

# 100 Miles of Lights

Hampton ★ Newport News ★  
Norfolk ★ Portsmouth ★ Richmond ★ Williamsburg ★ Virginia Beach

## Calendar of Events November 2009 to January 2010 (★★ = Multiple Month Event)

### November

#### ★★ November 1 – December 23

Newport News

##### *Wild Gifts for the Holidays, Virginia Living Museum*

Just perfect for the holidays, this special sale includes a collection of unusual and affordable nature-related items for all ages, including eco-friendly clothing, plush toys, and stationery. Favorites will include easy reader books, learning games, socks & hoodies, cuddly stuffed animals, home decor and hand-made jewelry - all themed to reflect Virginia's native wildlife. Many items are unique, being created especially for the Museum. Monday to Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday, Noon to 5 p.m. Free admission to sale. For more information, call 757-595-1900 or go online at [www.thevlm.org](http://www.thevlm.org)

#### ★★ November 7 – January 3, 2010

Newport News

##### *Artful Giving, Peninsula Fine Arts Center*

Experience *Artful Giving* at the Peninsula Fine Arts Center. For the season, Pfac's Gallery Shop expands to feature decorations, accessories and gift items from around the corner and around the world. For this year's festivities, Jo Louise has chosen holiday décor and party items found nowhere else, along with unique artworks and unusual craft items both practical and whimsical. Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Wednesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Free. For more information, call 757-596-8175 or go online at [www.pfac.org](http://www.pfac.org).

#### ★★ November 7 – January 3, 2010

Newport News

##### *Season's Greetings: Holiday Scenes from the Noland Company Collection, Peninsula Fine Arts Center*

This festive exhibition features dozens of nostalgic artworks featuring historic buildings from around the country decked out in their holiday finery. Each year the Noland Company, headquartered in Newport News, Va., commissioned artists to create an original painting for their company holiday cards. Most scenes feature joyous revelers in period costume enjoying the spirit of the season. Tuesday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Wednesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Sunday, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Admission. For more information, call 757-596-8175 or go online at [www.pfac.org](http://www.pfac.org).

#### November 19

Richmond

##### *2nd Annual Deck the Halls Silent Auction, Maymont*

Wind your way through a silent auction of beautifully decorated wreaths, tabletop arrangements and other seasonal items created by local floral designers, garden clubs and Maymont volunteers. Tea and light refreshments. Design demonstration. 10 a.m. to noon. Admission. For more information call, 804-358-7166 or go online at [www.maymont.org](http://www.maymont.org).

**\*\* November 20 – December 31**

**Portsmouth**

***Coleman's Winter Wonderland in Olde Towne Portsmouth, Historic District***

For 39 consecutive years, a Portsmouth garden center called "Coleman Nursery" dazzled hundreds of thousands of families with its Winter Wonderland holiday scenes of animated figures. It became a tradition for parents to bring their children – and those children to later bring their offspring – to see their favorite characters, which ranged from the "Snow Babies" with their long, curly eyelashes to a seesaw-riding skunk whose partner was a raccoon with a clothespin clipped to his nose! The nursery closed in early 2004 after 60 years in business; however, because the "Winter Wonderland" collection was so near and dear to the hearts of so many people in Hampton Roads and beyond, the Portsmouth Museums purchased the collection and now displays it in the Courthouse Galleries. For more information, call 757-393-8543 or go online at [www.courthousegalleries.com](http://www.courthousegalleries.com).

**\*\* November 20 – January 3, 2010**

**Virginia Beach**

***McDonald's Holiday Lights at the Beach, Boardwalk***

Festive fish, jumping dolphins, frolicking porpoises – all in bright, colored lights against the clear night-time sky, are the stars of McDonald's Holiday Lights at the Beach, a nautical and holiday-themed light display at the Virginia Beach oceanfront! They are joined by Santa, elves and a 40-foot tall Christmas tree erected on the beach and in the beautiful parks along the boardwalk. For over 30 blocks, this "Fanta-Sea" of lights is sure to dazzle and amaze holiday travelers visiting the Beach. New displays are added each year so it's never the same show twice. A free CD of holiday music is provided to each vehicle entering the lights. Sunday to Thursday, 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.; Friday to Saturday, 5:30 p.m. to 11 p.m. Admission. For more information, call 757-491-7866 or go online at [www.beachstreetusa.com](http://www.beachstreetusa.com).

**November 20**

**Portsmouth**

***Olde Towne Arts & Antiques 13th Annual Open House, Olde Towne***

Start your holiday season with some old-fashioned sparkle! Enjoy holiday-themed window painting by Portsmouth student artists; glean a bit of history with Colonel Crawford leading tours of the 12 historic squares of High Street; stroll to music and festivities on the streets and explore many of the fine antique shops, world class art galleries and unique specialty stores along the High Street corridor. Many will highlight yuletide displays from the Coleman's Winter Wonderland Collection in their windows, provide music and refreshments and, of course, holiday gift and decorating ideas. 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. For more information, call 757-405-3500 or go online at [www.oldetowneportsmouth.com](http://www.oldetowneportsmouth.com).

**November 21**

**Hampton**

***Coliseum Central Holiday Parade, Coliseum Central District***

Enjoy the holiday season during this much-anticipated seasonal day-time parade. Featuring helium balloons, floats, clowns, marching bands and the world's "youngest" elf of all: Santa! The parade will be followed by pictures with Santa at the new Peninsula Towne Center and free horse and sleigh rides for all. 9 a.m. For more information, call 757-826-6351 or go online at [www.coliseumcentral.com](http://www.coliseumcentral.com).

**November 21**

**Norfolk**

***Grand Illumination Parade, Downtown Norfolk and Olde Town Portsmouth***

Festivities begin with the Grand Illumination of the Downtown Norfolk and Olde Towne Portsmouth skylines, when 100,000 voices along the Grand Illumination Parade Route will take part in a community countdown. The skylines stretch nearly 20 miles to light up our favorite holidays – Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa and New Year’s Eve. The illumination signals the start of the parade filled with festive and lighted floats, marching bands, giant balloons, decorated vehicles, dancers and, of course, Santa Claus. Pre-parade entertainment begins at 5 p.m., followed by the Grand Illumination at 7 p.m. The parade begins at Waterside Drive and St. Paul’s Boulevard immediately after. Free. For more information, call 757-623-1757 or go online to [www.downtownnorfolk.org](http://www.downtownnorfolk.org).

**November 21 and 28**

**Charles City County**

***James River Plantations’ Thanksgiving Progressive Candlelight Tour, Ashland, Duck Church, Ladysmith and Piney Grove*** (Midway between Richmond and Williamsburg)

Explore the history of America’s Thanksgiving tradition in James River Plantation Country just minutes from the site of America’s first official celebration. Visit the historic buildings of Piney Grove at Southall’s Plantation (1790), Ashland (1835), Ladysmith (1857), Dower Quarter (1830) and Duck Church (1917) with “Tours-By-The-Owner.” 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. Admission. For more information, call 804-829-2196 or go online at [www.pineygrove.com](http://www.pineygrove.com).

**★★ November 21 – January 6, 2010**

**Richmond**

***Maymont Mansion Holiday Tours, Maymont***

Celebrate a very special Christmas at Maymont, decorated in authentic Victorian holiday splendor. Lavish tree trimmings, the opulent dining room and other spectacular decor bring the wonders of an upper-class Victorian Christmas to life. Meanwhile, in the basement of the mansion, the kitchen is a hub for holiday dinner preparations. Enjoy a tour with out-of-town guests or make it your own annual tradition. Tours available every half-hour. Noon to 5 p.m. Admission. For more information call, 804-358-7166 or go online at [www.maymont.org](http://www.maymont.org).

**★★ November 21 – January 18, 2010**

**Norfolk**

***MacArthur On Ice, MacArthur Center***

There’s only one place to skate outdoors during the holidays. At MacArthur Center, where you’ll always find something special. Bring the family, bring your friends and enjoy the best skating extravaganza Norfolk’s ever seen. With public skating, figure skating exhibitions, lessons, skating with the Norfolk Admirals and more, MacArthur Center is the place to be this holiday season. 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Admission. For more information, call 757-622-0280.

**★★ November 25 – December 31**

**Newport News**

***Laser Holidays, Virginia Living Museum***

Experience a mix of classic holiday music and dazzling laser lights in a totally new way – all around you. The whole family can become immersed in holiday fun. Wednesday to Friday 1:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday 11:30 a.m. Additional 11:30 a.m. show on December 21 – 23, 26 and 28 – 31 and 7 p.m. and 8 p.m. show on November 28, December 19 and December 26. Admission. For more information, call 757-595-1900 or go online at [www.thevlm.org](http://www.thevlm.org).

**\*\* November 25 – December 31**

**Newport News**

***Star of Wonder: The Mystery of the Christmas Star Holiday Planetarium Show, Virginia Living Museum***

Experience the journey of the Magi from a new perspective - all around you! Become immersed in the majesty and mystery of the scientific puzzle of the identity of the Star of Bethlehem. The timeless and touching holiday classic enters a new era with its 45th consecutive season. November 25 – December 31; Wednesday to Friday 2:30 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. Additional 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. shows on December 21 – 23, 26 – 31. Admission. For more information, call 757-595-1900 or go online at [www.thevlm.org](http://www.thevlm.org).

**November 26 – 28**

**Williamsburg and Yorktown**

***Foods & Feasts of Colonial Virginia, Jamestown Settlement and Yorktown Victory Center***

Explore the 17th- and 18th-century culinary practices of Virginia during this three-day event beginning on Thanksgiving Day. At Jamestown Settlement, learn how food was gathered, preserved and prepared on land and at sea by Virginia's English colonists and Powhatan Indians. At Yorktown Victory Center, learn about typical soldiers' fare during the American Revolution and trace the bounty of a 1780s farm from field to kitchen. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission. For more information, call 757-253-4838 or go online at [www.historyisfun.org](http://www.historyisfun.org).

**\*\* November 26 – January 1, 2010**

**Newport News**

***Celebration in Lights, Newport News Park***

Light up your holidays with the award-winning Celebration in Lights, a two-mile drive-through of spectacular animated scenes set in Newport News Park. Over 700,000 lights illuminate the beauty of Newport News Park's forests, fields, and ponds in this, Virginia's longest running drive-through light event. View multi-colored snowflakes, leaping reindeer, whimsical toys and forest animals, elegant swans and scenes from Virginia's past portrayed in a kaleidoscope of dazzling color. Over 200 displays, including 70 animated displays, are spread throughout a dozen theme areas, including "Winter Wonderland," "Forest Friends," "Battle of the Ironclads," "Santa's Enchanted Kingdom" and "Old Man Winter." Daily, 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Admission per bus or car. For more information, call 757-926-1400 or go online at [www.nnparks.com](http://www.nnparks.com).

**\*\* November 26 – January 3, 2010**

**Norfolk**

***Garden of Lights, Norfolk Botanical Garden***

Whether it's your first visit or a family tradition, make memories you'll treasure forever on our two-mile driving tour through a million twinkling lights. This year, enjoy the new "Garden by the Sea" underwater adventure. Travel through a watery scene of lights with a mermaid and her friends as they celebrate Norfolk's Year of the Mermaid. 5:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. Admission. For additional information, call 757-441-5830 or go online at [www.norfolkbotanicalgarden.org](http://www.norfolkbotanicalgarden.org).

**\*\* November 26 – March 8, 2010**

**Hampton**

***Downtown Hampton Central on Ice!, Virginia Air & Space Center***

The Peninsula's only outdoor, holiday ice skating rink! Experience Downtown Hampton's Rockefeller Center when you step into a winter wonderland ice skating rink at the Virginia Air & Space Center. Skate rentals available. Admission. For more information, call 757-727-0900 or go to [www.vasc.org](http://www.vasc.org).

**November 27**

**Richmond**

***The Day After Thanksgiving Art Affair 2009, Art Works***

On “Black Friday,” avoid the mall and come to Art Works for the The Day After Thanksgiving Art Affair. We'll have shopping, music, refreshments inside and outside, plus the Umbrella Farmer's Market. In addition to the 75 artist studios and 5 galleries, the 50 and Below Gallery, where everything is \$50 or less, returns this year. You are sure to find something exciting, that perfect gift you've been looking for. 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Free; items for sale. For more information call, 804-291-1400 or go online at [www.artworksrichmond.com](http://www.artworksrichmond.com).

**November 27 – 29**

**Virginia Beach**

***Christmas Market, Virginia Beach Convention Center***

The Virginia Beach Christmas Market, at the Virginia Beach Convention Center, features more than 350 fine artisans and crafters from more than 20 states. Readers of *Sunshine Artist Magazine* voted this popular event as one of the best 100 arts and crafts shows in the USA. Featured artisans will offer fine arts, pottery, jewelry, stained glass, wood, toys, photography, fiber arts and thousands of Christmas collectibles. Discover unique one-of-kind Christmas gifts, personalized stocking stuffers, and stunning floral holiday centerpieces. Admission. For more information, call 757-491-7866 or go online at [www.emgshows.com](http://www.emgshows.com).

**\*\* November 27 – 29 and December 4 – 6, 11 – 13, 18 – 24 and 26 – 27**

**Williamsburg**

***Christmas Town at Busch Gardens, Busch Gardens***

On every street corner you'll hear the sounds of the season. From traditional Christmas favorites in Banbury Cross, England, to country-style classics in New France and Celtic sounds in the streets of Killarney, Ireland, this is the music you love. And it's a place where you can also see new holiday-themed shows and ride some of your favorite rides. 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. Admission. For more information, call 800-343-7946 or go online at [www.christmastown.com](http://www.christmastown.com).

**\*\* November 27 – December 31**

**Virginia Beach**

***Winter Wonderland at Hunt Club Farm, Hunt Club Farm***

Come experience our new Winter Wonderland Christmas Barn decorated as “A Magical Forest Toyland” of animals and elves preparing for the holidays! Walk through thousands of sparkling lights and watch a hundred animations come to life. Visitors will be delighted by Hunt Club Farm's Sparkling Petting Farm Light Displays and Children's Maze, Live animal nativity, and huge old-fashioned bonfire for roasting marshmallows. This is where you can make memories to last a lifetime, and become a family tradition. 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Admission. For more information, call 757-427-9520 or go online at [www.huntclubfarm.com](http://www.huntclubfarm.com).

**\*\* November 27 – January 3, 2010**

**Williamsburg**

***Colonial Williamsburg's Holiday Season, Colonial Williamsburg***

Nothing quite compares to spending the Christmas season in Colonial Williamsburg's Historic Area. Special programs, dining, entertainment, hotel packages, events for children and more are waiting to enchant guests who come to enjoy a magical season they'll not soon forget. Admission. For more information, call 800-447-8679 or go online at [www.history.org](http://www.history.org).

**\*\* November 27 – January 11, 2010**

**Richmond**

***GardenFest of Lights, Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden***

A holiday tradition! The show features more than a half million lights arranged in botanical themes throughout the 25-acre garden. With hundreds of trees wrapped in lights and winding pathways full of surprises, *GardenFest of Lights* is a magical experience for all ages. Holiday dinners are available with reservations. 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. Admission. For more information, call 804-262-9887 or go online at [www.lewisginter.org](http://www.lewisginter.org).

**November 28**

**Newport News**

***Holiday Tree Lighting, Port Warwick***

Enjoy many family activities planned throughout the day. Santa will visit with children and Mrs. Claus will stop by to tell stories. Children can enjoy decorating holiday cookies and participating in kids' karaoke. There will be wandering carolers, a hand-bell choir and much more to make your shopping even more enjoyable! 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Free. For more information, call 757-771-9343 or go online at [www.portwarwick.com](http://www.portwarwick.com).

**\*\* November 28 and December 19**

**Virginia Beach**

***Sailing with Santa, Virginia Aquarium***

Take a 45-minute cruise on Owls Creek with Santa and his crew. Enjoy refreshments, games and activities while Santa greets his guests for a unique photo opportunity. 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Admission. For more information, call 757-385-3474 or go online at [www.virginiaaquarium.com](http://www.virginiaaquarium.com).

**\*\* November 28 – 29 and December 5 – 6, 12 – 13 and 19 – 20**

**Virginia Beach**

***SCUBA Santa, Virginia Aquarium***

Santa descends into the depths of the Chesapeake Bay Aquarium to feed the fishes! 11 a.m. to noon. Admission. For more information, call 757-385-3474 or go online at [www.virginiaaquarium.com](http://www.virginiaaquarium.com).

**November 29**

**Virginia Beach**

***Founders Illumination, The Founders Inn and Spa***

The annual Christmas family tradition continues! Throughout the day, enjoy the toy factory, face painting, magicians, Mandy Panda, Spectrum Puppets, the Doorway Singers, strolling entertainment and area musicians and choirs singing by our 35-foot Christmas tree. The lighting ceremony begins at 6pm; with the flip of a switch The Founders Inn and Spa turns into a Christmas wonderland. Noon to 9 p.m. For more information, call 757-368-5749 or go online at [www.foundersinn.com](http://www.foundersinn.com).

**November 29**

**Newport News**

***Wrathing of the Lions, The Mariners' Museum***

Join the Bronze Door Society at the historic Hampton Roads landmark, the Lion's Bridge, as they launch the holiday season with the ceremonial wreathing of Anna Hyatt Huntington's signature lion sculptures. This traditional donning of all four of the life-sized lions with giant holiday wreaths will delight young and old alike! Along with festive food and drinks, this event will sparkle with family-filled games and activities. One of a series of special events celebrating the 75th Anniversary of The Mariners' Museum. 3 p.m. Free; refreshments for sale. For more information, call 757-591-7705 or go online at [www.MarinersMuseum.org](http://www.MarinersMuseum.org).

**November 29 – 30**

**Newport News**

***Johnny Mathis Christmas, Ferguson Center for the Arts***

One of North America's most popular entertainers, the legendary Johnny Mathis hits the stage to perform favorite holiday classics in his trademark velvety voice. Known for his smooth vocal skills and celebrated ballads, his hit songs include "Chances Are," "The Twelfth of Never," "Wild Is The Wind," "Come to Me" and "Misty." Mathis has sold more than 350 million records and is one of only five recording artists to have Top 40 hits spanning each decade since 1955. He has also appeared at numerous U.S. Presidential State Dinners and Royal Command Performances. 7: 30 p.m. Admission. For more information, call 757-594-8752 or go online at [www.fergusoncenter.org](http://www.fergusoncenter.org).

**\*\* November 29 and December 6, 13 and 20**

**Virginia Beach**

***Sundays with Santa, Virginia Aquarium***

Join Santa and his elves for activities and education programs from noon to 3 p.m. in the Marsh Pavilion. Noon to 3 p.m. Admission. For more information, call 757-385-3474 or go online at [www.virginiaaquarium.com](http://www.virginiaaquarium.com).

**\*\* November 30 – December 22**

**Norfolk**

***Polar Express Trains, Norfolk Botanical Garden***

Bring your family to ride the Polar Express! Make a keepsake bell, sip cocoa and eat cookies while listening to the story, The Polar Express. Finish the evening with a tram ride through the Garden of Lights. This event has become a tradition for many families. Train rides at 5 p.m. and 5:30 p.m., Sundays through Thursdays. Admission. For additional information, call 757-441-5830 or go online at [www.norfolkbotanicalgarden.org](http://www.norfolkbotanicalgarden.org).

*NOTE: Events are subject to cancellation and date, time and admission changes. Admission fees are subject to change without notice. Please contact event planners directly to confirm information.*

11/8/09