

## River District Celebrate Illuminate Events 2010



### The 26th Annual Grand Illumination of James Center

**Friday, Dec. 3**

6-7 p.m.

10th and E. Cary Streets

Free admission



Bright lights at the James Center! Bring your family to the James Center for a beautiful family tradition. At 5:59 p.m. Santa and Lite 98 will be counting down the seconds to turn on the downtown office buildings and the James Center's great tree and reindeer! From 6-7 p.m. experience the magic of the holidays with two blocks of family entertainment. The James Center is very excited to present Big Ray and the Kool Kats as our featured performance at 6:30 p.m. Shelly Perkins of Lite 98 is the snow queen. Other entertainment also includes: The Greater Richmond Children's Choir, Varina High School Marching Band, The Sugar Plum Fairy from the Richmond Ballet, characters from the Nutcracker Cast, the VCU Trombone Choir, Harpist Rickie Denton, Singer Patsy Butler, the Virginia Piedmont and Central HO Model Railroad Club and much more. Join the Radio Disney Road Crew for holiday fun including sing-a-longs, games and prize giveaways! The parking is \$3 and is available at the parking deck on the corner of 10th and Canal streets after 4 p.m. This event is provided by James Center Property LLC. Call (804) 344-3232 for more information.

### Holiday Market

**Friday, Dec. 3**

5-9 p.m.

17th Street Farmers' Market

Free admission

We are celebrating our Grand Illumination Celebration on Friday, Dec. 3, from 5 to 9 p.m. at the 17th Street Farmers' Market featuring homemade crafts, gifts, music, snacks, cider and most of all...Santa and Mrs. Claus.

For more information, call (804) 646-0477 or visit [www.17thstreetfarmersmarket.com](http://www.17thstreetfarmersmarket.com).

### Free Glow Necklaces for Children

**Friday, Dec. 3**

6:30 p.m. while supplies last

River District

In the spirit of Celebrate Illuminate, Venture Richmond provides free glow necklaces to all children (while supplies last). Necklaces will be distributed by Venture Richmond staff and volunteers. Sponsored by Venture Richmond. For more information, call (804) 788-6466 or visit [www.venturerichmond.com](http://www.venturerichmond.com).

## **Free Horse and Carriage Rides**

**Friday-Saturday, Dec. 3-4**

6-10 p.m.

Rides start and end in Shockoe Slip at the fountain at 13th and E. Cary Streets

Clip-Clop, Clip-Clop – the sound of horses' hooves on the cobblestones and jingle bells ringing signal the holidays are here in Richmond's historic River District. A holiday decorated 12-passenger wagon circles Shockoe Slip and Shockoe Bottom. One round trip ride per person please. Sponsored by Venture Richmond. Call Roger at (804) 769-4010 with questions.

## **Canal Boat Rides**

**Friday, Dec. 3**

6-9 p.m.

Turning Basin at 14th and Dock streets

\$2 per person (discounted rate), Children 4 and under free

Celebrate the season on Richmond's historic canal by enjoying a 20-25 minute canal boat tour with historic narration on the James River and Kanawha Canal. The Varina High School Marching Band will perform on the Canal Walk at the Turning Basin at 6:50 p.m. A little elf told me that Santa has been known to take a canal boat ride or two after the marching band. Produced by Venture Richmond. For more information, call (804) 788-6466 or visit [www.venturerichmond.com](http://www.venturerichmond.com).

## **Main Street Station Holiday Open House**

**Friday, Dec. 3**

5-9 p.m.

Main Street Station and the Plaza at Main Street Station

1500 East Main Street

Free admission

The city of Richmond welcomes all for a Holiday Open House with a Polar Express theme, free kiddie train rides, hot cider and cookies, decorations, tree lighting and live music from Sharon Rae North! Enjoy the gorgeous restored glory of Main Street Station and explore the lighted "Cathedral Walk" at the Plaza at Main Street Station and celebrate the holiday season. This year's event will focus on literacy. Professional storytellers will be on hand to read to children, as they enjoy cookies and cider by the fireplace. Come early, because as a surprise the Richmond Public Library will be donating books to the first 300 children in attendance! Event parking is only \$2 and will be available on the west side of the station using the Franklin Street entrance. Additional non-event parking is available within the Plaza using the Main Street and Cary Street entrances. Don't miss the holiday fun! For more information, call (804) 646-5665.

## **Free Capitol Square Tree Lighting**

**Friday, Dec. 3**

4:30-5:30 p.m.

South Portico of the Capitol  
Free admission

Be there for the lighting of the state Christmas tree in its holiday finest on Capitol Hill. For more information, call (804) 371-2642 or visit [www.executivemansion.virginia.gov](http://www.executivemansion.virginia.gov).

## **Free Governor's Executive Mansion Open House**

**Friday, Dec. 3**

5:30-8 p.m.

Capitol Square

Free admission

Come tour Virginia's Governor's Mansion in its holiday finest on Capitol Hill. Please bring a canned item to support the food bank. For more information, call (804) 371-8687 or visit [www.executivemansion.virginia.gov](http://www.executivemansion.virginia.gov).

## **Free Bell Tower Visitor Center**

**Dec. 2-30**

Mondays-Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Bell Tower Visitor Center located on the Capitol grounds will be decorated for the Christmas Holiday season Dec. 2-30. Please visit the Bell Tower Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to see the holiday decorations. While you are there, gather information for your holiday plans plus visit the gift shop.

## **5th Annual Holiday Happenings at Historic Tredegar**

**Nov. 29-Dec. 5**

9 a.m.-5 p.m.

500 Tredegar Street

Enjoy special discounts on all merchandise in our museum store for your holiday shopping. Join us on Sunday, Dec. 5 from 1 to 4 p.m. to celebrate the holidays with music, refreshments and children's craft activities. For more information, call (804) 780-1865, ext. 10 or visit [www.tredegar.org](http://www.tredegar.org).

## **Horse and Carriage Rides**

**Sunday, Dec. 5**

6-9 p.m.

Pick up area at 10th and E. Cary Streets (James Center)  
\$10 a person (children 4 and under are free, they must sit in your lap)

Clip-Clop, Clip-Clop – the sound of horses' hooves on the cobblestones and jingle bells ringing, signal the holidays are here in Richmond's River District. We hope you and your family will join Oakley Farm Horse Drawn Carriages for this traditional holiday treat. Each ride is scheduled on

the half-hour and is approximately 20 minutes. You must reserve your seat by calling (804) 769-4580 or (804) 514-4767.

## **Free Home for the Holidays, Richmond Philharmonic**

**Monday, Dec. 6**

7 p.m.

James Center Atrium (10th and E. Cary streets)

Free admission

Popular holiday songs and carols, and seasonal light classics, are sure to entertain everyone in the family at the Richmond Philharmonic Orchestra's annual Family Holiday Concert in the James Center Atrium, "Home for the Holidays." For more information, call (804) 740-2890.

## **Shockoe Slip Open House Block Party**

**Thursday-Friday, Dec. 9-10**

Shockoe Slip (12th and 15th streets and E. Cary streets), hours vary per establishment

Join the 2nd annual Shockoe Slip Open House Block Party charity event for amazing specials and tons of fun! Get an edge on your holiday shopping, take advantage of drink and dinner specials, see puppies for adoption at the SPCA's Tail Wagon, and help the Shockoe Slip neighborhood raise funds for the Richmond SPCA, and many other charities. For more information, call Dransfield Jewelers at (804) 643-0171.

## **Horse and Carriage Rides**

**Thursday - Sunday, Dec. 9-13**

Thursdays and Fridays 6:30-9 p.m.

Saturdays and Sundays 5-9 p.m.

Pick up area at 10th and E. Cary Streets (James Center)

\$10 a person (children 4 and under are free, they must sit in your lap),

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## **Church Hill Candlelight Walk**

**Friday, Dec. 10**

7:30 p.m.

The walk departs Jefferson Park at the corner of Mosby and Princess Anne

The candlelight walk led by the Greater Richmond Pipes and Drums leaves from Jefferson Park and winds its way to East Grace St. at the rear of St. John's Church to be joined at 7:45 p.m. by those attending the Vespers Service. From there the parade route ends at Libby Hill Park

overlooking the James River where holiday carols will be sung. Candles will be given out at Jefferson Park and St. John's Church. Dress warmly.

## **18th Annual James River Parade of Lights**

**Saturday, Dec. 11**

6 p.m.

Libby Hill Park, corner of 28th and E. Franklin Streets, entertainment at 4:30 p.m., parade viewing at 6 p.m.

Intermediate Terminal Dock, at Dock and Water Streets, parade viewing at 6 p.m.

This year's parade features festively decorated boats that cruise the parade course from Richmond to Chesterfield and Henrico counties with spectators from throughout the region that gather at several official viewing locations. The event has become a cherished holiday tradition for people throughout the region. Sponsored by the James River Advisory Council. For more information, call (804) 717-6681 or visit [www.jamesriveradvisorycouncil.com](http://www.jamesriveradvisorycouncil.com).

## **Church Hill Party**

**Saturday, Dec. 11**

8 p.m.-1 a.m.

Robinson Theater Community Arts Center, 2900 Q Street

Please join us for an evening of neighborhood camaraderie, cocktails, heavy hors d'oeuvres and live music by NRG KRYSYS. Dress is cocktail attire. Parking is available. \$50/person in advance and \$60 the day of the party. For more information, contact Aimee Perron Seibert at [apseibert@gmail.com](mailto:apseibert@gmail.com).

## **24th Annual Court End Christmas**

**Sunday, Dec. 12**

12-5 p.m.

Valentine Richmond History Center and the Wickham House, John Marshall House, the Virginia State Capitol, the Museum and White House of the Confederacy, Monumental Church, the Egyptian Building, the Beers House, St. Paul's Church and St. John's Church  
Free admission

A Richmond tradition celebrates the season in 19th century style, this year. The event welcomes performances by the Klezm'Or'Ami'm and Fox Elementary School, to name a few. The free holiday open house features reenactments, children's activities, refreshments, carriage rides, music, special guest appearances and free admission, and tours of 10 historic downtown sites. Free shuttle service provided from 12:30-4:45 p.m. (shuttle stops at each site every 15-20 minutes). For more information, call (804) 649-0711 ext. 301 or visit [www.richmondhistorycenter.com/courtendchristmas.htm](http://www.richmondhistorycenter.com/courtendchristmas.htm).

## **Church Hill Holiday House Tour**

**Sunday, Dec. 12**

12-5 p.m.

Church Hill neighborhood

Advance tickets \$15, day of the tour \$20

The 1800s come alive this year as Church Hill opens the doors of beautifully appointed 19th century homes. Many of these architecturally significant houses have never been open to the public, several are pre-civil war, and all are handsomely decorated for the holidays. A variety of horse pulled carriages and roving carolers are also on the Hill for your enjoyment. The Park House in Libby Hill Park will be open as a gallery, displaying more than 25 framed posters from years past as part of the tour. A free shuttle will run to and from the Court End Christmas Event at the Valentine History Center and St. John's Church. Ladies, no heels, please. For more information or to purchase tickets online, visit [www.churchhillrichmond.com](http://www.churchhillrichmond.com).

## **Horse and Carriage Rides**

**Thursday - Sunday, Dec. 16-19**

Thursdays and Fridays 6:30-9 p.m.

Saturdays and Sundays 5-9 p.m.

Pick up area at 10th and E. Cary Streets (James Center)

\$10 a person (children 4 and under are free, they must sit in your lap),

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