

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Tide Report August 2025

Stay connected with the latest updates, business highlights, and opportunities from Virginia Beach Economic Development.

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BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY



Four Virginia Beach Startups Head to Startup World Cup Regional Finals

Four Virginia Beach startups – Crunchy Hydration, EdLogics, SalesE and Attorney Live will compete in the [Startup World Cup Virginia Regional Finals](#) on August 21 at the Sandler Center, competing for a spot in the global finals and a chance to win a \$1 million investment. As the presenting sponsor, Virginia Beach Economic Development invites the community to a special pre-event open house at The HIVE from 3–5 p.m., featuring local entrepreneurial resources and networking opportunities.

Don't miss your chance to support local innovators and experience the energy of Virginia Beach's growing startup scene — [reserve your seat today!](#)

Virginia Tops CNBC's List as No. 1 State for Education—Three Years Running

For the third consecutive year, Virginia has been named the No. 1 state for education by [CNBC](#). With world-class universities, a cutting-edge tech-talent pipeline, and the nation's top workforce training program – the Virginia Talent Accelerator – the Commonwealth leads the way in developing premier talent.



Virginia Beach Breaks Ground on \$5M Lynnhaven Parkway Upgrade

City leaders recently broke ground on the \$5 million Lynnhaven Parkway Improvements Project, aimed at enhancing safety, accessibility and connectivity along the busy corridor between I-264 and Lishelle Place. Upgrades include new traffic signals, wider sidewalks, improved drainag, and landscaping to make the area near Lynnhaven Mall more walkable and welcoming for all.



Bon Secours Opens New Urgent Care and Imaging Center in Virginia Beach Town Center

On July 24, Bon Secours opened a new urgent care and imaging center in the heart of Virginia Beach's Town Center, expanding access to healthcare in one of the city's most vibrant, walkable communities. The facility represents a major investment in both public health and the continued growth of Town Center as a premier live-work-play destination.



Virginia Beach Roundtable Sparks Momentum for Advanced Manufacturing Workforce

Local businesses and regional partners gathered for a daylong roundtable in Virginia Beach focused on strengthening workforce pipelines in advanced manufacturing, with Mayor Bobby Dyer opening the event and [Federation for Advanced Manufacturing Education \(FAME\)](#) Executive Director Tony Davis leading the discussion. The forum highlighted scalable solutions for sustainable talent development, featuring insights from companies like [Q.E.D. Systems, Inc.](#), [IMS Gear](#), [Gear Technology, Worldwide](#), [Acoustical Sheetmetal Company, AGI](#), [Midyette Brothers Manufacturing](#) and [Tactical Electronics](#).



Virginia Beach Ranked Among Best Cities for First-Time Homebuyers

Virginia Beach has been [named one of the top cities in the nation](#) for first-time homebuyers, thanks to its walkable neighborhoods, coastal access, career opportunities and strong community feel. The recognition highlights the city's appeal for those looking to establish roots and build a future.

'Super Girl' Festival Coming to the Virginia Beach Oceanfront in Fall 2026

Virginia Beach will host the free, three-day Super Girl Surf Festival from September 5-7, 2026. Featuring more than 1000 female athletes competing across ten sports, including surfing, skateboarding and inline skating, alongside live music, fitness classes, art and wellness events. Organizers expect the event to draw over 75,000 attendees during Labor Day weekend, spotlighting female empowerment and surf culture at the oceanfront.

Trader Joe's to Open Second Virginia Beach Store at Town Center

Grocer Trader Joe's has confirmed plans to open a second store in Virginia Beach in Town Center, occupying the 14,000 square feet of the former Bed Bath & Beyond space at 220 Constitution Drive. No official opening date has been announced yet and is part of the retailer's broader expansion across the region.

Virginia Beach Tops National Averages in Resident Satisfaction Survey

Virginia Beach residents rated their satisfaction with city services above national averages in a recent [2025 survey](#). The results highlight strong confidence in areas like public safety, service quality and overall government performance.



Virginia Beach Seeks Proposals for New Parking Structure Near Convention Center

The Virginia Beach Development Authority has issued a [request for proposals](#) to develop a public parking garage and complementary uses on a 1.73-acre site at 19th Street and Parks Avenue. The project aims to support the growing Central Beach Entertainment District, including the Convention Center and ViBe Creative District. Proposals must be received and date-stamped no later than 3:00 p.m. EST on October 20, 2025.



Virginia Launches AI Career Launch Pad to Prepare Workforce for Future Jobs


Governor Glenn Youngkin unveiled a new online [AI Career Launch Pad](#) developed in partnership with Google and [Virginia Works](#) to help residents explore and train for high-demand artificial intelligence and tech roles. The platform offers no-or low-cost courses, boot camps and career certificate scholarships to support Virginians in upskilling for evolving AI-driven industries.

Beach Bash Draws Local CRE Community to The Shack on July 17

On July 17, the [Hampton Roads Association for Commercial Real Estate \(HRACRE\)](#) and [CREW Coastal Virginia](#) hosted their annual Beach Bash at The Shack on 8th Avenue, bringing together industry professionals for networking, sunset views and orange crushes. The popular summer event continues to expand, featuring sponsorships, socializing and networking in a relaxed, oceanside setting.

She Reigns Summit Empowers Women Entrepreneurs and Leaders

The *She Reigns: A Power of Women Summit* held July 31 offered a dynamic half-day of professional development and networking for women entrepreneurs, executives and professionals seeking to elevate their careers or grow their businesses. Gretchen Pisano, CEO and co-founder of plink Leadership gave the keynote address and the event also featured panel discussions and breakout sessions, building a supportive community focused on breaking barriers and advancing women's success in business.



Follow us to see the Department's activities in real time.

ON THE ROAD



Delegation from Taiwan Explores Business Opportunities in Virginia Beach

Virginia Beach Economic Development hosted a delegation from the [Taiwan Eastbound Alliance – Landing America \(TEALA\)](#) to highlight the city's soft-landing program in partnership with [Virginia Economic Development Partnership](#) and the [Hampton Roads Alliance](#). The visit builds on the Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2023 between Virginia and Taiwan to strengthen ties and foster opportunities for future collaboration.

BUSINESS RESOURCES AND EVENTS

VEDP Announces Fall Trade Missions to Global Markets

VEDP invites Virginia businesses to join upcoming trade missions to Latin America, Europe, Australia, and Southeast Asia. Each mission includes a \$2,500 participation fee plus travel.

Coming up soon:

Colombia: Oct. 20–24 | [Register by Aug. 22](#)

Expodefensa: Dec. 1–3 | [Register by Sept. 19](#)

For more information about upcoming missions and trade shows, visit [VEDP](#).

Economic Development Investment Program (EDIP) Grants for Qualifying Businesses

The city's [Economic Development Investment Program \(EDIP\)](#) is a discretionary incentive program with cash grants available to assist qualifying companies in growing their business. If you are a new or expanding business in the city, you may be eligible.

International Incubator Office Space

The [International Incubator](#) is a soft-landing office space designed for international companies planning expansion into the U.S. market. Strategically located in Town Center and adjacent to the Economic Development office, the Incubator provides an ideal environment for growing businesses. [Contact staff](#) to learn more.

Use Virginia SCAN to Research Available Sites and Properties

For a comprehensive look at available sites and properties in Virginia Beach, visit [Virginia SCAN](#), operated by Virginia Economic Development Partnership.

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BUSINESS TURNS THE TIDE

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