



# MONITOR

## TECHNICAL BRIEF

Fall 2005

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The Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development's Main Street Program provides downtown revitalization technical assistance to Virginia communities, using the National Main Street Center's Four Point Approach™ (Organization, Promotion, Design & Economic Restructuring) to comprehensive preservation-based revitalization of historic commercial districts.



Department of Housing and Community Development

## Cycling Brings Color, Excitement and Money to Main Street

By Mary Reynolds

**T**he cyclists looked great, it's always good to have colorful and exciting events downtown," says Kimberly Watters, Executive Director of Staunton Downtown Development Association. Staunton, along with Main Street communities Bedford, Harrisonburg, Lexington and Waynesboro, hosted almost 100 amateur and professional racers this past April during the *Tour of Shenandoah*—a stage race similar in format to the celebrated *Tour de France*. The race is conducted over a number of days with the winner determined by the fastest cumulative time for the entire stage race.



Jeremiah Bishop of Harrisonburg leads the criterium in downtown Waynesboro during Stage 6 of the *Tour de Shenandoah*.

Races like the *Tour of Shenandoah* bring revenue to local communities from hotel stays, restaurant meals, and other tourist services. "The coffee shop downtown did a lot of business that morning," says Watters about Staunton's stage start. Though economic development statistics haven't yet been measured for the *Tour of Shenandoah*, we can get a good idea of its economic benefits to communities by looking at a similar, though larger, race in Georgia. Georgia sets the standard with its professional bike race, which is sponsored by the state's tourism office and a major car company. Held the week before the *Tour of Shenandoah*, the 2005 *Tour de Georgia* generated \$36.2 million in economic impact for the state of Georgia and local communities, according to an impact

analysis conducted by Georgia Tech. The report stated that 800,000 people watched the race in person, visiting 10 communities that hosted official start or finish lines, or watching the race pass by at 20 locations that hosted mini sprint and hill climbing races. Of the 1,386 people surveyed for the report, 43 percent visited Georgia

from another state. Georgia Economic Development Commissioner Craig Lesser explains, "The race brings long-lasting economic energy to Georgia, as fans take home the

story about their memorable experiences in our communities."

To determine how your downtown can benefit from a race like the *Tour of Shenandoah* or the *Tour de Georgia*, you must first understand how these events are structured. Each day during the *Tour of Shenandoah*, the cyclists compete in one or two individual "stages." Stages include a hill climb (individual cyclists race against the clock), two criteriums (repeated laps through downtown), and point-to-point routes where the cyclists start in one town and finish in another. Cycling is a team sport and teams develop complex strategies to win points for specific stages and daily points races, such as King of the Mountain (hill climbing race) or Sprint competitions. While these "races

(continues on page 2)

within a race” provide an opportunity for numerous cyclists to shine, the fastest cumulative time for the entire race determines the ultimate individual winner of the Tour.

The five Main Street communities that hosted the *Tour of Shenandoah* opened their downtown streets to the criterium stages. In Harrisonburg, a one-hour criterium brought excitement to Main Street on a weekday afternoon during Stage 2 of the Tour. In this

In addition to the professional race, Harrisonburg hosted a Bike Rodeo for kids before the main event with contests and safety lessons for these young cyclists. After the race, Calhoun’s Restaurant and Brewing Company on Courthouse Square hosted a banquet for the competitors with live music. Judging from the comments Bumbaugh received, “The cyclists really felt appreciated by the community.”

stead, the route to Bedford over the Blue Ridge Mountains’ Peaks of Otter separated the contenders from the pretenders. After suffering up the first tough climb of the Tour onto a foggy Blue Ridge Parkway, cyclists endured a cold rain as they quickly descended from the mountains. But Bedford’s Main Street volunteers and spectators greeted them warmly as one by one, the cyclists crossed the downtown finish line. There was no mass sprint to the line because the mountains

had taken their toll on the racers. “The peleton [the main group of cyclists] spread out a lot further than we anticipated,” remembers Scott Smith, Executive Director of Bedford Main Street, Inc. A two-man break away worked together to stay ahead of the others, until their final 100-meter duel for Bedford’s finish line.

Like Harrisonburg, Bedford’s Main Street volunteers assisted with publicity including articles in the Bedford and Lynchburg newspapers, posters, and word-of-mouth promotion to downtown businesses and government offices to get people out on the street to cheer

for the cyclists. In addition, Smith was interviewed by “Good Morning Lynchburg” on the ABC affiliate television station the morning of the race. “We also helped coordinate local police and emergency services,” he says.

Smith points out that this year, Bedford is definitely a cycling destination for tourists. “In April, two cycle tourists from Quebec were the 10,000<sup>th</sup> and 10,001<sup>st</sup> visitors to the Bedford Welcome Center, which just opened in October. We are also hosting the *Falling Creek Park Mountain Bike Race* in September.” Peaks Coaching Group, a Bedford Main Street business, sponsored the jerseys for the daily winners of the King of the Mountain and Sprint races. Hunter Allen, a local Bedford business owner and former professional cyclist, also provided team support (bagels, bananas, drinks, towels, transportation, etc.) for the cycling team sponsored by TIAA-CREF, a financial services company.



Stage 3 of the Tour de Shenandoah started in Staunton.

event, cyclists raced around a 1.1 mile circuit through downtown, with a sharp turn at one end and two 90-degree turns on the other end. Racers had an average speed of 30 mph, with the final sprint to the line at just over 40 mph. “It was a spectacular event for people to watch,” says Eddie Bumbaugh, Executive Director of Harrisonburg Downtown Renaissance. “We did a good job of advance publicity for the event, laying the groundwork through the media to bring out lots of spectators.” But the most critical element of Downtown Renaissance participation was in organizing the event’s logistics, particularly road closures. “We had restaurants and weddings at two churches, so we couldn’t close all the downtown streets at the same time,” explains Bumbaugh. “We were able to close enough streets to make it safe for the racers and spectators, but also provide limited street access to accommodate the restaurants, retailers and wedding parties.”

Stage 3 started in Staunton and finished many rolling hills later at the Homestead in Bath County. “There were lots of people watching the race start,” says Staunton’s Kimberly Waters, “It was a beautiful sunny morning in Staunton, and you could feel the energy and excitement.” On the way to the Homestead, cyclists pedaled through the bucolic rolling hills of the southern Shenandoah Valley. In Rockbridge County, students at Effinger Elementary School cheered the cyclists as they passed. “The kids had just finished a bike safety program, with a few of them learning how to ride for the first time,” says Jean Clark, who encouraged the local physical education teacher to organize the bike awareness activities. Clark is Director of Tourism for the Rockbridge Regional Tourism Program and was pleased to have the bike race pass through her region.

After the start of Stage 4 at the Home-

Racers returned to Lexington for the start of Stage 5, and traversed the Blue Ridge Mountains twice before finishing in Waynesboro. "It was great to have the start line in Lexington," remembers Tourism Director Clark. "To have everyone there at the same time under the start banner—the racers,



Approximately 1,200 people came to downtown Anniston, Alabama, for the criterium held during the Cheaha Challenge Bike Ride.

the team support vehicles. It was fun and really exciting." The next day's Stage 6 was another exciting criterium around a one-mile course in downtown Waynesboro. After the final stage, Roman Kilum of the McGuire/Langdale team was the overall winner. Team Trek's Jeremiah Bishop, professional mountain bike racer and Harrisonburg resident, came in 5th overall. The final day also featured races for women and amateur men.

"There are so many ways the race can benefit Main Street businesses," says Bedford's Scott Smith. "We hope to work with the race promoter earlier in the planning stages for 2006." *Tour of Shenandoah's* Executive Director Matt Butterman looks forward to working directly with Main Street organizations next year. He says, "In the past, we've worked mostly with the tourism folks, but Main Street will help us generate even more grassroots support for the race."

Other cycling events, such as the *Shenandoah Fall Foliage Festival* and

*Bike Virginia*, bring recreational cycling tourists to Virginia's downtowns. The *Shenandoah Fall Foliage Festival* rides start in Staunton each October. Staunton Downtown Development Association sponsors the event, encouraging cyclists to dine and shop downtown. The Blackfriars' Playhouse in

downtown gave 20 percent discounted tickets to cyclists. In addition, self-guided walking tours of downtown and five historic neighborhoods were offered. During *Bike Virginia*, 2,000 riders spend six days visiting different towns each year. For three days in June, Lexington hosted 2005 *Bike Virginia* cyclists

who camped or stayed in local hotels. Ghost Tours of downtown Lexington, a play at the Theater at Lime Kiln, and



Harrisonburg hosted a Bike Rodeo for kids before the main event with contests and safety lessons for these young cyclists.

horse-drawn carriage rides entertained these cycling tourists. Over 40 states and Canada were represented in the *Bike Virginia* group—the most represented states were Virginia, followed by Maryland, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Ohio, Michigan, Florida, and New Jersey. Earlier this year in Janu-

ary, Lexington's Virginia Horse Center hosted BMX cycling national championships. BMX bikes with small wheels and coaster brakes aren't just for kids; BMX racing is the newest Olympic sport.

Additional ideas for great downtown events during a cycling race can be gleaned from Anniston, Alabama. The local Main Street organization, The Spirit of Anniston, sponsors criterium races and a Pasta Party on the streets of downtown, as part of the 100-mile *Cheaha Challenge Bike Ride* through northeast Alabama. Cyclists can pre-register for the 100-mile ride, load up on carbs provided by local restaurants during the Pasta Party, and enjoy the criterium races in historic downtown Anniston the evening before the endurance race. The event has quickly caught on with the public. By the second year, between 1,000 and 1,200 people attended, with more than 500 dining on the pasta at \$10 a head. All tangible expenses incurred by The Spirit of Anniston were recovered from the proceeds, with the balance being distributed among the restaurants. Those establishments participating in the Pasta Party netted an average of \$900 each.

Cycling events bring tourists as participants and spectators to Virginia's Main Street communities. Local and regional spectators enjoy the colors and excitement of elite bike racing, towns benefit from a positive, healthy image created by recreational and racing cyclists, and merchants reap rewards of publicity and tourist dollars.

For more information on the *Tour of Shenandoah*: contact, Matthew Butterman, Executive Director; phone: 434-977-7146; e-mail [matt@tourofshenandoah.com](mailto:matt@tourofshenandoah.com); [www.tourofshenandoah.com](http://www.tourofshenandoah.com).

*Mary Reynolds, an avid cyclist, is a former DHCD employee.*

# Filmmakers Visit Independent Marion on Cross-Country Trek

In mid-May, two former network journalists, Heather Hughes and Hanson Hosein, packed up their car in Seattle, Washington, and headed across country to document the current state of mom-and-pop businesses in America. During their road movie project, dubbed *Independent America*, the pair made their way across America in just over 60 days. They stuck to two-lane roads and only patronized independently-owned motels and restaurants. During the trip, Hughes and Hosein filmed their experiences and kept an on-line journal that was updated daily. The couple is now working on a documentary based on their trip footage, which they hope to premier at the 2006 Sundance Film Festival this winter.

After hearing about the Independent America project, **Ken Heath**, Executive Director of the **Marion** Downtown Revitalization Association, e-mailed Hughes and Hosein as they were half-way through their cross-country trek in North Carolina. He persuaded the couple to make a pit-stop in Marion and arranged accommodations for them at a locally-owned bed and breakfast. Ken spent a morning with the filmmakers, giving them a tour of town, which included lunch at the legendary Dip Dog Stand. Ken remarked about the experience, "We spent less than a day with Heather and Hanson and we feel like they're already family. We keep in contact via email, and they even have the 'Hungry Mother State Park' sticker on their Xterra."

And with any luck, Marion may even make it to the "big screen" at Sundance.

The following is the June 23, 2005 posting on the Independent America web journal, [www.independentamerica.net](http://www.independentamerica.net), reported from Marion.

## The South Will Rise Again...So Will Downtown

"Yahoo, it's Mountain Dew!" That, our Marion, Virginia host, Ken Heath, told us, was the sugary sweet drink's first slogan. Invented right in his hometown in the 1950s.



*Independent America's Hanson Hosein and Heather Hughes (both at far left) pose with the staff of Marion's one twenty restaurant.*

The melodic Virginian way of speaking can get so strong that I'm convinced I'm the one with the accent and maybe I should try a little harder to talk like them. Herbie, the African American who spent a lot of time in New York is an attorney, has a yellow Lab, listens to bluegrass music, is a staunch Republican and has a "Fight Terrorism" special-issue license plate (with a stylized rendition of the World Trade Center in the corner).

Mark the real estate agent has one of the thicker accents, likes the blues, opposed the war in Iraq, votes Democrat, and tries to get over to Zimbabwe as often as he can as part of the aid work he does in that country. The

three men are native sons, close friends who tease each other mercilessly ("kick me" read the note on Mark's posterior last night at the ice cream shop), and fellow municipal councilmen. I'm fascinated by the level of diversity and sophistication we are finding in what many might consider "remote" parts of the country. And the pride and passion they show for their towns.

We had a heavy southern breakfast, complete with gravy-submerged biscuits. Two hours later, we're at Dip Dog (pronounced "Dauwg"). This fast food independent has been around since 1957, just off the interstate, but you have to know where you're going if you're going to find it. And it's busy. We pulled in just as a woman from Georgia was walking out with her frozen custard cone. "I stop here every time," she said with a lick.

These experiences forced me to reflect once again, upon our mission. More importantly, why we're doing this. In our hurried lives, the interstates are ideal: fast, minimal obstacles, minimal contact with locals. Much like fast food restaurants, malls and big boxes (will you ever develop a long-lasting friendship with a Wal-Mart greeter?). The interstate/corporate chain lifestyle is efficient, isolated, and insulated, free from the friction of unwanted relationships – be they permanent or temporary. This is the world we have built, for better and for worse.

Upon our departure from Marion less than two hours ago, each one of our lunchmates gave us a gift. T-shirts, chocolates, coffee mugs, a "Got Dip Dogs?" bumper sticker (already affixed to our vehicle). "When you reach a fork in the road, take it." Truer words have never been spoken. Whatever the accent.

## Celebrating Virginia's Independent Businesses

Virginia Main Street joined the American Independent Business Alliance (AMIBA) to declare the week of July 1-7, Independents Week. Governor Mark R. Warner also issued a proclamation declaring July 1-7 as Independents Week in honor of the important contributions locally-owned, independent businesses make to Virginia's economy. "Virginia Main Street is joining other state and local alliances and partner organizations nationwide to celebrate the great independent businesses that exemplify the uniqueness of our Main Street communities," said Bill Shelton, Director of the Department of Housing & Community Development. "We have a reason to celebrate—these friends and neighbors embody the spirit of entrepreneurship and individuality in our communities. Virginia citizens are integral to ensuring we keep these businesses that help define who we are and contribute to our sense of place."



SDDA director Kimberly Watters spread the word about the contest with her own work of art.

AMIBA, the creator of Independents Week, is part of a growing national movement of communities rallying to support their independent businesses. The organization was joined by the Council of Independent Restaurants of America (CIRA), the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, the American Specialty

Toy Retail Association (ASTRA), the American Booksellers Association (ABA), the Association of Retail Travel Agents (ARTA) and other concerned citizens nationwide to celebrate Independents Week.

Several Virginia Main Street communities held special activities in their downtowns centered on Independents

## People, Places & Happenings resources & news you can use

Week and in conjunction with their traditional July 4th celebrations. In **Staunton**, an inspired group of street artists turned out on July 3 to show their support for local businesses by participating in a sidewalk chalk art contest. "Chalk One Up for Independents" was organized by the Staunton Downtown Development Association to bring attention to national Independents Week. Downtown merchants in Staunton also spread the word to customers with bag stuffers listing, "What's so great about independents? 1) Character; 2) Community well-being; 3) Decision-making; 4) Keeping dollars at home; 5) Benefits outweigh costs; 6) Environmental sense; and 7) Competition and product diversity." **Bedford** Main Street, Inc. gained a proclamation from local government for Independents Week. And in **Marion**, a documentary film crew visited the community on its cross-country trek in search of mom-and-pop businesses. For more on their visit to Marion, see page 4. 

## New Publications Provide Guidance on School Rehabilitation Projects

The Council of Educational Facility Planners International (CEFPI), in partnership with the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, has released four new publications which specifically support the maintenance and rehabilitation of older schools: A Primer for the Rehabilitation/Restoration of Older and Historic Schools; Schools for Successful Communities: an Element of Smart Growth; An Appraisal Guide for Older and Historic School Facilities; and Creating Connections: the Council of Educational Facility Planners Guide to Educational Facility Planning. These guidelines incorporate many community-friendly changes advocated by the National Trust and others, including significant changes to acreage standards and siting recommendations. For more information on the four new publications and school rehabilitation, visit: [www.nationaltrust.org/issues/schools/index.html](http://www.nationaltrust.org/issues/schools/index.html) 

## The History Channel Save Our History Grant Program Returns for a Second Year

Based on its success among history organizations and schools in 2004-2005, The History Channel, in collaboration with The American Association for State and Local History and Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, is proud to announce the 2005-2006 Save Our History Grant Program. Last year, The History Channel awarded \$250,000 in grants to twenty-nine local history organizations in twenty-seven states across the country. A diverse mix of museums, historic sites, preservation organizations, historical societies, archives, libraries, and other organizations were awarded grants in 2004-2005.

History organizations will be able to apply for grants of up to \$10,000 to help fund unique,

*(continues on page 6)*

hands-on student projects created to teach students about important aspects of their local history and to actively engage them in the preservation of significant and potentially endangered pieces of their local heritage. If you have questions on how to get started, a Save Our History representative will be happy to provide guidance and support. The application deadline is October 21, 2005. For more information, visit: [www.saveourhistory.com](http://www.saveourhistory.com) ✍

### A Prizery of a First Season

After years of planning, construction and fund-raising, the completed Prizery, a community, fine arts and

a circa 1905 classical revival tobacco warehouse. The Prizery will serve as a venue for Halifax County Little Theater performances, Parsons-Bruce Arts Association classes and shows, Friends of the Library film screenings and a variety of traveling performances booked by the Community Arts Foundation. For more information, visit: [www.prizery.com](http://www.prizery.com). ✍

### Franklin Does One for the Records

In June, **Franklin** celebrated its paper manufacturing heritage by breaking a Guinness record for the world's longest paper-chain. A group of 60 Franklin residents, organized by

### Governor Warner Announces New Online Toolkit to Help Businesses Prepare for Disasters

Governor Mark R. Warner recently announced a new, online resource designed to help Virginia businesses prepare for and recover from disasters.

The Virginia Business Emergency Survival Toolkit features information and resources to help businesses prevent and reduce disaster-related losses. In the last six years alone, natural disasters have caused billions of dollars in structural damages and lost revenue for Virginia businesses. "Floyd, Isabel, and Gaston have taught Virginians that it pays to be prepared," said Governor Warner. "For business owners, your company's bottom line and employees' safety depends on your ability to respond to emergencies. Whether you have one or 1,000 employees, it makes good business sense to plan for emergencies."

Hurricanes, tropical storms, and floods have affected large portions of Virginia. In 1999, Hurricane Floyd caused record flooding in the city of **Franklin** submerging 183 businesses for five days. "I can't stress enough the need to be proactive in disaster preparation," says Anne Williams, Executive Director of the Downtown Franklin Association. "It could be the very thing that saves your community." The online toolkit outlines simple measures businesses can take now to prepare for emergencies. It covers all areas of business emergency planning, including identifying hazards and threats, preparing employees, developing disaster plans, covering insurance needs, responding to an emergency, and arranging recovery assistance. Companies that already have emergency plans in place should review their plans to ensure they are up to date. To access the tool kit, visit the Web at [www.vaemergency.com/business](http://www.vaemergency.com/business). ✍



*The Prizery in South Boston opened its doors to the public on September 24.*

welcome center in **South Boston**, opened its doors to the public on September 24. The opening, held in conjunction with the annual Harvest Festival in downtown South Boston, was celebrated with a ribbon cutting on the steps with the high school band playing the National Anthem. People roamed around the building listening to bluegrass, jazz and gospel, and viewed the Southern Heritage exhibit on the upper floor. Prizery Executive Director Chris Jones commented, "We decided it should open the way it has always been, a community thing. We wanted it to be for everybody." The facility is an exceptional renovation of

the Downtown Franklin Association, worked 24 hours straight to produce a 54-mile, 1,780-foot-long chain made of linked paper strips. This beats a previous Guinness world record of 51.6 miles held by a group in Texas. One of Franklin's major employers, International Paper Company, donated 600,000 pre-cut paper strips for the project. It will take several months for the Guinness Book of World Records to verify the feat. ✍

## Virginia Main Street in 2006 Historic America Engagement Calendar

The National Trust will focus on Main Street's 25th Anniversary for next year's calendar, and will include photos from three Virginia communities: **Orange, Franklin,** and Roanoke. A faded "ghost sign" from a historic brick building in Franklin will be featured for the week of February 20-26. For the



Franklin's peanut industry "ghost sign" will be featured in the National Trust's 2006 calendar.

week of December 25-31, the calendar highlights a church decorated for the season in downtown Orange. The calendars will be for sale to Main Street programs for \$6 each; to order, call the National Trust: 1-800-944-6847, x6126. ✍

## Fundraise on eBay through MissionFish

Give new prospects and active supporters a fun way to support your mission by registering on MissionFish, sponsored by eBay Giving Works. Whether you need an easy way to convert in-kind donations into cash or a new way to invigorate your fundraising efforts, eBay Giving Works lets you turn millions of registered users into potential donors to your organization. MissionFish offers eBay sellers the

opportunity to donate proceeds from items they sell to your organization. Nonprofits can also put their special event auctions online, making them available to a larger audience. For more information, visit: [www.missionfish.org](http://www.missionfish.org) ✍

## Rehabilitation Tax Credit Open House

On the first Friday of each month in Richmond, Department of Historic Resources tax credit staff will work one-on-one with applicants and property owners, answer questions and provide guidance for completing tax credit applications.

The state tax credits are available for owner-occupied, as well as income-producing, buildings. If your property is income-producing you may also be able to take advantage of the federal tax credits. If you have a question about historic character-defining features of your building, architectural treatments, or application requirements, then bring plans, photos, and any other information that would be helpful in understanding your project. Assistance is provided on a first-come, first-served basis. The Department of Historic Resources is located at 2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, VA 23221. For more information contact Kyle Meyer at [kyle.meyer@dhr.virginia.gov](mailto:kyle.meyer@dhr.virginia.gov), or phone 804-367-2323, ext. 100. ✍

## New DHCD Commercial District Affiliates

Welcome to the following new DHCD Commercial District Affiliates who have joined the fold in recent months:

- Emporia
- Stanardsville

To find out how your community can become an Affiliate and have access to Main Street quarterly trainings, check out our website at [www.dhcd.virginia.gov/MainStreet](http://www.dhcd.virginia.gov/MainStreet) ✍

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## People

In August, **Sarah Dillard Pope**, a downtown revitalization planner for the Virginia Main Street program, became the Executive Director of the Menokin Foundation based in Warsaw, Virginia. "It's been a wonderful experience traveling around the state and working with such great people in our Main Street communities," Sarah said. "I now have an opportunity to be involved in historic preservation at a more immediate level and will carry the knowledge gained through the Main Street program to my new position."

Also in August, **Rowena Fratarcangelo**, Virginia Main Street Program Assistant, became a Business Resources Analyst with the Greater Richmond Partnership. "Working with Virginia Main Street was the perfect way to learn how professionals apply some of the economic development principles I learned in school," said Rowena. "The people are wonderful and the experience was invaluable." She received her Master's in Urban and Regional Planning from Virginia Commonwealth University in May. ✍



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF  
HOUSING AND  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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## DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT CALENDAR

### October 2005

- 15-19 International Conference of National Trusts, Washington, DC (National Trust for Historic Preservation, [www.nationaltrust.org](http://www.nationaltrust.org) or 202-588-6187)
- 16-18 APVA Preservation Virginia's 20th Annual Virginia Preservation Conference, Lynchburg, VA (APVA Preservation Virginia, [www.apva.org](http://www.apva.org) or 804-648-1889, x 304,)
- 21 Application deadline for Save Our History grants, [www.saveourhistory.com](http://www.saveourhistory.com)
- 23-25 100th VML Annual Conference, Richmond, VA (Virginia Municipal League, [www.vml.org/Conferences.html](http://www.vml.org/Conferences.html) or 804-649-8471)
- 26-29 Preservation North Carolina Annual Conference, Mills, Mills & More, Gastonia and Shelby, NC (Preservation North Carolina, [www.PreservationNC.org](http://www.PreservationNC.org) or 919-832-3652)

### November 2005

- 3-4 Virginia Main Street Manager's Retreat, Renaissance Portsmouth Hotel, Portsmouth, VA**
- 3-6 American Studies Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC (ASA, [www.georgetown.edu/crossroads/halttune@usc.edu](http://www.georgetown.edu/crossroads/halttune@usc.edu))
- 11-13 2005 Urban Waterfronts Conference, Savannah, GA (The Waterfront Center, [www.waterfrontcenter.org](http://www.waterfrontcenter.org), 202-337-0356)

### December 2005

- 7 Virginia Tourism Corporation Orientation Session, Richmond, VA (VTC, [www.vatc.org](http://www.vatc.org), 804-371-8144 or [pbozorth@virginia.org](mailto:pbozorth@virginia.org))
- 31 Deadline for Tree City USA application (Arbor Day Foundation, [www.arborday.org](http://www.arborday.org))

### January 2006

- 5-8 120th American Historical Association Meeting, Philadelphia, PA (AHA, 202-544-2122, [www.historians.org](http://www.historians.org))
- 25-27 North Carolina Main Street Annual Conference, Salisbury, NC ([www.ncdca.org/mainst](http://www.ncdca.org/mainst), 919-733-2850 or [mainstreet@ncdca.org](mailto:mainstreet@ncdca.org))