



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Virginia Department of Housing
and Community Development

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- Visit 25 Treasures of Main Street -

*Virginia Main Street program celebrates 25 years - Virginians encouraged to discover the
"25 Treasures of Main Street"*

Richmond, VA – The Virginia Main Street program is celebrating *25 Years of Entrepreneurship and Investment on Virginia's Historic Main Streets*. Since 1985 Virginia Main Street (VMS) has worked to help communities revitalize their downtowns, focusing on their unique heritage and attributes.

Virginia residents are encouraged to mark this year's anniversary by shopping locally, by visiting one of the Virginia Main Street communities, and by selecting their favorite Main Street destination in an online poll.

"Each community in the Main Street program has a unique set of assets that make it special—and not just to those who live there, but to visitors as well," said DHCD Director Bill Shelton. "We've identified *Twenty-five Treasures of Main Street* as a way to spark plans for a Saturday day trip or a weekend getaway – and encourage all to discover a new destination."

The poll is available online at: www.dhcdvms.wordpress.com.

25 Treasures of Main Street

Three national landmark showplaces

1. Barter Theater, Abingdon
2. Lincoln Theater, Marion
3. Blackfriar's Playhouse, Staunton

Five top spots for arts and crafts

4. Fire House Gallery and Shop, Berryville
5. The Center for the Arts of Greater Manassas at the Candy Factory
6. Virginia Quilt Museum, Harrisonburg
7. The Prizery, South Boston
8. William King Museum, Abingdon

Six historical highlights

9. Schwartz Tavern, Blackstone
10. A.P. Hill Boyhood Home, Culpeper
11. James Madison Museum, Orange

- more -

12. Waynesboro Heritage Museum
13. Old Jail Museum, Warrenton
14. Bedford City and County Museum

Five historic hotels for a night's rest

15. Martha Washington Hotel and Spa, Abingdon
16. Mimslyn Inn, Luray
17. George Washington Hotel, Winchester
18. Stonewall Jackson Hotel, Staunton
19. General Francis Marion Hotel, Marion

Four Riverfront Parks

20. English Park, Altavista
21. Barrett's Landing Riverfront Park, Franklin
22. Radford's Bisset Park
23. Lynchburg's James River Heritage Trail Riverwalk

Two standout claims

24. The Big Chair, Martinsville
25. Gateway to the Crooked Road, Rocky Mount

And one to grow on!

All of the various Farmer's Markets on Main!

More complete tourism information is available from the communities, in the [Virginia Main Street Driving Tour Brochure](#) and the [National Park Service Main Street Travel Itinerary](#) online.

The Virginia Main Street program provides assistance and training to help communities increase the economic viability of their downtown commercial districts and develop strategies that create economic growth and pride in their downtown areas.

In each of these communities, economic development professionals, business leaders, property owners, local government officials and other downtown stakeholders benefit from use of the National Main Street Center's Main Street Approach™. This strategy has proven extremely successful in Virginia, with the cumulative private investment in designated communities alone surpassing \$638 million. That correlates to an average of 197 new businesses and 575 new jobs each year—meaningful economic growth.

For more information on the Virginia Main Street program visit: www.dhcd.virginia.gov/mainstreet or visit the Virginia Main Street blog at: <http://dhcdvms.wordpress.com/>.

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Editor's note: Interviews are available upon request. For additional story ideas and information, contact Hollie Cammarasana at (804) 371-7006 or hollie.cammarasana@dhcd.virginia.gov.