



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MONTHLY REPORT – JULY 2018



BUSINESS RETENTION & EXPANSION

New Horizon Bank had a ribbon cutting for their new branch on July 26th.

The El Jinete Mexican restaurant opened in South Creek.

The Mill at Fine Creek's bakery-kitchen addition opened and new baked goods are now available in their Provision's store.

DRP Collision's new additional paint booth was put into operation.

Powhatan Family Vision opened in their new location, in the larger standalone building in front of their previous location.

Three Crosses Distilling started brewing the first batches of Powhatan liquor and expects to open to the public in August.

A site plan was approved for a University of Richmond golf-team training facility at Independence. Earthwork has started.

Fast Feet Sports Academy submitted building plans for a 10,000 sq. ft. after school sports training facility, to include air conditioned indoor batting cages, in South Creek, a few spaces down from Food Lion. They plan to open within the next month.

South Creek Cleaners dry-cleaners received a building permit to begin work on a vacant suite in South Creek.

Nails & Beyond received a building permit to begin work on a vacant suite in South Creek.

Classic Granite & Marble held a community meeting on July 24th to present their plans to rezone property along Rt. 60 to relocate their operation from Chesterfield to Powhatan. The plans feature a 60,000 sf building for their granite sales and finishing, as well as several suites available for lease for office/retail uses.

A rezoning application for a commercial development across from South Creek to include a Hardee's and O'Reilly Auto parts was approved by the Board of Supervisors.

A site plan for a Burger King in Stoneridge was approved.

Staff launched an all new economic development website and an updated the tourism website.

www.yespowhatan.com

www.discoverpowhatan.com

SanAir completed the Economic Gardening program, after being one of 12 across the State selected to take part in the pilot program last year.

County staff presented to the Virginia Economic Development Partnership (VEDP) to familiarize their staff with Powhatan's economic assets and understand resources VEDP can provide to the business community.

County staff met with VEDP staff on the International Trade Program to explore opportunities to increase exports from Powhatan businesses.

Powhatan County's Economic Development office joined the Powhatan chapter of BNI (Business Network International).

Staff made business visits to Fortune Auto, Rapid Manufacturing, Barham Seafood, Eagle Tele Services and Colony Construction.

Updates from the June 2018 Monthly report:

Construction continues on the following projects:

Fairview Farms lodging
Shawn Stern Computer Services in Oakbridge
CC Landscaping in Oakbridge
Morris Industries/Steel new office
Blue & Gray Self-Storage expansion

Review continues on the following site plans:

McDonalds
Dunkin' Donuts
Barnes Insurance
Colony Construction maintenance shop
Commercial building in Oakbridge consisting of 20,000 sf of leasable spaces

Review continues on the following rezonings or CUPs:

Stone Ridge commercial rezoning
Concrete septic tank forming operation CUP
Country inn and event center on Huguenot Springs Road CUP
Capital Granite & Marble ("CGM") rezoning



TOURISM

Richmond Region Tourism (RRT) Sports Division visited the county to tour the sports complex at Fighting Creek Park, in which there are numerous sports events capable of being held there through RRT.

Staff conducted a tour of Powhatan for the Richmond Region Tourism team, the first one took place on July 27th. The tour was for the RRT team to familiarize themselves with the county's assets for tourism. A second tour for additional RRT staff in August.



Staff continues to update the VEDP iVS site locator database with new and updated sites and buildings.

New attraction features such as demographics and graphs are being developed and added to the Economic Development website for prospective businesses.



- Seven Powhatan businesses were nominated for eleven awards in this year's Richmond Times Dispatch Best of Richmond list. Voting is complete and winners will be announced in late October. <http://richmond.secondstreetapp.com/2018-The-Best-2/>. Powhatan nominees were as follows:

Dining, Drinks and Nightlife

Best Dessert Spot – Mabel's Espresso Bakery Café

Best "Hidden Gem" in Richmond - Mabel's Espresso Bakery Café

Best Local Coffee Shop - Mabel's Espresso Bakery Café

Best Sushi – Wild Ginger

Entertainment

The Best Wedding Venue – The Mill at Fine Creek

Home and Garden

The Best Antiques – Vintage Antique Shack

The Best Furniture Store – Vintage Antique Shack

The Best HVAC Company – Mode Comfort & Air Quality

Services

The Best Auto Repair – Llewellyn Towing & Repair

The Best Electrician – Hertzler Electric

Shopping

The Best Thrift or Consignment Shop – Vintage Antique Shack

- New Horizon Bank's expansion was featured in Richmond BizSense, and was the most-read article for that week.
<https://richmondbizsense.com/2018/07/13/local-bank-opens-new-modern-design-branch-powhatan/>
- Local pastry chef Favienne Roop was a contestant on Netflix's Sugar Rush
<http://www.nbc12.com/story/38658550/powhatan-pastry-chef-makes-netflix-debut>
- Three Crosses Distillery was featured in several local news outlets
<https://richmondbizsense.com/2018/07/19/new-local-distillery-hobby-kind-got-hand/>
<https://wtvr.com/2018/07/19/three-crosses-distillery/>
<https://www.wric.com/news/local-news/family-owned-distillery-coming-to-powhatan-in-august/1309565549>
- Independence's course re-opening was featured in Richmond BizSense.

- <https://richmondbizsense.com/2018/07/27/chesterfield-golf-course-reopens-bout-winterkill/>
- Mode Comfort and Air won Best Heating or Air Conditioning service for Style Magazine's Best of Richmond 2018 after earning a 2nd place in 2017 and 3rd in 2015.
<https://www.styleweekly.com/richmond/best-heating-or-air-conditioning-service/BestOf?oid=8971260>
- Powhatan based Dixon Auctions will be expanding into Virginia Center Commons, written about in Richmond Times Dispatch. They will maintain operations in Powhatan alongside the expansion.
https://www.richmond.com/business/plus/breathing-new-life-into-a-mall-dixon-s-auctions-estate/article_2eade12c-8316-5722-93cf-e5527484a5c4.html
- Several Powhatan businesses were featured in an article in Powhatan Today and Richmond.com
https://www.richmond.com/news/local/central-virginia/powhatan/powhatan-today/new-businesses---including-a-distillery-and-new-restaurants/article_c5887744-94c2-11e8-8634-afcb915dd9fd.html



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Registration is open for the annual James River Clean-up Day, to be held Saturday September 8th. Sites include Maiden's Landing in Powhatan County. <https://jrvc-va.org/signatureevents/james-river-cleanup/>
- Powhatan Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting, open to both members and non-members August 14th <https://www.powhatan-chamber.org/events/monthly-luncheon/>
- Village Vibe Concert- August 13th (Flashback Band)
<https://www.powhatan-chamber.org/events/village-vibe/>
- Festival of the Grape- October 6th 11 AM - 6PM <https://www.powhatanwinefestival.com/>
- Chamber RVA Mission Tomorrow Interactive Career Exploration- October 18-19th
<https://www.chamber-rva.com/programs/mission-tomorrow/>