

Buy Local **BUZZ**



SEPTEMBER 2025

INSIDE

Fall Foodie Finds:
Pancake Trail

Special Screening:
Ken Burns's *The American Revolution*

Recent
Recognitions

Special Events:
Wine & Oyster
Festival &
Yorktoberfest

Business
Anniversaries

Citizen Rewards
Card

Feature: Flipping
Through Fall

Insider Tip: Free
Treat

Did You Know:
Ghost Hunts

New in Town

Fall Markets

The Way It Was



Pumpkin spice & everything local

Fall is in the air, and it's the perfect season to get out and enjoy everything our community has to offer. From crisp mornings at **Yorktown Market Days** and the return of **Rhythms on the Riverwalk**, to festive favorites like the **Wine & Oyster Festival**, there's no shortage of ways to celebrate autumn close to home.

New this year, the **Williamsburg Pancake Trail & Pancake Festival** will serve up delicious fun for the whole family in honor of National Pancake Day—just one more reason to explore local restaurants and shops this season. We're also rolling out the red carpet for award-winning local businesses, gearing up for the York County Chamber's **Yorktoberfest** celebration and viewing a special screening of **Ken Burns's** highly anticipated documentary, *The American Revolution*, at the Yorktown Battlefield.

In this edition of the Buy Local Buzz, you'll find ideas to help you make the most of September and October



while supporting the small businesses, attractions and experiences that make York County so special. Keep reading for more details on upcoming events, special offers and exciting news from around the County, as well as the inspiration you need to shop, dine and play local all fall y'all!

FALL FOODIE FINDS

Pancake Trail & Pancake Festival



Stack up the fun! York County and Greater Williamsburg are celebrating fall with the brand-new **Williamsburg Pancake Trail** and **Pancake Festival**, coinciding with National Pancake Day! From Sept. 1 through Oct. 4, folks can pre-register for the mobile **Pancake Trail Pass**. Just check in at three



participating pancake houses, diners or breakfast spots around the Historic Triangle, and you'll unlock exclusive discounts, pancake-themed prizes and a free ticket to the Pancake Festival. Complete the trail and score a keepsake pancake T-shirt!

Then, mark your calendar: the fun kicks into full gear on Friday, Sep. 26 with a family-friendly pancake party at the Williamsburg Hellenic Center—think pancakes, music, festive games and a laid-back pajama vibe.

The excitement continues the next morning, Saturday, Sept. 27, in Merchants Square on Duke of Gloucester Street, with a high-energy World Pancake Eating Championship, sweet book readings for kids, the crowd-pleasing sausage dog sprint and plenty of syrupy fun.

So whether you're a pancake purist or a toppings adventurer, this delicious trail is the perfect excuse to explore local breakfast gems and enjoy a tasty fall experience with family and friends. Dive in and spread the word, because pancake season is here, and everyone's invited!

[GET PANCAKE PASS](#)

SPECIAL EVENT ALERT

We the People: A Yorktown Battlefield event

WE THE PEOPLE
A YORKTOWN BATTLEFIELD EVENT
WITH SCREENING OF
THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION
A FILM BY
KEN BURNS, SARAH BOTSTEIN & DAVID SCHMIDT

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2025
Experience a powerful evening under the stars with a special preview screening of Ken Burns's *The American Revolution*—on the very ground where history unfolded.

whro PUBLIC MEDIA VA250 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE VISIT Yorktown VIRGINIA Jamestown SETTLEMENT American Revolution MUSEUM AT YORKTOWN

On Saturday, Sept. 20, the Yorktown Battlefield transforms into a history lover's dream as guests will be able to view a **special screening** of Ken Burns's highly anticipated documentary, *The American Revolution*, featuring never-before-seen excerpts filmed in York County. This free event includes a fun Revolutionary Festival with live colonial music, artillery demos, spy games, ranger programs and more. Bring your lawn chairs, water and a sense of wonder.

But the celebrations don't stop there! We're in the thick of **VA250**, a multi-year commemoration of America's founding that builds toward the grand Sail Yorktown Festival, an official SailVirginiaSM 2026 Affiliate Harbor, in June 2026. Tall ships from around the world will dock at our waterfront for a Parade of Sail, and immersive maritime experiences will happen right here in Yorktown.

Looking even further ahead, the reverberations of these celebrations will

continue to echo on to 2031, culminating in a spectacular tribute to the 250th anniversary of the Siege of Yorktown. Expect artillery salutes, reenactments, exhibitions and more as we celebrate this defining moment in American independence.

REGISTER FOR 'WE THE PEOPLE'

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY York County business recognitions

York County businesses are shining bright with well-deserved awards and recognition!

Williamsburg Jewelers was named **2025 Small Business of the Year** by the Greater Williamsburg Chamber of Commerce.

Meanwhile, more than **100 York County businesses**—including 14 located in Historic Yorktown—were named winners in the **2025 Coastal Virginia Magazine Best-Of Readers' Choice Awards**.

Check out the full list and be sure to congratulate these hometown favorites the next time you stop in to shop, dine or explore.



FOODIEVENTS

Yorktown WINE & OYSTER Festival 2025
Saturday & Sunday
October 4 & 5 12 to 6 PM
Riverwalk Landing | 425 Water St.

Admission includes:
Virginia Craft Beer Garden & Virginia's Finest Distilleries
Musical Entertainment
Saturday - BrassWind and Against All Odds
Sunday - The Michael Clark Band and Skylark

Purchase Tickets at [VillageEvents.org](https://www.villageevents.org)

Shell-abrate life's great moments with a glass of wine and a plate of oysters at the two-day Yorktown Wine & Oyster Festival! Join us for a beautiful fall day as you

YORK COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
YORKTOBERFEST
Presented by Shorty's Yorktown
YORKTOBERFEST
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2025
RAIN DATE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2025
NO REFUNDS. TICKETS PURCHASED VALID AT RAIN DATE
12:00 PM - 5:30 PM with VIP Entry 11:00 AM
Riverwalk Landing in Historic Yorktown
Unlimited Beer Tasting and VIP Tickets

WE HAVE BEER, YOU BRING FRIENDS & FAMILY
MUSIC | VENDORS | FOOD | 35+ BEERS/CIDERS

Mingle with the community and enjoy a Sunday by the water at Riverwalk Landing with beer, food and music at the York County Chamber of Commerce's

enjoy spectacular view of the York River and delicacies from the sea and local vineyards.

BUY TICKETS

signature Yorktoberfest event, featuring over 35 beers and ciders.

BUY TICKETS

BUSINESS ANNIVERSARIES

30 YEARS: Art Orthodontic Laboratory



Art Orthodontic Laboratory has quietly operated behind the scenes in York County, helping dentists and orthodontists perfect smiles with custom retainers, aligners and more. This small, family-run lab combines hands-on artistry with cutting-edge 3D printing. Based in lower York County, Art Ortho is a shining example of the innovation, craftsmanship and community spirit that define our community's small business scene.

READ ARTICLE

30 YEARS: Gunderman Chiropractic



For three decades, **Gunderman Chiropractic & Wellness** has been a trusted name in the community—helping patients of all ages (and even a few four-legged friends) feel their best.

Now led by both Dr. Samuel Gunderman Jr. and his son, Dr. Samuel Gunderman III, the family practice continues to grow while staying true to its people-first approach.

READ ARTICLE



Get rewarded for something you already do!

Many Historic Yorktown businesses and attractions offer free admission or discounts for York County residents. Don't forget to pick up your Citizen Rewards card before you go! To nab your very own card, present proof of residence at one of the three pick-up locations:

- **York Hall** – 301 Main Street in Historic Yorktown
- **Senior Center of York** – Washington Square shopping center
- **York County Parks & Recreation** – Washington Square shopping center

DETAILS + DISCOUNTS

Magazine spotlights visiting Yorktown

Even *Southern Living* knows York County is worth a visit. Their recent feature, “**This Virginia Town Charms With Riverside Walks, Natural Beauty, And American History,**” shines a national spotlight on our community, showcasing everything from ghost tours and battlefield walks to riverside dining and vibrant art galleries—perfect for a fall staycation.

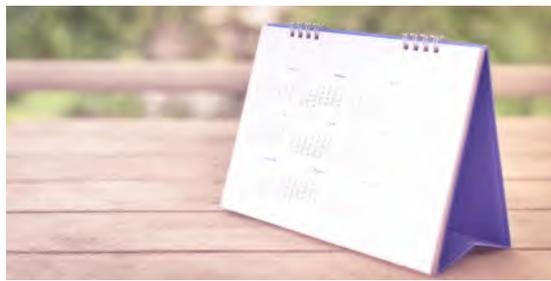
READ FULL ARTICLE



PLAN A LOCAL ADVENTURE Let 'National Days' be your guide!

By Melissa James, York County contributor

Here's the secret for how I get inspired to visit local spots... my **National Day Calendar!** I can flip through the pages and find obscure "holidays" to celebrate, then I pop them into my family Google calendar for the month.



It's a great way support both

favorite and unfamiliar County businesses—especially as fall brings crisp air and cozy vibes my way. Here are a handful my friend and I found:

SEPTEMBER:

Sept 1: National Burnt Ends Day - **County Grill** has some of the best smoky, tender burnt ends you can find.

Sept. 5: National Cheese Pizza Day - The perfect excuse to swing by local favorites like **Joe & Mimmas**, **Vinny's Pizza & Pasta 2** or **Bellissimo Pizza Cafe** for a classic slice.

Sept. 6: National Read a Book Day - I love visiting our **County libraries** or the **Yorktown Bookshop** to find a great read, then curling up as the fall breeze rolls in.

Sept. 7: National Beer Lovers Day - Support local breweries like **The Virginia Beer Company** and **Alewerks Brewing Company** with a cool pint.

Sept. 12: National Video Game Day - Shoutout to **Tap N Roll** in Lightfoot Crossing and **GameStop** for all your gaming needs.

Sept. 14: National Eat a Hoagie Day & National Cream-Filled Donut Day - **Dare Deli & Steamhouse** has your hoagie fix, and **Donutz on a Stick** satisfies any sweet-tooth cravings.

September also celebrates family connections with National Daughters Day, National Girls Night, National Family Day and National Wife Appreciation Day—a perfect time to show some love with flowers from **Yorktown Flower Shoppe** and **Williamsburg Floral** or gather your favorite people for a fall outing.

OCTOBER:

Oct. 1: National Pumpkin Spice Day - Fall wouldn't be complete without pumpkin spice treats from **Mobjack Coffee Roasters**, **Persnickety Crane Café** or **Column 15**.

Oct. 14: National Dessert Day - Indulge at **Carrot Tree Kitchens** or **Italian Delights Bakery & Deli** with something sweet to brighten your day.

Oct 26: Nation Pumpkin Day - Celebrate fall by picking out your perfect pumpkin at **Ken Matthews Garden Center**. Bonus points for hosting a family carving contest.

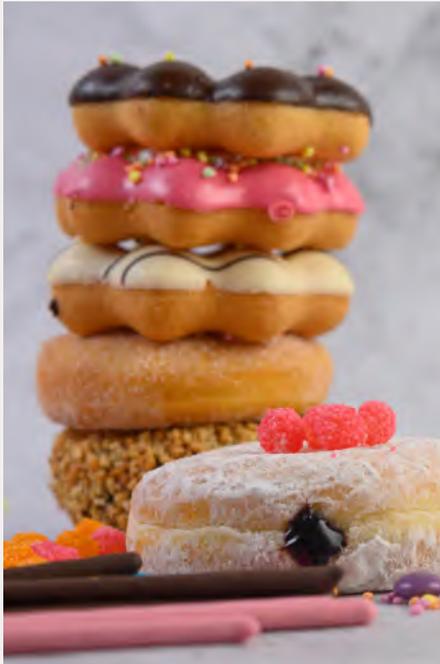
Oct. 28: National Chocolate Day - Treat yourself with handmade specialty **bon bons** from **Little York Confectionery**.

Oct. 31: Halloween - Time for costumes, candy and community fun in neighborhoods and businesses across York County.

One of my favorite local spots, **Riverwalk Restaurant**, keeps the National Day spirit alive with specials on several celebrated days each month, so it's easy to make any day a reason to dine local. The Visit Yorktown **events calendar** is another great spot to find local themed happenings.

Using my National Day calendar is more than just a quirky habit—it's a way to connect with our community and support the businesses that make York County so special. So whether it's pancakes, pumpkins, pizza or pint nights, every day holds a reason to celebrate locally.

INSIDER TIPS



Free sweets

Sushi dinner followed by free dessert? Yes, please!

New to Village Square at Kiln Creek, **Meowchi Donut** is serving up fresh, fun treats, including gelato and their made-from-scratch-daily mochi donuts. They offer free samples of gelato, various donuts and churros.

And if you bring in a same-day receipt from their next-door neighbor, **Kero Sushi and Japanese Restaurant**, you'll score a free gelato.

NEW IN TOWN

Burgers, beds & beyond



This summer has been full of exciting business activity in York County!

Burgers on the Edge celebrated its ribbon cutting on July 18, bringing gourmet burgers to **The Edge District** in upper York County.

HMP Properties held a **ribbon cutting** to celebrate the opening of the **Spark by Hilton Williamsburg Historic Area**, located at 201 Bypass Road, bringing Hilton's newest premium economy brand to the upper County.

The brand-new **Yorktown Welcome Center** is expected to open this fall at the Yorktown waterfront. The new facility will offer a welcoming, functional, and informative space for all visitors:

- Fresh, friendly gateway to the area
- Modern, year-round restrooms
- Updated Dockmaster's Office
- Fully ADA-compliant access

And there's more on the horizon. Kroger is planning to expand its Victory Boulevard location, and AutoZone is opening a new store, **both set to move into the former Super Kmart space in Kiln Creek.**



Stay in the know

Each month, new businesses open up in York County. Be the first to know when you check out our New In Town:

- **Business list**
- **Video series**
- **Ribbon-cutting images**



What's up with THAT?

Want to know what's coming to the County? Wondering what's going on at that site next door? Check out the **Development Dashboard** for details on recent property sales, assessments, building permits, site plans and much more!



TAKE A GHOST WALK

Looking for a memorable October outing? If you've never taken a night stroll through Yorktown's darker side, here's a thrilling insider tip: **Yorktown Ghost Walks** offers candlelit tours that are not just spooky—they're authentically spooky! Led by real paranormal investigators from Virginia Paranormal Investigations, complete with firsthand ghost-hunting equipment and lore from the author of *Ghosts of Yorktown*, this adventure is a local favorite that blends history, mystery and expert paranormal insight.

FALL MARKETS & FESTIVALS



Every Saturday morning through Sept. 27, Riverwalk Landing is hosting Yorktown Market Days from 8 a.m. to noon., rain or shine. Once October rolls in, the markets continue on select Saturdays, with hours shifting to 9 a.m. to noon., with several extended until 3 p.m. Discover diverse vendors, local artists and food trucks while browsing seasonal produce, seafood, meats, breads, soaps, candles, honey, gourmet dog treats and more!

Themed fall markets you won't want to miss:

Oct. 11 | Fall Festival (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.): Perfect for seasonal finds like pumpkins, mums, kettle corn, local arts and family fun.

Oct. 18 | Victory Market (9 a.m. to noon): Celebrate a historic win with artisan

Oct. 18 | Victory Market (9 a.m. to noon): Celebrate a historic win with artisan vendors and local treats.

Oct. 25 | Paws at the River (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.): Bring your furry friends for a pet-friendly market day—fun for all ages!

Nov. 8 & 9 | Maritime Festival (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.): Kick off the holiday market season with nautical flair, perfect for seasonal shopping.

Nov. 15 | Harvest Festival (9 a.m. to 3 p.m.): Stock up on pies and turkeys, shop handcrafted gifts, and enjoy festive fall fun.

Bring your family, your appetite or just your sense of adventure, and enjoy the flavors, views and local charm that make fall Saturdays in Yorktown so special.

[VIEW MARKET DETAILS](#)

THE WAY IT WAS



Fall Festival at Ken Matthews Garden Center

Sure, Main Street in Historic Yorktown still looks shockingly similar to how it was as far back as the Revolutionary War! But most of York County has changed quite a bit since then.

Do you remember when the County Fair was held on Route 17, where Washington Square now sits? What about the old drive-in movie theater that is now home to Walmart? Anyone recall what Yorktown Beach looked like before Isabel cleared the way for Riverwalk Landing? Spoiler alert: Water Street had a lot more traffic than it does now!

Follow along with us as we feature some oldie-but-goodie photos from Yorktown's yesteryear! How many can you remember?

KEEP IN TOUCH ... and keep it in the County!

- Let us know about your business and what makes it special, so we can promote it for you for free via our e-news, social media, and website. Have a coupon or upcoming event? We'll help you spread the word!
- Forward this e-news to your neighbors and friends so they, too, can keep up to date with York County happenings and businesses. They can [subscribe here](#).



York County Economic & Tourism Development | 121 Alexander Hamilton Blvd. | Yorktown, VA
23690 US



Try email marketing for free today!