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**Celebrate the Holidays with a Month+ of Festive Family-Friendly Activities at Colonial Beach VA, the Playground of the Potomac**

***Illuminated Boat Parade, Search for a Golden Oyster Shell, Santa's Wonderland and Winter Festival, Holiday House Tour, Menorah Lighting, Christmastide, Wineries' Holiday Sip & Shop, New Year's Eve Crab Pot Drop (and much more!) Are All Part of the Town's Festivities***

**COLONIAL BEACH, VA, November 10, 2023** — The Town of Colonial Beach, known as the Playground of the Potomac, looks forward to celebrating the holidays with a month-long plethora of family-friendly festive activities, commencing on Friday, November 24 with the grand illumination of Town Hill. Recently featured in [Southern Living Magazine](#), and located on Virginia's Northern Neck - just a 65 mile drive from Washington, DC, the quaint [Town of Colonial Beach](#) is opening up its doors to welcome in this winter's holidays.

Home to fewer than 4,000 residents, and known for its sandy beaches, osprey, murals, golf carts, and palm trees, the beloved Town of Colonial Beach is pulling out all the stops to celebrate the 2023 holiday season. An Illuminated Boat Parade, Search for a Golden Oyster Shell, Santa's Wonderland and Winter Festival, Holiday House Tour, Menorah Lighting, Christmastide, Wineries' Holiday Sip & Shop, New Year's Eve Crab Pot Drop (and much more!) are all part of the scheduled seasonal festivities.

**Featured Holiday Events in and around Colonial Beach:**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Friday Artwalk**

Friday, November 10  
6-9 PM

2<sup>nd</sup> Friday Art Walks in November and December feature works in galleries, retail establishments, and restaurants & breweries throughout town. Visitors will find paintings, sculpture, photography, jewelry and textile arts. Often, the artists are on hand.

Host: Colonial Beach Artists Guild

### **Holiday Model Train Event at CB Train Junction**

Saturday, November 11

11 am - 12 pm

Location: CB Train Junction - 509 Colonial Ave

Discuss your model train display for Christmas. A one-hour seminar providing advice and ideas on how to get your model train display ready for Christmas.

### **Oyster Shell Craft Night Date**

Tuesday, November 21st

6 pm -8 pm

Colonial Beach Community Center at 717 Marshall Avenue

Participants can work on oyster shells for the Golden Oyster Shell Search in December, or make art shells as gifts or tree ornaments! Hosts: Colonial Beach Parks, Recreation, & Events and Colonial Beach Explorers

### **Light Up Town Hill!**

Friday, November 24

Starts at 3:30 pm

Location: Town Hill at the corner of Colonial and Washington Avenues

Join Mayor Robin Schick, friends, and family, as they welcome in winter's festive season and illuminate the holiday lights of Town Hill. Everyone is welcome to enjoy this wonderful tradition where kids and kids-at-heart can experience Town Hill's holiday décor up close.

### **Pictures & Crafts with Santa**

Saturday, November 25th

1 - 4 pm

Riverview Inn, 24 Hawthorn St

Celebrate the festive season with a Christmas oyster ornament workshop and a photo-op with Santa. Pictures will be captured by Reilly Clifton. This fundraiser for CB Community Heart & Soul includes 10 minute sessions with Santa, and three edited images that will be sent directly to your email. For ticket information visit <https://cbheartandsoul.org>. Host: CB Community Heart & Soul

### **Small Business Saturday**

Saturday, November 25

Retail Shopping Hours

Location: Downtown Colonial Beach

Downtown Colonial Beach invites you to patronize small businesses on Small Business Saturday: dine in our local eateries, and shop our small business retail stores for the perfect gift for the special people in your life.

Hosts: Economic Development Committee & Downtown Colonial Beach

### **Annual Lighted Boat Parade**

Saturday, November 25

Starts at Dusk

Location: Boats line up at Marker #2 near the Dockside end of the Point

The Annual Lighted Boat Parade will commence at dusk. Boats who are illuminated for the holidays will parade along the river next to the beach and Town Pier.

Host: Colonial Yacht Club

### **Rod Club Car Show at the Winter Festival Date**

Saturday, December 2

2-4 PM Location

Town Hill at the corner of Colonial and Washington Avenues

If you want to be in the Winter Festival car show, there's no fee other than a new toy.

Compete for best decorated car/truck. Want to drive in the parade? Contact the Chamber (804) 224-8145. Individuals who want to be in the show, parking begins at 10:00 AM. Stop

at the Rod Club table for candy and free Hot Wheels cars for little ones. Host: The Colonial Rod Club and the Colonial Beach Chamber of Commerce

### **The Search for a Golden Oyster Shell**

Saturday, December 2 – Tuesday, December 12

Time: Shell seekers at their leisure and on their own time.

Location: Downtown Colonial Beach

Wander the area around Downtown Colonial Beach and search for golden oyster shells. When you find a golden shell, take it to one of these shops: Beach Paws Boutique on Hawthorne Street, Colonial Buzz, or Peddlers Market. Then, trade the golden shell for a uniquely decorated oyster shell to take home as a special holiday memento.

Hosts: The Colonial Beach Parks, Recreation, & Events Department and Colonial Beach Explorers

### **Christmastide at Monroe Hall Open House**

Saturday, December 2

Times: Open House from 5 pm - 8 pm

Location: James Monroe Birthplace Park & Museum, 4460 James Monroe Hwy

The Colonial Dancers in period garb will be present, and we will serve Wassail, spiced cider, and ginger cookies as well as other sweetmeats reminiscent of the era.

Donations are requested.

### **Santa's Wonderland and Winter Festival Parade**

Saturday, December 2

11 am – 4 pm

Location: Town Hill at the corner of Colonial and Washington Avenues

The Winter Festival Parade begins at noon at Colonial Beach High School and travels to Colonial and Washington Avenues. This much loved holiday celebration on Town Hill also features vendors, food, music, and - of course - Santa Claus!

Host: Colonial Beach Chamber of Commerce

### **Lighted Jeep Parade**

Saturday, December 2

Starts at Dusk

Location: Commences at the parking lot of Dockside Restaurant & Tiki Bar on the Point. Anyone who drives a Jeep is invited to decorate it and join in this annual parade of lighted cars as they travel around the Point to show off their holiday spirit. This event is a fundraiser for the No Child Left Behind / Colonial Beach Elementary School Toy Drive, and encourages participants and spectators to donate NEW, UNWRAPPED toys for children.

Host: Dockside Restaurant & Tiki Bar

### **First Night of Hanukkah - Lighting of the Menorah**

Thursday, December 7

Sunset (approximately 4:47 pm)

Location: Town Hill

For the first year ever, a large Menorah will be illuminated on Town Hill for Hanukkah, inaugurating a new holiday tradition for Colonial Beach. All are welcome.

Host: Hanukkah Friends

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Friday Artwalk**

Friday, December 8

6-9 PM

2<sup>nd</sup> Friday Art Walks in November and December feature works in galleries, retail establishments, and restaurants & breweries throughout town. Visitors will find paintings, sculpture, photography, jewelry and textile arts. Often, the artists are on hand.

Host: Colonial Beach Artists Guild

### **Christmastide Weekend at Stratford Hall**

Friday, December 8 – Sunday, December 10

All Day

Location: Stratford Hall Historic Preserve. 483 Great House Rd, Stratford, VA 22558

For the first time, this year's annual Christmastide celebration at Stratford Hall will feature a full weekend of activities. Come enjoy historic Stratford Hall and its grounds while taking in the spirit of the season.

Host: Stratford Hall

### **Chesapeake Bay Wine Trail Wineries' Holiday Sip & Shop**

Saturday, December 9

Time varies per winery

Location: Chesapeake Bay Wine Trail Participating Wineries

Join the participating wineries of the Chesapeake Bay Wine Trail for holiday refreshments and wine/gift specials during their Holiday Sip & Shop. Check out the [@ChesapeakeBayWineTrail Facebook](#) page for more info, participants, times, and updates leading up to the event.

Host: The Chesapeake Bay Wine Trail

### **21st Annual Colonial Beach Christmas House Tour for the Holidays**

Saturday, December 9, 4-6 PM

Saturday, December 9, 6-8 PM

Sunday, December 10, 2-4 PM

For over 21 years the Holiday House Tour in Colonial Beach has featured some of the most beautiful homes in the Northern Neck. This year there will be 3 tour times and several tour routes. All tours start at the Colonial Beach History Museum. Visitors can enjoy the trolley for an additional fee or take a self-guided driving tour.

Host: The Colonial Beach Historical Society and Museum

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/21st-annual-colonial-beach-christmas-house-tour-for-the-holidays-tickets-720505781187>

### **Parks & Recreation Winter Door Décor Contest**

Wednesday, December 13 to Friday, December 22

Location: Homes and businesses around Colonial Beach

The Door Décor contest is happening again! Judging starts December 13th and winners will be announced December 22nd. Prizes include a sign to place in your yard that identifies your door as a Winner!

Host: Colonial Beach Parks, Recreation, & Events Department

### **Shop Colonial Beach Small Business**

Saturday, December 16th

All Day - 8 am - 6 pm

Location Colonial Beach Businesses

Give the gift of small business, whether it is a gift certificate from our family owned and operated restaurants, or our shops Hawthorne Mercantile, Peddlers Market, Beach Paws Boutique, Beach Shop and more, or a night / weekend away from our Inns, B& B or cottages. Walk through our holiday decorated Hathorne Street or along the Boardwalk and step back in time. Also stop in at the train depot for the train enthusiasts. Visit the CoBe Workspaces the refurbished Westmoreland Bank Building for a chance to work away from home.

Hosted by: Local Family Owned and Operated Businesses.

### **Picking the Perfect Train**

Saturday, December 16

11 am - 12 pm

Location: CB Train Junction, 509 Colonial Ave.

A short seminar on picking the best model train or train accessories for the train enthusiast or introducing trains to someone as the perfect Christmas gift.

### **CBKids Christmas Party**

Saturday, December 16

3-7 p.m.

Custom T's Motorsports Park, 2035 James Monroe Hwy

The annual holiday party for CB Kids encourages kids to come and enjoy treats, games, music, and Santa even stops by for a visit. Families in need have the option of receiving gifts and wrapping supplies for their kids' Christmas. Host: CBKids

### **5th Annual "Let's Light Up the Beach" Light Contest**

Saturday, December 16 through Thursday, December 21

Register your home's holiday decorations by Friday, December 15 by email to:

[townofcolonialbeachchristmas@gmail.com](mailto:townofcolonialbeachchristmas@gmail.com).

Location: Homes around Colonial Beach

[@TownofCBVA Facebook](#) voting will be open from Saturday, December 16 – Thursday, December 21 at midnight. First & Second Place Winners will be announced on Friday, December 22. Winners receive bragging rights and yard signs for the best home décor that involves outdoor lighting.

Host: Town of Colonial Beach Christmas

### **Music in the Air**

Saturday, December 23 and Sunday, December 24

Noon-4 pm

Location: Downtown Colonial Beach

Live Music will be performed throughout the downtown area to celebrate the holiday season while shoppers enjoy a grand holiday shopping experience!

Hosts: Downtown Colonial Beach and the Colonial Beach Community Foundation

### **New Year's Eve Crab Pot Drop**

Sunday, December 31

6-8 pm

Location: Town Hill at the corner of Washington and Colonial Avenues

This annual family-friendly event features games, music, hot cocoa, and the dropping of an illuminated Crab Pot that counts down to an early New Year.

Hosts: Colonial Beach Outfitters and the Colonial Beach Parks, Recreation, & Events Department

### **ABOUT COLONIAL BEACH**

The [Town of Colonial Beach](#), known as the Playground of the Potomac, is located at the northern tip of Virginia's Northern Neck - just a 65 mile drive from Washington, DC, and is one of the few remaining small seaport towns on the Potomac River. Beloved for its sandy beaches, osprey, murals, golf carts, and palm trees, this waterfront town with fewer than 4000 residents enjoys a unique location nestled between the Potomac River on the East and the waters of Monroe Bay on the West. Its beaches and marinas on Monroe Bay have attracted water sporting enthusiasts for over a century. Fishing, sailing, boating, swimming and crabbing are just a few of the water activities enjoyed here, making it a great place to visit and vacation. Also a very historic area with a rich presidential history, Colonial Beach and neighboring Westmoreland County happen to be the birthplace of Presidents George Washington and James Monroe - respectively memorialized at the [George Washington Birthplace National Monument](#) and the [James Monroe Birthplace Park & Museum](#). To plan your visit to Colonial Beach, go to: <https://visitcbva.com/>.

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