

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

| | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 2101 Parks Avenue, Suite 500 | Virginia Beach, VA 23451 | www.vbfun.com |
| | ph (757) 385-4700 | fx (757) 437-4747 |

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Ron Kuhlman Virginia Beach Convention & Visitors Bureau | 757.385.4700

Jessica Kraft BCF | 757.497.4811 | jkraft@bc-f.com

Virginia Beach, Va. 2010 Calendar of Events

JANUARY



WINTER WILDLIFE/WHALE WATCHING OCEAN EXCURSIONS

January 2 - March 14

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.

MID-ATLANTIC ROCKFISH SHOOTOUT

January 7 - 9

Get ready to reel as the largest Rockfish Tournament in the country comes to the beach. Over 1,000 anglers will battle it out for the top bragging rights and a guaranteed cash prize of \$100,000. This year will have two divisions – one for live bait and one for artificial bait. Visit www.midatlanticrockfishshootout.com for information.

HAMPTON ROADS INTERNATIONAL AUTO SHOW

January 8 - 10

At Virginia’s largest new auto show, held at the Virginia Beach Convention Center, every major manufacturer displays their new 2010 lineup. It’s fun for the whole family. Visit www.hrautoshow.com for information.

VIRGINIA BEACH RESTAURANT WEEK

January 17 - 24

To celebrate Virginia Beach’s rich culinary style, Virginia Beach Restaurant Week is back for its fifth 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 \$20.10 or \$25.10. Lunches are just \$10.10. 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.



FEBRUARY**MID-ATLANTIC HOME & FLOWER SHOW***February 5-7*

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 an appearance by television's remodeling expert Pat Simpson. Families will enjoy face painting, crafts, and entertainment, as well as a new "green zone" for the environmentally conscious. Visit www.tbaonline.org for more information.

POLAR PLUNGE AND WINTER FESTIVAL XVIII*February 6-7*

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 17th annual Polar Plunge raised more than \$900,000 for Special Olympics Virginia and more than 3,500 chilled souls took the plunge. Visit www.polarplunge.com.

2010 MID-ATLANTIC SPORTS & BOAT SHOW*February 12-14*

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.

Virginia Is For Lovers 14K Run*February 12 - 13*

Lace up your running shoes for the 2nd Annual Virginia is for Lovers 14K and 1.4 mile run. Enjoy a flat, fast course where runners will have the option to run the entire 14K as an individual, participate in a relay with your sweetie or team up with a pal as a part of a couples team. You won't want to miss out on any of the fun during the after party with Rock Star Parking, food from Moe's Southwest Grill and Yuengling beer. Visit www.vifl14k.com for more information.

1940's Valentine Hangar Dance*February 13*

During World War II, dances were held in airplane hangars and were typically hosted as fundraisers for the war effort. The Military Aviation Museum is recreating those special moments. On February 13, from 6:30–10:30 p.m., the hangar at the Museum becomes a sparkling ballroom, where Valentines will dance the night away. Swing along to Big Band Music and dress the part in your 1940's attire. Swing Virginia will teach swing dancing lessons and provide demonstrations. Visit www.militaryaviationmuseum.org.

**19TH ANNUAL WINE BY DESIGN***February 26*

The Contemporary Art Center of Virginia (CAC) is hosting its 19th Annual Wine By Design, featuring an array of international wines. Enjoy foods from local restaurants, bid in a silent auction, and enjoy live music. The event is from 7-10 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 5 - 7*

In 27 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. 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.

23RD ANNUAL VIRGINIA BEACH SPRING CRAFT MARKET*March 19-21*

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.

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 (now recognized as a "Green Event") 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 2011 Boston qualifier. A sports and fitness expo will be showcased on Friday and Saturday. Visit www.shamrockmarathon.com.

**APRIL****DOLPHIN WATCHING BOAT TRIPS***April 3 - October 11*

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.

CRUISE THE CREEK BOAT TRIPS*April 4 - October 12*

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 30-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.

Page 4 – Virginia Beach Calendar of Events

14TH ANNUAL VIRGINIA ARTS FESTIVAL

April 15 – May 30

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., hosting 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 WHEELS & WAVES ROD & CUSTOM CAR SHOW

April 16-17

The all new Cruisin' Virginia Beach Wheels & Waves Rod & Custom 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 three-day event. Hot rods, street machines, classic cars, and trucks vie for prizes, and thousands of car enthusiasts and families view over 300 vehicles in a beautiful beach setting. With a boardwalk parade and celebrities, this revved-up event is guaranteed to crank up both spectators and participants. Visit www.vbfun.com and www.beachstreetusa.com.

77TH HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK TOUR IN VIRGINIA

April 17-25

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.

VIRGINIA BEACH GOSPELFEST

April 24-25

Urban contemporary gospel music takes center stage at Virginia Beach Gospelfest. 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.

ATLANTIC COAST KITE FESTIVAL

April 30 – May 2

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

April 30 – May 2

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 2009, over 1,000 teams are expected from nearly all 50 U.S. states, and over 20,000 athletes are expected to participate in this exciting and growing annual event at the Virginia Beach Convention Center. Visit www.theusfinals.com for more information.

*Page 6 – Virginia Beach Calendar of Events***MAY****EAST COAST SHE CRAB SOUP CLASSIC*****May 1***

The East Coast She Crab Soup Classic is an open competition among restaurants. This event focuses on seafood, which is the most identifiable cuisine in Virginia Beach and a staple of area menus for decades. Based on tastings, there are two categories for best recipe winners, with three places in each. One category is decided by a panel of Hampton Roads food critics and “The People’s Choice” is decided by the general public. Visit www.vbfun.com and www.beachstreetusa.com.

**PANORAMA CARIBBEAN MUSIC FEST*****May 7 - 8***

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 7- 9***

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 13 - 16***

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.

NEPTUNE’S SPRING INTERNATIONAL WINE TASTING***May 15***

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.

WORLD MUSIC DRUM FESTIVAL***May 22***

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.

*Page 7 - Virginia Beach Calendar of Events***WARBIRDS OVER THE BEACH***May 22 - 23*

Come see this premier event of the year featuring many of the museum fighter planes in the air. Get a feel for what it was like during WWII and see the re-enactor camps. Get a chance to speak with WWII veterans and much, much more. Visit www.vbfun.com for more information.

REMEMBER THE MUSIC; REMEMBER THE HEROES*May 28 - 30 (Memorial Day Weekend)*

Remember the Music/Remember the Heroes is a weekend tribute to the military and reminds us of the price that has been paid and is still being paid today by the United States military. Enjoy live bands representing different musical genres on three stages along the oceanfront and the "Hero's Walk" which is displayed along the boardwalk from 17th to 31st Streets. A fireworks show on Sunday night completes the weekend, with bursts of red, white, and blue light reflecting over the ocean in a thrilling climax to this Memorial Day weekend event. Visit www.beachstreetusa.com for more information.

27TH ANNUAL PUNGO STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL*May 29 - 30 (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 info.

**JUNE****VIRGINIA BEACH PATRIOTIC FESTIVAL***June 4 - 6*

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 Uncle Kracker, Jason Aldean, and more to be announced. Be a part of this salute to our troops, serving now and in the past. Visit www.patrioticfestival.com.

NORTH AMERICAN SAND SOCCER CHAMPIONSHIPS*June 11 - 13*

The 17th 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 battler 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.

**HARDEE'S LATIN FEST***June 11 - 12*

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

Page 8 – Virginia Beach Calendar of Events

55TH ANNUAL BOARDWALK ART SHOW & FESTIVAL

June 17 - 20

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 25 - 27

“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 and the Virginia Beach Chorale 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 10

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 24

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.

– more –

AUGUST**VIRGINIA BEACH ANTIQUE SHOW***August 13 -15*

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.

7TH ANNUAL VIRGINIA BEACH BILLFISH TOURNAMENT*August 18 - 21*

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 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. 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 25 - 29*

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 27 - 28*

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 3 - 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.

Page 10 – Virginia Beach Calendar of Events

VERIZON WIRELESS AMERICAN MUSIC FESTIVAL

September 3-5 (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 info.

ROCK 'N' ROLL HALF MARATHON

September 5 (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.



15TH ANNUAL BLUES AT THE BEACH

September 10 - 12

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 11

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 17 - 18

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 19

The 28th 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.

— more —

*Page 11 – Virginia Beach Calendar of Events***37TH ANNUAL NEPTUNE FESTIVAL BOARDWALK WEEKEND***September 24 - 26*

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****WILD WHEELS WEEKEND***October 1 - 3*

This event attracts both the classic hot rod enthusiast as well as the younger generation of import car owners. Participants and spectators enjoy both an indoor and outdoor show at the Virginia Beach Convention Center. The weekend features all the sights and sounds of a major gathering of car fans, along with celebrity meet and greets, a car auction, giveaways, and more. This is a ticketed event. Visit www.beacheventsfun.com.

CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL*October 16 - 17*

Over 50 craft beers from over 25 breweries are available for sampling at the Craft Beer Festival at the Virginia Beach oceanfront. This is a ticket event. Each ticket includes a commemorative glass and unlimited tastings along with live music in the park. Visit www.beachstreetusa.com for more information.

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

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.

NOVEMBER**2010 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.strippedbassworldchampionship.com.

MCDONALDS HOLIDAY LIGHTS AT THE BEACH, PRESENTED BY NTELOS WIRELESS*November 19, 2010 - January 2, 2011*

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.



Page 12 – Virginia Beach Calendar of Events

CAPE HENRY 10 MILER & DUATHLON

November TBD

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 TBD

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 4

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” year-round! Located in the southeastern corner of the state, Virginia Beach is four hours southeast of 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 www.vbfun.com for online trip planning. For media information and digital images, click on www.vbpressroom.com. Please follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/vabeachcob> and on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Virginia-Beach-Live-The-Life>.

###