

# FEELING FESTIVE?

OUTDOOR SUMMER FESTIVALS FULL OF FROLIC & FUN

*Ah*, the sweet days of summer, with cloudless mornings and calm, starry evenings. Don't miss the many exciting festivals of the season, celebrating wine, pork, tomatoes, peanuts, peaches and juicy watermelon. Watch the sky explode with the confetti of fireworks, kick back and listen to bluegrass and band favorites, take in a play, and simply enjoy the simple sweet freedom of summer.

WRITTEN BY BLAIR KOSTER

## JULY

WEDNESDAY, JULY 4

**Stars & Stripes Explosion**

Virginia Beach Oceanfront

**Hours:** All day; 8 to 9:30 p.m., performances by Symphonicity (the symphony orchestra of Virginia Beach) and the Virginia Beach Chorale.

**Fireworks show:** 9:30 p.m.

**Featuring:** Multiple live performances with local bands saluting some of the biggest names in music.

SATURDAY, JULY 14

**Hanover Tomato Festival**

Pole Green Park (Mechanicsville)

**Hours:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

**Free admission**

More than 200 arts, crafts and vendors, a variety of entertainment, food and free activities for children of all ages.

TUESDAY, JULY 17 &  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 18

**Gloucester Renaissance Festival**

Historic District of Downtown Gloucester

6509 Main Street

**Hours:** 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.,

Saturday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday

**Free admission**

THURSDAY, JULY 19 —  
SATURDAY, JULY 21

**Lakefest**

Downtown, Virginia Avenue (Clarksville)

**Hours:** Thursday and Friday evening (hours TBA); 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday

**Free admission**

**Don't miss:** The fireworks show on Saturday night.

SATURDAY, JULY 21 &  
SUNDAY, JULY 22

**37th Annual Pork, Peanut, & Pine Festival**

Chippokes Plantation State Park (Surry)

**Hours:** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

**Admission:** \$5 adults; free for children 10 and under

**Attractions:** Gas & Steam Engine Show, third annual barbecue cook-off, daily tractor pull, peanut picking and hay baling demo, parade, arts and crafts and more.

## AUGUST

SUNDAY, AUGUST 5

**29th Annual Carytown Watermelon Festival**

3126 W. Cary St. (Richmond)

**Hours:** 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Free admission**

**Attractions:** More than 3,000 watermelons, 80 musicians, over 100 exhibitors and a giant kids' area.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 11 &  
SUNDAY, AUGUST 12

**Dog Days Peach Festival**

Great Country Farms (Bluemont)

**Hours:** 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

**Admission:** \$10

**Bands:** Saturday, Stray Wolf; Sunday, Elizabeth, Phil & Curtis

**Bring:** Your family and dog sporting a leash and rabies certification tag.

**Don't miss:** Picking peaches and the Doggie Olympics

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18

**7th Annual Blue Ridge Mountain Music Fest**

The Evans Center at Wintergreen Resort

**Hours:** Begins at noon.

**Admission:** \$25 adults; \$10 students (6-17); free for children 6 and under

**Tickets:** (434) 325-8292

**Bands:** Nothin' Fancy; The Steel Wheels; The Virginia Ramblers; The Carys and Vigours

FRIDAY, AUGUST 31 —  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 2

**Verizon Wireless American Music Festival**

Virginia Beach Oceanfront, 5th Street

**Hours:** All day

**Admission:** Prices to be announced. Go to BeachStreetUSA.com and click on "tickets," or call (757) 491-SUNN (7866)

**Attractions:** The largest outdoor music event on the East Coast. Local, regional and national acts play on a gigantic stage on the beach at 5th Street and at stages in all parks along the oceanfront. Food vendors, beer and plenty of merchandise.

## SEPTEMBER

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 7 —  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

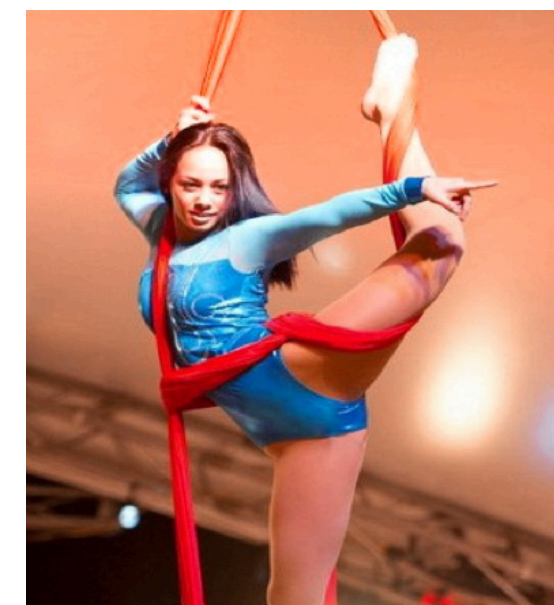
**30th Annual Hampton Bay Days**

Downtown Hampton

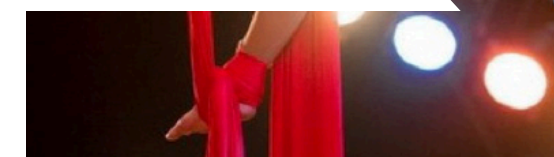
**Hours:** noon to 11 p.m., Friday; 10 a.m. to 11 p.m., Saturday; noon to 6 p.m., Sunday

**Free admission**

**Attractions:** Musical entertainment, more than 75 merchandise and craft vendors and more than 30 food vendors. Fireworks start at 10 p.m. on Saturday. Families can visit the Bay Education and Children's Area, located at Carousel Park on Settlers Landing Road (next to the Virginia Air & Space Center), to learn about the Chesapeake Bay. 📍



STARS & STRIPES EXPLOSION



HANOVER TOMATO FESTIVAL,  
PHOTO BY DEVIN BROWN



THE GLOUCESTER RENAISSANCE  
FESTIVAL, PHOTO PROVIDED BY  
MEDIEVAL FANTASIES COMPANY



PHOTO COURTESY OF  
GREAT COUNTRY FARMS