

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Virginia Beach, Va. 2009 Calendar of Events

JANUARY



WINTER WILDLIFE/WHALE WATCHING OCEAN EXCURSIONS

January 1 – March 15, 2009

Each winter, Virginia Beach welcomes the mysterious sea creatures – fin and humpback whales. Experience these magnificent creatures in their natural habitat with Virginia Beach's whale watching boat tours. Each 2 – 2½ hour excursion is narrated by a trained interpreter while volunteers show whale artifacts and answer questions. Participants see a variety of wildlife as well as local landmarks. Virginia Beach also offers Whale Watching hotel packages through www.vbfun.com. Whale sightings are not guaranteed. Call 1-866-59-WHALE for information.

VIRGINIA BEACH RESTAURANT WEEK

January 18 - 25

To celebrate Virginia Beach's rich culinary style, Virginia Beach Restaurant Week is back for its third year. From crab cakes and fresh local rockfish to local favorites such as she crab soup, food enthusiasts feast on three-course prix fixe meals for a fraction of the regular price. Dinners are two prices this year: either only \$20.09 or \$25.08. Lunches are just \$10.09. Many of the resort city's finest restaurants prepare special menus to showcase their house specialties during Virginia Beach Restaurant Week, presented by the Virginia Beach Restaurant Association. Reservations are recommended, but not required for this event. For more information and a full list of participating restaurants, visit www.vabeachrestaurants.net.



HAMPTON ROADS INTERNATIONAL AUTO SHOW

January 9 - 11

The Virginia Beach Convention Center showcases 33 automobile manufactures in a non-selling environment. It's fun for the whole family, including Circus Clown entertainment. Visit www.hrada.com for information.

2008 MID-ATLANTIC SPORTS & BOAT SHOW

January 31 – February 8

Entering its 56th consecutive year, the Mid-Atlantic Sports and Boat Show will be the biggest boat show in Virginia. This year's show will feature more than 150,000 sq. ft. of display space – more than double any previous show – as well as more than 100 dealers and exhibitors displaying boats and marine products. Don't miss a chance to see the latest boat models as well as related marine equipment and services. Visit www.targetedproductions.com/index_boatshow.html for more information.

FEBRUARY

POLAR PLUNGE XVI

February 7

Take a breath-taking plunge into the Atlantic Ocean and help benefit Special Olympics Virginia. Thrill-seekers brave the chilly waters wearing nothing but swimsuits or costumes at the 17th Annual Polar Plunge Winter Festival between 6th and 9th Streets. Since 1993, almost 20,000 plungers have raised nearly \$3 million. Last year, the 16th annual Polar Plunge raised more than \$900,000 for Special Olympics Virginia and more than 3,500 chilled souls took the plunge. This year, the event hopes to raise \$1 million for cause. Visit www.polarplunge.com.



MID-ATLANTIC HOME & FLOWER SHOW

February 12 - 15

Featuring nearly 500 exhibits of products and services and unique garden displays, the Mid-Atlantic Home & Flower Show also showcases celebrity headliners and horticultural experts who will cover a range of topics pertaining to the home and garden. One of the main features includes the Extreme Canine Stunt Dog Show, back by popular demand this year. Visit www.tbaonline.org/2008_HFS.php.

17TH ANNUAL WINE BY DESIGN

February 23

The Contemporary Art Center of Virginia (CAC) is hosting its 18th Annual Wine By Design which will feature 30+ California wines and a red-carpeted theme of movie culture. Mr. Mal Vincent, film critic for The Virginian-Pilot, and event chairman Dr. Roy Williams, renowned wine expert will be in attendance while a silent auction, featuring "Hollywood" and "Wine" related items will take place. The event is from 7:00-11 p.m. and tickets are limited. All proceeds from Wine by Design benefit the Contemporary Art Center's exhibitions and educational programs. Visit www.cacv.org for more information.

MARCH

US FIELD HOCKEY NATIONAL INDOOR TOURNAMENT

March 6 - 8

In 28 years, the National Indoor Tournament has grown to a full-time devotion. No longer just a small off-season affair, players use the National Indoor to continuously hone their skills in preparation for the upcoming fall season. Come check out teams from all over the nation test their skills in the U14, U16, and U19 Tournament, along with the Men's and Women's Open Tournaments. Visit www.usfieldhockey.com/indoor.

37TH YUENGLING SHAMROCK SPORTSFEST

March 20 - 21

Runners need more than the luck of the Irish to compete in one of the most challenging physical tests of strength and endurance. This St. Patrick's Day weekend, the Yuengling Shamrock Sportsfest in Virginia Beach challenges race enthusiasts with the traditional annual marathon, half-marathon, 8K, Operation Smile Final Mile, children's marathon and the dolphin and whale challenge. Leprechauns and cheering fans will line the trail as 3,000 runners race to the finish line in the 26.2 mile marathon. The marathon is a 2009 Boston qualifier. A sports and fitness expo will be showcased on Friday and Saturday. Visit www.shamrockmarathon.com.



APRIL

CRUISE THE CREEK BOAT TRIPS

April 4 – August 31

In this adventure, the Rudee Explorer, a pontoon boat, provides a glimpse of the last undeveloped salt marsh in Virginia Beach, the Owls Creek Salt Marsh. During the 35-minute cruise sponsored by the Virginia Aquarium, educators will introduce visitors to Owls Creek special ecosystem and some of its inhabitants, from osprey diving to catch fish to herons stalking their prey in the cord grass. Passengers will learn about the history and ecology of Owls Creek, as well as conservation messages. Visit www.virginiaaquarium.com.

13TH ANNUAL VIRGINIA ARTS FESTIVAL

April 14 – May 31



Each spring, internationally-acclaimed artists from around the globe team up with professional arts organizations in Hampton Roads to present a dazzling lineup of music, theatre and dance. A regional collaboration, Festival events now take place in 10 cities across Hampton Roads. The Festival has established itself as one of the premier cultural events in the Mid-Atlantic U.S. The festival hosts top-flight artists from around the world in classical music, dance, theater, world music and jazz, along with the annual Chamber Music series, led by André-Michel Schub. The Virginia International Tattoo, a signature festival event, features more than

850 performers, including military bands, massed pipes and drums, dancers, acrobats, and more. Visit www.virginiaartsfest.com for the schedule of festival events.

CRUISIN' VIRGINIA BEACH CAR SHOW & CONFERENCE

April 18

The Cruisin' Virginia Beach Car Show turns the boardwalk into a local version of "Route 66" with cars and trucks from yesterday and today competing for trophies and cash prizes at this one-day event. Hot rods, street machines, classic cars, and trucks line the boardwalk for 25 blocks, where thousands of car enthusiasts and families view over 200 vehicles in a beautiful beach setting. Whether you bring a classic car to show off or cheer your favorite entry at the popular burnout competition, this revved-up event is guaranteed to crank up both spectators and participants! Visit www.vbfun.com and www.beachstreetusa.com.

DOLPHIN WATCHING BOAT TRIPS

April 20 – October 13

Join the Virginia Aquarium & Marine Science Center for a fun and educational 90-minute ride boat ride along the Atlantic coast. View bottlenose dolphins in their natural habitat while learning about the Aquarium's extensive marine research. Boat trips depart daily from the Virginia Beach Fishing Center at Rudee Inlet. For tickets and times, call 757.385.FISH or visit www.virginiaaquarium.com for more information.

23TH ANNUAL VIRGINIA BEACH SPRING CRAFT MARKET

April 24 – 26

The Spring Craft Market features over 250 fine artists and craftspeople from across the nation offering fine arts, handcrafted jewelry, wood, glass, photography, candles, woven baskets, clothing, toys, folk art and specialty foods. Exhibitors introduce new lines and special accessories for the home and garden including wrought iron, welcome wreaths, garden statuary, birdhouses, outdoor furniture, pottery and wind chimes. Meet the artisans and learn the stories behind their work. Visit www.emgshows.com.

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76TH HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK TOUR IN VIRGINIA*April 21 - 25*

Virginia Beach will host Historic Garden Week, featuring charming oceanfront cottages and stately historic homes. Sponsored by The Garden Club of Virginia, more than 250 gardens, homes and historic landmarks will be showcased throughout Virginia. Visit the formal gardens, cottage gardens, annual and perennial gardens, herb gardens, and even secret gardens. Those interested in architecture and interior decorating will see beautifully renovated historic properties, stunning contemporary residences, exceptional artwork, and collections of glass, china, and American, European and Asian antiques. The family histories of many homes are intertwined with the Revolutionary War, the Civil War and the Victorian era. Visit www.vagardenweek.org.

**GOSPELFEST VIRGINIA BEACH***April 25 – 26*

Urban contemporary gospel music takes center stage at Gospelfest Virginia Beach. For two electrifying days local gospel dance groups, quartets, vocalists, and choirs will celebrate a genre of music that needs to be seen AND heard. This is the music that sprang from the early African American church and inspired a host of modern day choirs and contemporary gospel R&B sounds. Visit www.beachstreetusa.com for more information.

MAY**ATLANTIC COAST KITE FESTIVAL***May 1 – 3*

Soar into an exciting weekend of high-flying kites and fun for families, participants, and spectators of all ages! The Atlantic Coast Kite Festival features kite demonstrations and ballets, kite building, and lessons on flying all sorts of kites. Watch as “Big” kite fliers from across the country and their giant (up to 40 and 50-foot long) kites fill the sky. Visit www.vbfun.com and www.beachstreetusa.com.

THE US FINALS-FINAL DESTINATION CHEER COMPETITION*May 1 - 3*

The U.S. Finals is a continuation of the already successful event, The Final Destination. The Final Destination has grown into the single most successful multi-brand event in the entire U.S. With over 525 teams competing at just one event in 2008, we are expecting over 1,000 teams from nearly all of the 50 U.S. states, and over 20,000 athletes to take part in this exciting and growing annual event in 2009 at the Virginia Beach Convention Center. Visit www.theusfinals.com for more information.

CORNHOLE DE MAYO*May 2 - 3*

Combine one part Cinco de Mayo celebration and another part competition, you get Cornhole de Mayo! A fun filled weekend of tantalizing food, live entertainment and Cornhole. A game that crosses beanbag-tossing and horseshoes, which makes it a sport anyone can play! Entry fees are charged and cash prizes will be awarded. Visit www.beachstreetusa.com.

7TH ANNUAL PANORAMA CARIBBEAN MUSIC FEST*May 8 - 10*

The Virginia Arts Festival and Virginia Beach celebrate the music and culture of the Caribbean, featuring performances at the oceanfront by some of the country's best "pan" virtuosos. Groove to Caribbean, Latin, and pop music during the steel band competition. Bands from throughout the U.S., both high school and college, compete. Shop the Island Marketplace for hot food and cold beverages. This event is free and open to the public. Visit www.beachstreetusa.com for more information.

**MONSTERS ON THE BEACH***May 8 - 10*

Monsters take over the beach – monster trucks that is – delivering a high-impact weekend of thrills, spills, and chills. The lineup of "bad" monster trucks competing for ultimate sand domination includes Superman, Monster Mutt, and Megasaurus. Check out the ever-popular tough truck competition, truck show-and-shine, and monster truck rides on the beach. Entry fees are charged for some events. Visit www.beachstreetusa.com.

BEACH MUSIC WEEKEND*May 14 - 17*

Dance the weekend away as Virginia Beach becomes the undisputed Beach Music "Capital" of the East Coast, hosting your favorite music performers for a jam-packed rockin' and rollin' beach party. A giant 20-foot inflatable jukebox on the beach keeps a "watchful eye" as festival-goers kick off their shoes and dance their cares away on the sand. All performances are free and open to the public. Visit www.beachstreetusa.com for more information.

WORLD MUSIC DRUM FESTIVAL*May 16*

Feel the beat in Virginia Beach as ground-breaking percussionists explore the world of sound. The Virginia Arts Festival and Virginia Beach invite you to enjoy a range of cultural genres including jazz, rock, world (Afro-Cuban), African, Kodo, American Indian, and classical. All performances are free to the public. Visit www.beachstreetusa.com.

NEPTUNE'S SPRING INTERNATIONAL WINE TASTING*May 16*

Sip wines by the sea at this casual, international wine tasting extravaganza. Grab your passport and sample 75 different wines from around the world, savor delicious foods, and dance to the music of the best local bands. Tickets to the Spring International Wine Tasting are limited, and include a commemorative wine-tasting glass and tastings. Visit www.neptunefestival.com.

GREAT AMERICAN BACKYARD BBQ*May 22 - 24 (Memorial Day Weekend)*

An unabashed "Star-Spangled" salute to good music and great food. Live country and blues music on three outdoor stages includes regional blues acts and "up-and-coming" country music artists to entertain thousands. But the heart and soul of the Great American Backyard BBQ is the food. BBQ vendors will sample and sell food up and down the boardwalk. These BBQ "specialists" have won national cooking contests and appeared on national television programs. Complete Memorial Day Weekend with a BANG as red, white, and blue fireworks reflect over the ocean in a thrilling climax to the Great American Backyard BBQ event. Visit www.beachstreetusa.com for more information.

26TH ANNUAL PUNGO STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL*May 23 - 24 (Memorial Day Weekend)*

Held in Virginia Beach's charming farming community, Virginia Beach celebrates the deliciousness of plump, fresh strawberries. All the strawberries you can eat are prepared in over 50 different ways. A crowd of over 120,000 strawberry-lovers enjoy many activities, including a pie-eating contest, several racing car exhibits, a carnival, continuous entertainment on four stages, a parade, livestock sale and show, a military display, pig races, youth art show, and unique arts and crafts. Visit www.vbfun.com or www.pungostrawberryfestival.info for more information.

**VIRGINIA BEACH PATRIOTIC FESTIVAL***May 29 - 31*

Virginia Beach is hosting The Patriotic Festival—A Military Celebration at the oceanfront to honor our armed forces personnel and their families, featuring national recording artists, exciting live military demonstrations and displays. Headlining artists include Gary Allan, Zac Brown Band, David Cook and more to be announced. Be a part of this salute to our troops, serving now and in the past. Visit www.patrioticfestival.com.

EAST COAST SHE CRAB SOUP CLASSIC*May 30*

The first East Coast She Crab Soup Classic is an open competition among restaurants. Based on tastings, there will be two categories for best recipe winners, as one category will be decided by a panel of Hampton Roads food critics and the other – “The People’s Choice” – by the general public. There is a fee to enter this event. Visit www.beachstreetusa.com for more information.

JUNE**HARDEE'S LATIN FEST***June 5 - 6*

For two days, Virginia Beach celebrates the sights, sounds, and smells of the Latin experience. Local and regional Latin acts will take an oceanfront stage and unite festival-goers with the rhythms of Salsa, Merengue, and Jazz. People of all ages can experience a little bit of Latin flavor firsthand with free Salsa dance lessons. Embark on a Salsa Cruise on the Virginia's Jewel. All oceanfront concerts are free and open to the public. The Salsa Cruise is a ticketed event. Visit www.beachstreetusa.com

NORTH AMERICAN SAND SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIPS*June 5 - 7*

The 16th edition of the world's largest sand soccer tournament takes place in Virginia Beach, showcasing approximately 10,000 players and 950 teams. Featuring incredible Pro/Am matches with cash prizes at stake, hundreds of youth teams aged 9 thru 19 battle on the beach as well as men's and women's single gender squads, college teams, and even "corporate-coed" competitors from businesses and military organizations. Never fear, however, as brackets are seeded to support all levels of play - from the beginner to the most professional. Visit www.sandsoccer.com for more information.



54TH ANNUAL BOARDWALK ART SHOW & FESTIVAL*June 18 - 21*

Browse more than 40,000 pieces of art with the ocean as a backdrop during the 54th Annual Boardwalk Art Show & Festival. More than 400 national and international craftsmen and contemporary artists convene on the Virginia Beach oceanfront boardwalk to display and sell their fine paintings, ceramics, crafts, jewelry, sculptures, photography and more. The festival also features great shopping and nightly entertainment. The Boardwalk Art Show & Festival is one of the oldest outdoor art shows in the U.S. and is ranked as one of the Top 15 fine art shows in the country by *Sunshine Artist Magazine*. Visit www.cacv.org for more information.

SANDSTOCK – A BLAST FROM THE PAST*June 26 - 28*

“Sandstock” – a Beach-inspired variation on “Woodstock” – pays homage to the music of the 60’s, 70’s, and 80’s that “rocked our world!” National and local tribute artists who run the gamut from performers like Led Zeppelin to Sly and the Family Stone to Sha-Na-Na will crank out hit after hit on multiple stages at the Virginia Beach oceanfront. To electrify the night, a laser light show explodes on a giant screen on the beach to the music of Pink Floyd. Even “The King” himself will get in on the act with special show. Games and activities for kids will round out this “blast from the past.” Visit www.beachstreetusa.com.

**JULY****STARS & STRIPES EXPLOSION***July 4 (Independence Day)*

The Stars & Stripes Explosion showcases great music with breathtaking fireworks creating a patriotic tapestry. Enjoy the stirring sounds of the Virginia Beach Symphony Orchestra, Virginia Beach Chorale, and the Doorway Singers vocal ensemble as they perform your favorite patriotic, classical, and Broadway standards on a stage built right on the beach. End the night with the “good ole” sounds of classic rock-and-roll and one of the most dramatic fireworks displays on the East Coast. This is a free event. Visit www.beachstreetusa.com.

8TH ANNUAL MID-ATLANTIC HERMIT CRAB CHALLENGE*July 11*

The Crab is King at this one-of-a-kind event. The day begins with the Miss Curvaceous Crustacean Beauty Pageant, where hermit crabs are presented in their own unique decorated displays and judged on creativity and flair. Marvel at the decorated shells of Spider Crab, Hermit the Hulk, and Beauty and the Crab. Hermit crab preliminary races lead to the Crustacean 500, where the winner is crowned and awarded the Order of the Mercury Claw trophy. It’s the survival of the “crabbiest!” Visit www.beachstreetusa.com for more information.

CHALK THE WALK ARTSPLOSION AND 17TH STREET ART FESTIVAL*July 25*

All artists and “wanna-be” artists are invited to the Chalk the Walk ARTsplosion, where participants are divided into age and skill divisions to decorate the Virginia Beach boardwalk with 4 X 4 foot chalk drawings. Cash prizes and trophies are awarded. Meanwhile in the 17th Street Art Festival, artists displays and sell paintings, jewelry, sculpture, and photography as live entertainment creates a relaxed environment for all. This is a free event. Visit www.beachstreetusa.com for more information.

AUGUST

VIRGINIA BEACH ANTIQUE SHOW

August 7 - 9

The Virginia Beach Antique Show is one of the oldest and respected antique shows in the country, featuring over 100 dealers from 20 states. Extensive collections of fine period furniture, silver, porcelains, Oriental and Persian rugs, art glass, vintage linens, garden elements, Americana, antique prints, old chandeliers, primitives, books, original fine art and more will be featured in this year's prestigious event. Top quality American, French, Italian and Asian antiques will be represented. The show also is particularly renowned for its extraordinary good buys in fine estate jewelry. Visit www.emgshows.com for more information.

VIRGINIA BEACH BILLFISH TOURNAMENT

August 19 – 22

The Virginia Beach Billfish Tournament draws skilled and novice anglers to Virginia Beach with the promise of fun and big cash prizes for the largest catch. The tournament begins with a kickoff party, followed by 3 days of intense billfish action. For the most part this is a catch and release tournament, however anglers who happen to hook a blue marlin are allowed to bring it in if it is significantly larger than federal requirements. A Charity Auction is held following the awards ceremony. The Billfish Tournament also teamed up with the Wine, Women & Fishing Tournament, to help raise money for breast cancer research. The tournament is capped at 75 boats, so participants need to register early. For more information, visit www.VBBT.com.

EAST COAST SURFING CHAMPIONSHIPS

August 26 - 30

Surfers are riding the curl in Virginia Beach. Held annually in Virginia Beach since 1963, the East Coast Surfing Championships (ECSC) is North America's oldest running surfing competition and the second oldest continuously-run surfing contest in the world. More than 100 of the world's top professional surfers and about 300 amateur surfers compete in the event. Throughout the weekend, ECSC will host skimboarding, volleyball, skateboarding, a swimsuit competition, an oceanfront 5K run, and live bands perform for free on an oceanfront stages. Visit www.surfecsc.com for more information.



FUNKFEST

August 28 - 29

A new spin on an existing festival, FunkFest celebrates the music of influential legends like James Brown, Sly and the Family Stone, George Clinton, and The Ohio Players. Food, merchandise, and dance contests will contribute to a festive, "funky" vibe in the park. All concerts are free and open to the public. Visit www.beachstreetusa.com for information.

SEPTEMBER

15TH ANNUAL ROCK N ROLL HALF MARATHON EXPO

September 4 - 5

The Health & Fitness Expo kicks off the Rock 'n' Roll Half Marathon weekend festival. Open to the public, the Expo will feature over 80 exhibitors offering free product samples and presenting the latest running gear, sports apparel, health and nutritional information and much more. Official souvenirs and stylish apparel will be available at the Rock 'n' Roll Half Marathon Souvenir Store. The Health & Fitness Expo is the official race packet pick-up headquarters. Visit the Elite Racing Web site at www.RnRHalf.com for more information.

VERIZON WIRELESS AMERICAN MUSIC FESTIVAL*September 4 – 6 (Labor Day Weekend)*

This non-stop party features some of the biggest names in the recording industry, as well as a showcase for some of the most popular local and regional bands. Dance, soul, rock, bluegrass and blues are all represented. Past national acts have included 3 Doors Down, the B52's, Charlie Daniels Band, Kool & the Gang, Eddie Money, Journey, and many others over the course of 15 thrilling years. This festival is the premiere music event on the East Coast. Performances take place at the oceanfront parks and stages along the boardwalk. Most performances are free, although some headliners require a ticket fee. Visit www.beachstreetusa.com for more information.

ROCK 'N' ROLL HALF MARATHON*September 6 (Labor Day Weekend)*

Virginia Beach has proven to be a favorite destination for runners. *Runner's World* and *Blue Ridge Outdoors* magazines recognized Virginia Beach as a premier destination for half-marathons. During the annual Rock 'n' Roll Half Marathon, approximately 20,000 runners and walkers from around the world test their strength and endurance as they strive for the oceanfront finish line. The race, known as a premier athletic competition, consists of a 13.1-mile oceanfront course. More than 20 local bands and 16 local high school cheerleading squads are spaced approximately every mile on 14 stages along the course to motivate the runners with sounds of classic rock, R&B, reggae and the ever-popular disco. The Rock 'n' Roll Half Marathon has attracted some of the fastest runners in the world. Visit Elite Racing at www.RnRHalf.com for information.

**14TH ANNUAL BLUES AT THE BEACH***September 11 - 13*

Blues at the Beach is a spirited and energetic festival celebrating one of the most cherished musical genres of all time. National and local blues entertainers take the stage for a jamming weekend filled with unforgettable music. Take part in workshops that teach the techniques needed for improving as a blues musician. Visit www.beachstreetusa.com.

13TH ANNUAL NEPTUNE FESTIVAL FALL WINE TASTING*September 12 - 13*

Indulge your senses with the ripe, lush fruit of Virginia's leading vineyards. Sample wines from over 20 of Virginia's vineyards at the 31st Street Park along with delightful food and live music. With Virginia ranking 10th in commercial grape production, the list of wines will be vast and well-balanced. Visit www.neptunefestival.com for more information.

FESTA ITALIANA*September 18 - 19*

Food is the heart and soul of Festa Italiana, as Virginia Beach salutes all things Italian. Indulge in pizza by the slice, prosciutto and fontina, caprese, sausage with beans, eggplant parmesan, lasagna, espresso, cappuccino, gelato, wine, and beer. Italian dance troupes, strolling musicians, and singers share the rich traditions of the Italian culture. Visit www.beachstreetusa.com.

NEPTUNE FESTIVAL SANDMAN TRIATHLON*September 20*

The 27th annual Sandman Triathlon tests one's physical conditioning and stamina, beginning with a grueling .62-mile open ocean swim, moving on to a 14-mile bike ride and finishing with a 3.1-mile run. Known as one of the best triathlons in the Mid-Atlantic region, this event has hosted over 700 participants and thousands of spectators. Visit www.neptunefestival.com for more information.

36TH ANNUAL NEPTUNE FESTIVAL BOARDWALK WEEKEND*September 25 - 27*

Virginia Beach's boisterous send-off to summer is Neptune Festival Boardwalk Weekend, drawing visitors from across Virginia and beyond. Activities include the internationally-renowned North American Sand Sculpting Competition and daily concerts alfresco in tented festival stages are scattered along 30 blocks of the boardwalk, featuring a variety of live music. Over 250 artisans line the boardwalk for the Neptune Art and Craft Show, interspersed with a veritable smorgasbord of food vendors dishing out delectable delights guaranteed to please any palette. For more information, visit www.neptunefestival.com.

**OCTOBER****OKTOBER BREWFEST***October 17 - 18*

It started in 1812 as a German wedding celebration, and has evolved into a well-loved folk celebration. Beer steins will be overflowing, games and lively activities will commence and the Oompa band will blare during a celebration of all things German – Virginia Beach's annual Oktober Brewfest. A German oompa band, Dachshund beauty pageant, wacky competitions, and Bavarian cuisine are all part of this amazing event. Players can step right up to the “Drench a Wench” dunking booth and test their throwing ability. Oktoberfest switches into high gear on Saturday night with ROCKtoberfest. A popular local

band will “rock the Festhaus” with high-energy rock-n-roll. Visit www.beachstreetusa.com for more information.

FIRST LANDING STATE PARK'S FALL FESTIVAL*October 17*

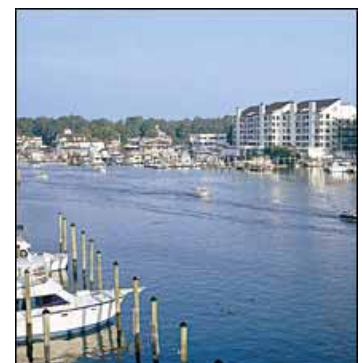
Celebrate fall with programs covering harvesting and Native American food gathering and preparation, pirate history and more. Embark on a hayride or a night hike in search of the elusive screech owls that live in First Landing. Celebrate Mother Nature during this fall festival. Visit www.dcr.virginia.gov/state_parks/fir.shtml.

WILD WHEELS WEEKEND*October 23 - 25*

If you are a classic hot rod enthusiast or a younger generation import car owner, Wild Wheels Weekend is for you! Get two shows for the price of one in one big location – the Virginia Beach Virginia Beach Convention Center. This is a ticketed event features all the sights and sounds one would expect at a major gathering of car fans. Visit www.beachstreetusa.com for more information.

NOVEMBER**2009 STRIPED BASS WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP***November 1 – December 31*

Virginia Beach is known as the Striped Bass Capital of the World. The annual Striped Bass World Championship offers cash and prizes in several categories. This year's Striped Bass World Championship in Virginia Beach promises to be even better than the last, with more chances to win. Will this be the year of a new Virginia state record? Visit www.stripedbassworldchampionship.com.



McDONALDS HOLIDAY LIGHTS AT THE BEACH, PRESENTED BY VERIZON WIRELESS*November 20 – January 3, 2010*

Dolphins are leaping, maids are milking, and Santas are surfing ... Virginia Beach presents the Holiday Lights at the Beach. More than a half million twinkling bulbs transform the Virginia Beach boardwalk to a wonderland of magically-lit fantasia of lights. This is the only time of year motorists are allowed on the boardwalk. To keep everyone singing with holiday cheer, each vehicle receives a free "Holiday Lights" CD to play during this seaside adventure. There is a charge per vehicle. Visit www.beachstreetusa.com.

CAPE HENRY 10 MILER & DUATHLON*November 21*

This is a great race to gauge your fitness level. The run course is a challenging 5K paved, looped course inside Fort Story. The 32K bike course contains two major straight-aways along Atlantic Avenue inside Fort Story and along Shore Drive between Fort Story's East and West Gate. The bike portion will consist of three loops. Race proceeds go to benefit the Friends of the Virginia Beach Juvenile & Domestic Relations Court, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to aid at-risk children and families. Visit www.capehenry.kalerunning.com.

VIRGINIA BEACH CHRISTMAS MARKET*November 27 - 29*

The 27th Annual Virginia Beach Christmas Market, at the Virginia Beach Convention Center, features more than 350 fine artisans and crafters from more than 20 states. Readers of *Sunshine Artist Magazine* voted this event as one of the best 100 arts and crafts shows in the U.S. Featured artisans offer fine arts, pottery, jewelry, stained glass, wood, toys, photography, fiber arts, and thousands of Christmas collectibles. Discover one-of-kind Christmas gifts, personalized stocking stuffers, and stunning floral holiday centerpieces. Visit www.emgshows.com.

DECEMBER**HOLIDAY PARADE @ THE BEACH***December 5*

Giant balloons, marching bands, lighted floats, antique autos, decorated fire trucks, and even Santa himself arrives on his own special lighted float during this holiday tradition. Over 20,000 spectators line the street for the event that "officially" begins the holiday season at the Virginia Beach oceanfront. With marching bands from area schools and some of the most creative and festive floats to be featured in a local parade, be prepared for an evening of spectacle guaranteed to dazzle and delight. Visit www.beachstreetusa.com for information.

**WINTER WILDLIFE/WHALE WATCHING OCEAN EXCURSIONS***December TBD 2009 – March 2010*

Each winter, Virginia Beach welcomes the mysterious sea creatures – fin and humpback whales. Experience these magnificent creatures in their natural habitat with Virginia Beach's whale watching boat tours. Whale sightings are not guaranteed. Call 1-866-59-WHALE for information.

All events are subject to change without notice.

Virginia Beach entices visitors to "Live the Life" every season of the year! Located in the southeastern corner of the state, Virginia Beach is four hours southeast of Washington, D.C. by car and within a day's drive or less from two-thirds of the U.S. population. For visitor information, call 1-800-VA-BEACH (800/822-3224) or visit the Web site www.vbfun.com for online trip planning and more information about Virginia Beach's new \$202.5 million convention center. For media information and digital images, click on www.vbpressroom.com.