals can't seem to get enough of the martinis and tapas at this little place, which fills up fast.

[WORD OF MOUTH]

DINING OUT



Vintage Kitchen

VINTAGE KITCHEN in downtown Norfolk combines regional, simple, and sophisticated into one menu. Signature dishes include black and white truffle mac 'n' cheese, and crab cakes with artichokes, corn, and Smithfield ham.

Recently named to Condé Nast *Traveler's* 2006 Hot List as one of America's best new restaurants, Vintage Kitchen opened in the Dominion Tower on Waterside Drive in September 2005.

Chef and owner Phillip Craig Thomason grew up in Portsmouth. In high school, romantic aspirations led him to make a five-course dinner for a first date. Thereafter, he traveled the world refining his talent, studying at Le Cordon Bleu in Paris and with Jeremiah Tower and Wolfgang Puck in California.

He uses local produce to achieve his goals, favoring artisan-crafted Virginia wines, cheeses, and microbrewed beer. "Very simply," he says, "if you start with the freshest, highest quality ingredients, you have to do very little to them."

IN GOOD STANDING

Like the proverbial house on the hill, THE CAVALIER'S reputation matches its stature.

AFTER 78 YEARS, the Cavalier still stands out among the many hotels dotting Virginia Beach. The Cavalier has accommodated the upper echelon since its opening, hosting presidents, Hollywood stars and literary legends. In the early days, The Cavalier earned the nickname "Aristocrat of the Virginia Seashore." Gerald Ford, Jimmy Carter, and George H. W. Bush have each addressed audiences at the hotel.

Carlos F. Wilson, 84 and director of guest services, has worked at the Cavalier for 68 years. He recalls fondly the people he has met.

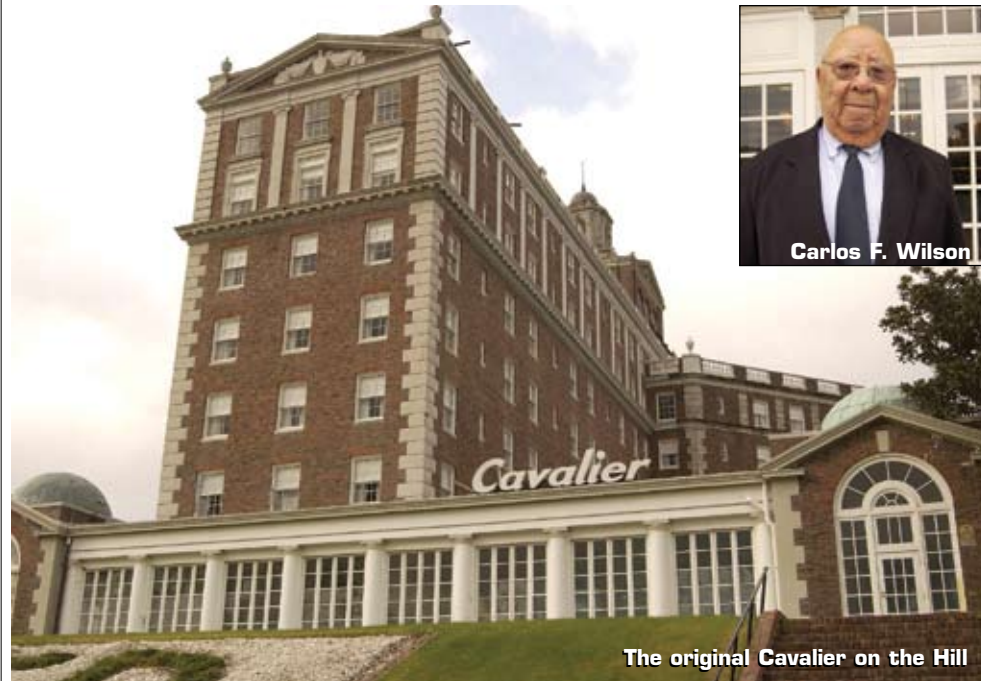
"I've enjoyed it ... all the celebrities and everything that I've seen," Wilson says. "I worked with Humphrey Bogart when he was here, Elizabeth Taylor, Nixon, Lyndon Johnson, Carter, and all the top bands in the country."

The Cavalier was one of the world's largest employers of big bands from the 1930s through

the '50s. Tommy Dorsey, Frank Sinatra, Benny Goodman, Glenn Miller, and Lawrence Welk all graced the hotel's world-famous Beach Club.

Since then, the hotel has grown up. There are now two buildings at Oceanfront and 42nd Street—the original Colonial-style Cavalier on the Hill and the newer, 11-story Cavalier Beachfront. The Cavalier has a total of 400 guest rooms, an indoor Olympic-size swimming pool, and a 1,500-square-foot health club. The hotel's five restaurants range from gourmet to casual family-style to café style. The winter-only Hunt Room Grill offers a rustic setting with a roaring fireplace (rumored to be a favorite of Nixon's).

Above all, the hotel still offers the original Sunshine Guarantee to all of its visitors: If it rains during a summer visit, the hotel will give you a certificate good for a future night's stay.



The original Cavalier on the Hill



Carlos F. Wilson



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The Port Of Virginia
THE FUTURE IS HERE.

[I N D E P T H]

EDUCATION

STUDY HALLS

BONE UP ON ALL THE COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES THAT ARE SPREAD ACROSS THE HAMPTON ROADS AREA.



Eastern Virginia Medical School

EVMS in Norfolk is known for biomedical research, having established the in-vitro fertilization program that produced the first in-vitro baby in the United States. EVMS boosts the Hampton Roads economy by more than \$500 million dollars each year.
evms.edu

Hampton University

Across the water from Norfolk, the school offers 38 bachelor's degree programs, 14 master's degree programs, and four doctoral or professional degrees. Hampton is the first historically black college or university to offer a doctoral degree in nursing.
hampton.edu

Norfolk State University

Only minutes away from the Waterside Festival Marketplace and Town Pointe Park in downtown Norfolk, nearly 8,000 students attend this university. NSU is one of the largest predominantly black institutions in the nation.
nsu.edu

Old Dominion University

Founded in 1930 as a division of the College of William and Mary, Old Dominion is one of only 101 public universities with a Carnegie/Doctoral research-extensive distinction. Business and research initiatives contribute more than \$600 million annually to the economy, making the university the largest generator of new jobs in the region.
odu.edu

Regent University

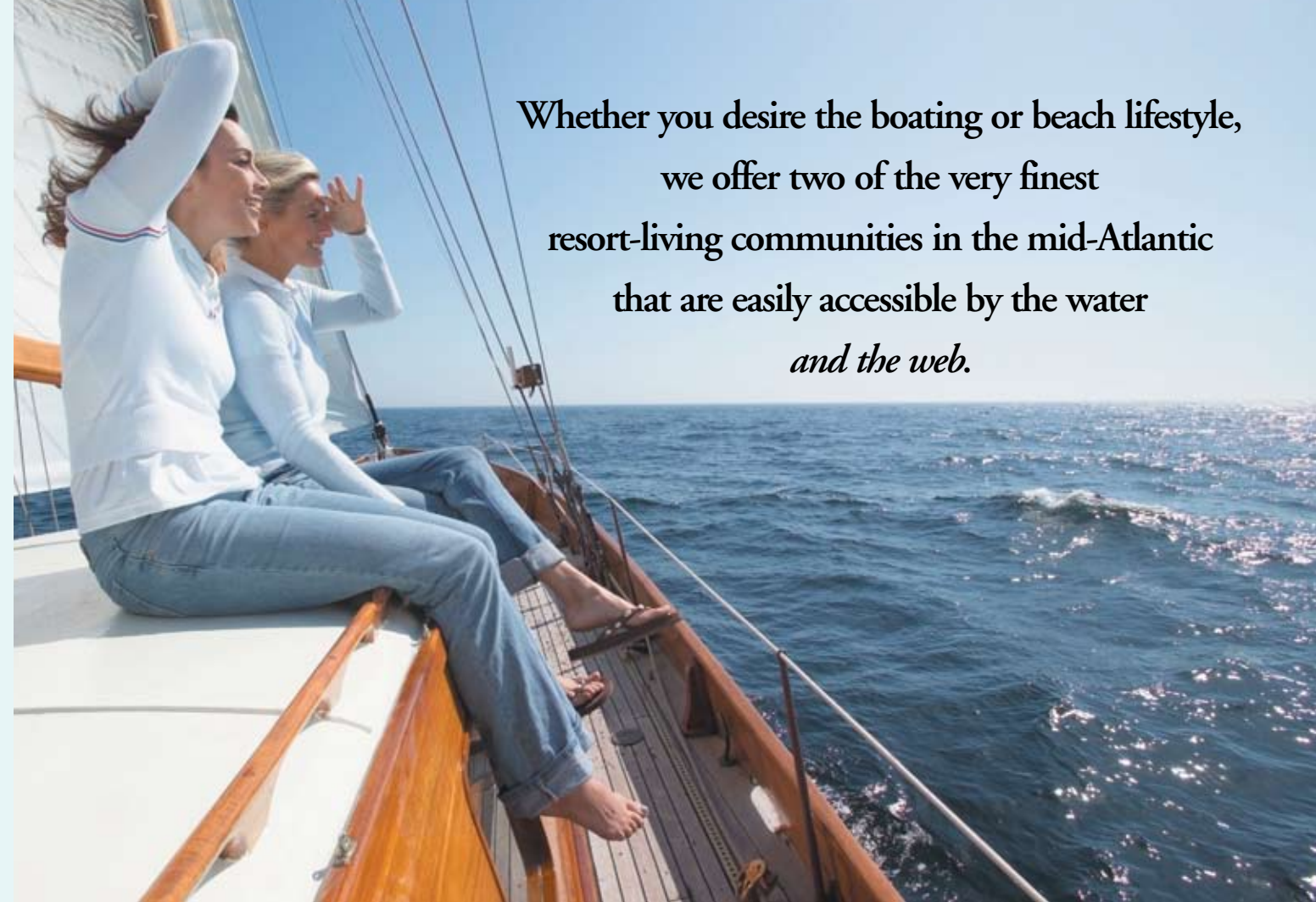
Founded by Pat Robertson in 1978, the Virginia Beach school calls itself the nation's academic center for Christian thought and action. Regent School of Law was ranked in the "top ten" in three of 11 categories by the *Princeton Review*.
regent.edu

Tidewater Community College

TCC is the second-largest of 23 community colleges in Virginia, enrolling more than 35,000 students each year. It is the 37th largest community college in the nation and is nationally recognized for its innovative use of technology in the teaching and learning process.
tcc.edu

Virginia Wesleyan College

About 1,400 students attend this small, four-year liberal arts college bordering Norfolk and Virginia Beach. Called one of "America's Best Liberal Arts Colleges" by *U.S. News & World Report* in 2004, VCW has 38 majors spread throughout the humanities, natural science and mathematics, and social science divisions.
wvc.edu



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Inside VIRGINIA BEACH

Robust Investment and Strategic Development Align With This Resort Town's Playful Side.

Traditionally known as an oceanside resort town, the “World’s Longest Pleasure Beach” attracts visitors to more than just its sandy shores. With a new convention center, nearly four centuries of history, and a rapidly developing downtown, it’s expanding into a city with something for everyone.

That’s not to say the beach itself isn’t still a huge draw. Nearly half of Virginia Beach’s nearly 3 million tourists come each year during the summer months to visit more than 35 miles of ocean and bay beaches stretching from the mouth of the Chesapeake Bay to

Virginia’s southern border. With them comes a \$1.6 billion impact on the region and more than 10,000 tourism-related jobs in Virginia Beach.

Virginia Beach has been a popular resort destination since railroad service began in 1883 from Norfolk to the oceanfront. A highway between Norfolk and the shore brought about a real estate and hotel boom in the 1920s, and since the merger of Princess Anne County and Virginia Beach in 1963, the city has enjoyed a steady rate of growth in population as well as visitors. In 2000, Virginia Beach had a population of 425,257 living in 310 square miles,

making it the most populous city in the state.

Today, Virginia Beach has invested more than \$300 million in resort improvements, including a \$22 million sand-replenishment project in 2001 to widen the beach. The boardwalk stretches for three miles, a perfect place for biking, strolling, or people-watching.

Of course, the beautiful shoreline isn’t the only attraction—far from it.

“We know that well over half of our visitors come outside the traditional summer season,” says Hester Waterfield, tourism marketing

manager for the Virginia Beach Convention and Visitors Bureau. “So they come for a different activity [other than the beach]. They may come for whale-watching, or for a special event, or a convention, or they may come for participatory sports.”

One of the events the resort city currently is gearing up for is Virginia Beach 2007, celebrating the anniversary of Captain John Smith’s arrival in these parts in 1607. Replicas of all three of the first settlers’ ships will visit First Landing State Park, Virginia Beach, in April 2007 as part of a re-enactment of the first landing at Cape Henry.

Virginia Beach is home to 208 parks encompassing more than 4,000 acres. Perhaps one of the best-known is the 165-acre Mt. Trashmore Park. The

“Spring and fall are wonderful times to play golf here.”

unusual “mountain,” 60 feet high and more than 800 feet long, was created by compacting layers of solid waste and clean soil.

Along with the outdoor spaces the city offers, the area is also home to numerous amateur and minor-league sports. Virginia Beach hosts several athletic events, including the Rock ‘n’ Roll Half Marathon, which attracts 13,000 participants, and the annual East Coast Surfing Championships—North America’s oldest surfing competition, which draws more than 100 of the world’s top competitors.

“We’ve put a lot of money into amateur sports,” says Don Maxwell, Virginia Beach’s economic development director. “I think we’ve seen greater return from our investment into...the amateur sports or even lower-tier professional sports.”

The championship 18-hole Tournament Players Club (TPC) golf course, site of the Virginia Beach Open, is the only daily-fee TPC facility between



Virginia Beach Convention Center

Maine and the Carolinas that’s open to the public, and is one of nearly a dozen courses in Virginia Beach.

“Spring and fall are wonderful times to play golf here,” notes Waterfield.

Virginia Beach also is hoping to become a convention destination, with the opening of the first phase of its new \$202.5 million convention center. In 2007, the completed project will offer more than 500,000 square feet, with

unique features that include 2,230 free parking spaces and the latest in wired and wireless communications technologies.

Already, 104 conventions are on the books through 2012, including the American Bus Association and the 2010 USA Track and Field Annual Convention, says Al Hutchinson, director of convention sales and marketing.

In addition to attracting convention groups, the new center has fostered development throughout the city.

“We wanted a facility that would help spur future redevelopment of our resort area,” says Jim Ricketts, Convention and Visitors Bureau director. “It’s done every bit of that.”

“Everything seems to be working in synergy now to help our tourism industry,” Ricketts says. He points to new hotels such as the Oceanfront Hilton, new shopping opportunities, better restaurants, the 20,000 seat Virginia Beach Amphitheater, and the Town Center as examples of that development.

Virginia Beach didn’t have a true downtown before the Town Center, an idea that began 20 years ago. The first phase of the \$500 million project, a public/private partnership between

Chesapeake: The Middle of It All

Chesapeake sits in the center of the Hampton Roads region, in easy reach of Virginia Beach, downtown Norfolk, and all the area has to offer. Of course, the city itself boasts plenty of its own attractions, including shopping, golf, history, waterways, and parks.

Chesapeake is home to 10 scenic parks, including the 763-acre Northwest River Park and half of the 111,000-acre Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge. Visitors are drawn to Chesapeake’s parks to hike, boat, picnic, ride horses, bird-watch, and bike.

Visitors can take tours of the many historic sites in Cuffeytown-Longridge, the oldest continuously inhabited community of freeborn Africans in Virginia. Also on Chesapeake’s impressive roster of historic attractions is the Virginia Civil War Trail, which takes visitors through the villages of Deep Creek and Great Bridge, the Dismal Swamp Canal, and many historic homes.



Wildlife Refuge



Westin Town Center & Residences

Armada Hoffler and Virginia Beach, was completed in 2003.

Gerald Divaris, head of Divaris Real Estate, was the brainchild behind the Town Center and pushed the city to make it happen for 21 years. He also is an owner in the development, and

heads up office and retail leasing.

"The Town Center is already more successful than we ever expected," says Divaris. "We have some of the area's best restaurants (P.F. Chang's and Ruth's Chris Steakhouse), one of the most prestigious business addresses,

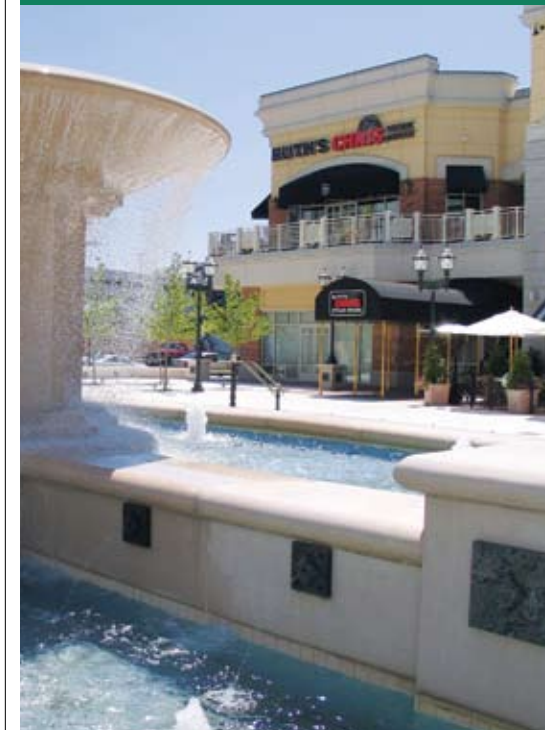
and now, our first residents are moving in. It's exciting to see all this happening in what was a fairly empty space six years ago, and to see the same type of smart growth spread to the surrounding vicinity."

Westin Hotels broke ground last fall in the Town Center on a 38-story tower that will house a hotel on floors five through 15, with the upper floors built out as luxury condominiums ranging in price from \$400,000 to \$2 million. The tower will be the tallest building in the state when it's completed in 2007.

Maxwell, the city's economic development director, concedes that he's not surprised by the strong interest buyers have shown in the Westin project, especially as the area continues its suburban-to-urban transformation. There are even more large real estate projects looming in the near future, he says.

"Because things are planned well, because we manage well, the future looks really, really good for us," says Maxwell. "I'm enthused about the next 10, 20 years."

Turns out this vacation hot spot has a hot spot.



Virginia Beach is not just a great oceanfront destination anymore. The vibrant Town Center, located in the heart of Virginia's largest city, offers visitors an exciting collection of upscale retail, outdoor cafes, restaurants, luxury hotels and more. Get energized mingling with the many hip and urbane visitors. Relax on the fountain plaza. Park once, and for free, and experience this clean, modern city center where you'll quickly discover that it's always high season here.



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PILLOW TALK

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When the sun goes down, the Hilton's Catch 31, with its raw bar, as well as a grilled seafood and indoor/outdoor bar, provides lively nightlife in the hotel lobby. If you prefer more elegant dining at Salacia and the weather's nice, ask to be seated on the terrace overlooking the boardwalk.

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Inside Norfolk

Waterfront Development Begun More Than 20 Years Ago Spurred a Remarkable Downtown Renaissance That Continues Today.

Norfolk is a study in contrasts: It's gritty and elegant, sophisticated and quaint, edgy and old-fashioned. It looks to the future while respecting tradition. And it's a vibrant seaport that's growing, by most any measure, at a remarkable pace.

The city has a long history as a strategic military and transportation point. In 1624, people settled in what is now downtown Norfolk, and it became a trade center for tobacco and other goods. With its prominent harbor location and rich farmlands, Norfolk became a major exporter of cotton and eventually coal. By the early 20th century, the city boasted a major railway line and the Norfolk naval base, which would become the

largest such facility in the world.

In 1980, Norfolk needed a waterfront development that could lead the way for a downtown revitalization. Mall developer Jim Rouse proposed the concept of a festival marketplace, with major restaurants, specialty retail shops, and an international food court. The Waterside redevelopment, opened in 1983, served its purpose: New hotels, office buildings, and tourist attractions soon followed.

In 1999, MacArthur Center, a three-level, \$300 million mall in the heart of downtown, made its debut and spurred more entrepreneurial ventures in and around the Granby Street District. Since then, more than 60 restaurants have opened in the mall, and condos are

going up all over the place. The night life has expanded, too, with projects such as the Granby Theater, which developer Bobby Wright refurbished to its original splendor and opened in 2005 as a trendy nightclub, enjoying crowds out the door.

"People are just loving that live-work-and-play-downtown attitude—just park the car and get out of the traffic," says Wright.

Part of the charm of downtown is its compact, pedestrian-friendly nature. Visitors can walk the Cannonball Trail, winding through 400 years of history in a 10-square-block radius. One of the more popular diversions along the way is the MacArthur Memorial, the final resting place of Gen. Douglas MacArthur and his wife.

A different era in history is represented by the recently refurbished Attucks Theatre, which was financed, designed, constructed, and operated entirely by African-Americans. The theater, opened in 1919, was named for African-American Crispus Attucks, the first patriot killed in the Boston Massacre.

A new downtown attraction just off the Cannonball Trail is the Norfolk Southern Museum, which opened last December on the first floor of the headquarters of Norfolk Southern. The museum takes visitors through 175 years of railroad history.

"It's a wonderful little museum. It shows a lot of what we're all about," says Charles W. Moorman, president and CEO of Norfolk Southern.

Just inland from the waterfront is the Freemason District, where several 18th- and 19th-century townhouses line cobblestone streets. To the north is Ghent, a hip, eclectic neighborhood. It's home to the Chrysler Museum of Art, where you'll find one of the world's finest collections of Tiffany glass, and the Harrison Opera House. At the intersection of Granby Street and Colley Avenue are many good restaurants and pedestrian-friendly shops.

Fueled by an influx of young, diverse people, Norfolk's arts, night life, dining, and music scenes are taking off.



Norfolk Southern Museum

"You have so many people coming in with the military, so you have a lot of different influences, and that shows in the arts," says Christine Wilson, director of marketing and communications for the Norfolk Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The Virginia Arts Festival (VAF), based in Norfolk, brings in internationally acclaimed artists to team up with the best of the region's own professional arts organizations to present a dazzling lineup of music, theater, and dance in venues across the region.



Norfolk Pier Condos

"We try to be creative enough so it's not just about the performance," says Leigh Mang, public relations consultant for the VAF. For example, when the festival brought in the Martha Graham Dance Company, they also presented a gallery of photos of Graham herself for a more personal connection.

Many areas of Norfolk are being revitalized, including Ocean View and East Beach, both on the Chesapeake Bay. The once-blighted Ocean View neighborhood is becoming a village of 700 homes with restaurants and shops. East Beach will eventually have 700 high-priced homes on 90 acres in East Ocean View valued at more than \$250 million.

East Beach was selected by *Coastal Living* magazine to host its 2005 Idea House, the first in Virginia. Cindy Mackey, a publicist for Otto Design and Marketing, says *Coastal Living* considered the East Beach plan book one of the best they had ever seen.

"They look for a region with unique characteristics," Mackey explains. "They also look for communities with a strong master plan, ones that are 'doing it right' and that have interesting architectural styles consistently throughout the neighborhood."

Growth means health-care resources must be in place to meet the demands of local residents, many of whom are retirees. Sentara Healthcare has six hospitals in the Hampton Roads region, the largest being Sentara Norfolk General Hospital, a 569-bed facility that's home to the region's only Level I Trauma Center and organ transplant program.

In 2005, Sentara Healthcare launched a 10-year, \$240 million initiative to create eCare, a computerized network linking hospitals, physicians, diagnostic centers, and patients' homes in a seamless electronic medical record system. Eastern Virginia Medical School (EVMS), Sentara Norfolk General Hospital, and Children's Hospital of the King's Daughters share the same campus in Norfolk.

Sentara Norfolk General Hospital made history in 1981 when it delivered the nation's first in-vitro baby, who was conceived through the Jones Institute for Reproductive Medicine at EVMS.

With the city expanding so rapidly,

Nuts About Suffolk

It was more than 90 years ago, in 1912, that Italian immigrant Amedeo Obici founded Planters Peanuts in Suffolk. Today, the area's annual Peanut Fest attracts 200,000 visitors over four days each October.

While the city remains an agricultural hub, with a major peanut-processing center, Suffolk has grown into much more: antique shops and art galleries, historic churches and Civil War sites, 18-hole golf courses, family friendly parks, and the Great Dismal Swamp, half of which is located in Suffolk.

In area, Suffolk is Virginia's largest city and includes 8,000 acres of lakes and rivers. Not surprisingly, fishing, birdwatching, hiking, and boating are among the most popular forms of recreation.





Chrysler Museum of Art

the existing transportation system has kept pace, but city officials are looking at new ideas.

Norfolk International Airport, which has more than 200 arrivals and departures each day, completed a \$133 million expansion in June 2002. The project included a new, 243,000-square-foot arrivals building with an automated baggage-handling system, a 2,850-space, covered parking garage, and runway and taxiway refurbishment and upgrades.

"The airport is a vital economic engine for the community," says Wayne Shank, deputy executive director of Norfolk International Airport. "We're now generating somewhere in the neighborhood of 4 million passengers a year. The recent development will more than handle passenger activity over the next 20 years without any problem."

In December 2005, the city reached an agreement with Norfolk Southern Corporation to buy five miles of unused freight track for a starter light-rail line that would run through downtown. The \$203.7 million project could be underway



Norfolk International Airport

in late 2007 and be carrying passengers by 2009.

The many construction cranes that now accent the Norfolk skyline are a tangible reminder that growth and renovation aren't stopping anytime soon.

Observes developer Wright: "The synergy is there, the critical mass is there, and the mental energy of people wanting to be part of something bigger than themselves is there. I think we've got five, 10 great years ahead of us."

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Neighborly Portsmouth

Portsmouth sits just across the Elizabeth River from Norfolk, but the pace of life is a million miles away.

In pleasant contrast to the urban vibe of its neighbor, the town attracts visitors with history, antiques, and architecture. In a single square mile, you can walk through three centuries of community life in the Olde Towne district, with its collection of vintage homes and waterfront views.

"Unlike many urban cities, our buildings are scaled down so that the daily life of the river is not lost behind high-rises," says Rebecca M. Cutchins, media relations manager for the Portsmouth Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Portsmouth is also home to the nation's oldest naval shipyard and naval hospital, the new interactive Virginia Sports Hall of Fame, and the refurbished Commodore Theatre, where you can enjoy dinner and a first-run movie.

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Maritime Industry

The Economics of Water—From Cargo to Cruises to the Military—Loom Large in Hampton Roads.

There is no question, with miles of waterways threading through it and a port only 18 miles from the open ocean, water is an integral part of Hampton Roads.

It is no surprise, then, that the region known as the “world’s greatest harbor” has an economy largely based on the water, one that includes shipbuilding, naval installations, pleasure cruises, and cargo transfer and storage.

Hampton Roads Harbor is the East Coast’s largest, deepest natural ice-free harbor, an ideal spot for the largest port complex in the United States. The Port of Virginia is also the coast’s second-busiest port, handling more than a million cargo containers each year.

The Port of Virginia, which is owned by the Virginia Port Authority, unified its competing terminals in 1983. It is now made up of Norfolk International Terminals, Newport News Marine Terminal, Portsmouth Marine Terminal, and the Virginia Inland Port. It proved to be a good decision, as the amount of cargo passing through the harbor had increased from 2.67 million tons in 1983 to 39 million tons by 2005.

“The port is an economic engine,”

says Joe Dorto, general manager of Virginia International Terminals, the affiliate of the Virginia Port Authority that operates the Port of Hampton Roads. “The port is responsible for an estimated 58,000 jobs regionally, and it generates \$667.5 million in annual state and local tax revenues.”

Along with its deep harbor, the port has other advantages. The region’s transportation network is among the best on the East Coast, and the proximity to major highways, railways, and two international airports provide easy access to major U.S. and world markets.

In the past five years, the region has benefited as companies such as Target, Wal-Mart, and the Home Depot have taken advantage of the ports’ success by opening nearby distribution centers.

The U.S. Navy also plays a significant role in Hampton Roads’ business community. The area has the largest con-

centration of military facilities of any metropolitan area in the world, pumping more than \$11 billion into the local economy annually.

Only a few hundred yards away from the wharves is Naval Station Norfolk, on about 4,300 acres at Sewell’s Point. It is the largest naval facility in the United States, home to every type of warship, including mammoth aircraft carriers and submarines.

A few miles up the Elizabeth River, in Portsmouth, Norfolk Naval Shipyard, founded in 1767, builds and repairs Navy ships. It’s one of the few facilities on the East Coast capable of dry-docking nuclear aircraft carriers.

Naval Air Station Oceana, in Virginia Beach, is the East Coast’s only Navy master jet base, home to all of the East Coast’s fighter and strike-fighter units. The Naval Amphibious Base, also in Virginia Beach, is the

major operating base for amphibious forces in the Navy’s Atlantic Fleet. The base is also home to four Navy SEAL teams.

Another leading employer is the Christian Broadcasting Network and its various related operations. Founded in 1960 by the Rev. M.G. “Pat” Robertson, CBN was the nation’s first Christian television network. Each day, CBN provides programming to 200 countries produced in 70 languages.

Of course, it’s not all work in Hampton Roads. The area is also home to a booming cruise port. Ships of up to 3,000 passengers regularly stop at the pier in downtown Norfolk. Cruise traffic has increased so much in recent years that the city is building a \$37 million terminal adjacent to the pier outside Nauticus, a maritime attraction.

Scheduled to open in March 2007, the terminal is a design marvel, from its spiral-shell-shape to its state-of-the-art amenities for passengers. A small marina between the terminal and Nauticus will no doubt make the complex attractive to local residents, as well.

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[IN DEPTH]

HISTORY

PUTTING DOWN ROOTS

THE HAMPTON ROADS AREA MARKS 400 YEARS OF HISTORY



Cape Henry Lighthouse

1607 John Smith and his vessels, *Susan Constant*, *Godspeed* and *Discovery*, land in present-day Virginia Beach. The colonists name the spot Cape Henry.

1613 Tobacco is introduced to the colony and becomes the center of economy.

1620 The colonists open Hampton Roads' first shipyard.

1736 Norfolk and its suburbs are incorporated into a borough, and Samuel Boush becomes the first mayor.

1752 Portsmouth is founded.

1792 Cape Henry Lighthouse is built.

1845 Norfolk is incorporated as a city.

1858 Portsmouth becomes a city.

1862 The Battle of Hampton Roads takes place between the *USS Monitor* and *USS Merrimack* on the James River.

1874-1915 Shipwrecks prompt construction of five lifeguard stations, precursors to the U.S. Coast Guard (1915).

1906 Virginia Beach is incorporated.

1917 Norfolk Naval Station and Norfolk Naval Air Station are established at Sewell's Point in Norfolk.

1952 Supreme Allied Command Atlantic, the western arm of NATO and only international command in the western hemisphere, is established in Norfolk.

1963 Virginia Beach consolidates with Princess Anne County. Chesapeake becomes a city.

1974 Suffolk becomes a city.

1981 The first baby conceived by in vitro fertilization in the United States is born at Norfolk General Hospital.

1982 Norfolk Southern, moves its headquarters to Norfolk.

1983 John C. Thomas, a Norfolk native, becomes Virginia Supreme Court's first black judge.

2000 World War II battleship *USS Wisconsin* arrives at Nauticus, its new home.

In April 2007, commemorative events will celebrate the anniversary of the first permanent English settlers' arrival.

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