

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Tide Report September 2025

Stay connected with the latest updates, business highlights, and opportunities from Virginia Beach Economic Development.

Business Development

Business Resources

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITY



September is National Workforce Month

September is [National Workforce Development Month](#), a time to recognize the programs, partnerships and initiatives that strengthen Virginia Beach's skilled talent pipeline. VBED is committed to supporting businesses and workers through training, education and career development opportunities that drive our city's economic growth.



Virginia Beach Hosts High-Stakes Startup Competition

On August 21, the Startup World Cup Virginia Regional Finals brought ten of Virginia's most promising startups to the Sandler Center in Virginia Beach. Sponsored by Innovate Hampton Roads and Virginia Beach Economic Development, the event began with a networking pre-party at The HIVE where founders, investors, and community leaders connected. Congratulations to the winning company, Luminoah, who will advance to the global finals in San Francisco, and special recognition to the four Virginia Beach companies—[Crunchy Hydration](#), [EdLogics](#), [SalesE](#) and [Attorney Live](#)—who took the stage to showcase the strength of our local startup community. The competition underscored Virginia Beach's growing role as a hub for innovation and entrepreneurship.



Rudee Park Revamp to Boost Tourism and Local Economy

The City of Virginia Beach has approved a [multi-million-dollar redesign of Rudee Park](#), aiming to transform it into a premier waterfront destination. A new nonprofit organization with a Board of Directors will operate the park, which is expected to generate \$2.5–\$3.5 million annually and has already attracted national attention for its economic and tourism potential.

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Atlantic Park Surf Lagoon Opens in Virginia Beach

Virginia Beach-based **Atlantic Park Surf**, the East Coast's first Wavegarden Cove Surf Lagoon, opened to the public on August 16 as the centerpiece of the [\\$350 million Atlantic Park project](#). Developed by Pharrell Williams and Venture Realty Group, the project also includes The Dome music venue, restaurants, retail, office space, surf bungalows, and nearly 300 apartments.

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Virginia Beach Celebrates 63 Years of Surfing Championships

The 63rd Annual Coastal Edge East Coast Surfing Championships took place in Virginia Beach from August 17–24, drawing more than 800 amateur and professional surfers from across the globe. As the oldest continuously running surf contest in the world, the week featured exciting competitions on the waves, along with live music and vendors for attendees to enjoy.

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Virginia Beach Council Greenlights Major Foodbank Project

The Virginia Beach City Council has approved a conditional rezoning request to convert 24 acres along Dam Neck Road from agricultural to light industrial use, enabling the [Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia & Eastern Shore](#) to construct a 103,000-square-foot facility. The new site will feature expanded storage, office space, loading docks and on-site gardens, supporting the Foodbank's mission to meet growing community needs.



Virginia Beach Welcomes Sandbox VR with Ribbon Cutting Celebration

Virginia Beach officially welcomed [Sandbox VR](#) recently with a ribbon cutting alongside Mayor Bobby Dyer, marking the arrival of their immersive, futuristic VR experience. Visitors can step into the next level of virtual reality by exploring Sandbox VR in person.



Virginia Beach Applauds ICI Services' Mission to Support the Navy

Virginia Beach residents rated their satisfaction with city services above national averages in a recent [2025 survey](#). The results highlight strong confidence in areas like public safety, service quality and overall government performance.



Follow us to see the Department's activities in real time.

BUSINESS RESOURCES AND EVENTS

Connect, Learn and Grow at the 757 Career Summit

The 757 Career Summit – Summer Edition will take place September 10 at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, giving military professionals the chance to connect with top companies and veteran-focused organizations. The event will feature industry panels, resume reviews, and LinkedIn headshots to support career growth and transition. For more information and to register, visit: [757 Career and Education Summit \(Summer Edition\)](#).

[Peninsula](#)

APPLY NOW

REGISTER HERE

Launch Your Industry X.0 Career with

The LEAP Program



Launch Your Industry X.0 Career with Virginia Beach's 8-Week LEAP Program

Virginia Beach is launching the 8-week LEAP Program at Maxbyte's I4.0 Center of Excellence, offering students, veterans, and professionals hands-on experience, mentorship, and a paid capstone project in Industry X.0. Participants can earn a four-stage LEAP certification while connecting with local manufacturers and industry leaders—registration runs August 25–September 15.

APPLY NOW

VEDP Announces Fall Trade Missions to Global Markets

VEDP invites Virginia businesses to join upcoming trade missions to Latin America, Europe, Australia, and Southeast Asia. Each mission includes a \$2,500 participation fee plus travel.

Coming up soon:

Exploratory AUKUS Trade Mission to Austr.12 Nov. 10–14 | **Register by Sept. 12**

Trade Mission to Malaysia & Philippines: Nov. 12–19 | **Register by Sept. 12**

Expodefensa: Dec. 1–3 | **Register by Sept. 19**

For more information about upcoming missions and trade shows, visit [VEDP](#).

Economic Development Investment Program (EDIP) Grants for Qualifying Business

The city's [Economic Development Investment Program \(EDIP\)](#) is a discretionary incentive program with cash grants available to assist qualifying companies in growing their business. If you are a new or expanding business in the city, you may be eligible.

International Incubator Office Space

The [International Incubator](#) is a soft-landing office space designed for international companies planning expansion into the U.S. market. Strategically located in Town Center and adjacent to the Economic Development office, the Incubator provides an ideal environment for growing businesses. [Contact staff](#) to learn more.

Use Virginia SCAN to Research Available Sites and Properties

For a comprehensive look at available sites and properties in Virginia Beach, visit [Virginia SCAN](#), operated by Virginia Economic Development Partnership.

THE HIVE

Subscribe to The HIVE e-newsletter to learn more about events, activities, and resources supporting our small business entrepreneurial ecosystem in Virginia Beach.

virginia beach

BUSINESS TURNS THE TIDE

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