

The Tide Report

August 2026

Stay informed on the latest business announcements, development projects, team updates, and community engagements shaping Virginia Beach.

Featured Story



Move Your Business Forward: The 2026 Small Business Grant Program Opens This Fall

August 17, 2026

Qualifying Virginia Beach small businesses may be eligible for up to \$10,000 in grant funding through the 2026 Small Business Grant Program. The program supports micro-businesses with fewer than 25 employees.

Applicants must attend a HIVE pre-application workshop before applying. Hybrid sessions will be offered September 9, 14, 22, and 28, with morning and evening options. Registration opens August 17, and the application link will be provided to workshop attendees.

Grant funds can help businesses grow through investments in equipment and supplies, marketing and advertising, business expansion, and other approved business development needs. Applications open October 1 and will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis.

[Learn More](#)

In Case You Missed It





Emily Archer Named Director of Economic Development

July 23, 2026

Virginia Beach Economic Development is proud to welcome Emily Archer as its new director following six months of dedicated leadership as acting director. With more than 20 years of public- and private-sector experience, including 11 years with the City, Archer will continue building on that momentum to attract investment, support business growth, and strengthen Virginia Beach's long-term economic success.

Valkyrie and ODU Launch New Defense Innovation Lab

July 23, 2026

Virginia Beach-based Valkyrie Enterprises is investing \$500,000 to establish the Valkyrie Defense Lab at Old Dominion University, connecting students with industry professionals to tackle real-world defense challenges. The partnership will support hands-on training in AI, digital engineering, modeling and simulation while strengthening the region's pipeline of defense-ready talent.



[Read the Full Story](#)



Kletz Doubles Down on Virginia Beach with \$4M Expansion

July 15, 2026

Virginia Beach Economic Development is celebrating the Virginia Beach Development Authority's approval of an EDIP grant supporting Kletz's headquarters relocation and expansion in Oceana Industrial Park. The project includes more than \$4 million in investment, 20 new high-wage jobs, and an expanded paid training program creating pathways into six-figure skilled trades careers.

More Ways to Save: Atlantic Avenue Grant Expands Eligibility

July 16, 2026

The Virginia Beach Development Authority has expanded access to the Atlantic Avenue Grant Program, lowering the minimum investment from \$20,000 to \$10,000 and the minimum grant from \$10,000 to \$5,000. Since April 2026, the program has awarded \$102,833 to five businesses, supporting more than \$215,000 in property improvements. Funding is available through 2026 while funds remain.

[Explore Eligibility](#)



Going Global: Virginia Beach Companies Set Their Sights on Global Markets

July 30, 2026

Virginia Beach Economic Development is proud to celebrate three local companies reaching new milestones through VEDP's Virginia Leaders in Export Trade (VALET) program. Vectrona and iMedical Healthcare Solutions are graduating from the two-year international trade program, while LifeNet has been selected for its newest cohort. Congratulations to all three companies for representing Virginia Beach's growing global business community.

Virginia Climbs to No. 3 for Business

July 9, 2026

Virginia rose to No. 3 in CNBC's 2026 Top States for Business rankings, moving up one spot from 2025. The annual study evaluates factors including infrastructure, workforce, innovation, and quality of life. Virginia Beach is proud to help drive the Commonwealth's success while continuing to create an environment where businesses can start, expand, and thrive.

[Read the Full Report](#)





Honoring Penny Morgan's Service to Virginia Beach

August 12, 2026

Virginia Beach Economic Development extends a special thank you to Penny Morgan for eight years of dedicated service on the Virginia Beach Development Authority. We are grateful for her time, leadership, and commitment to supporting the City's continued economic growth and wish her all the best in her next chapter.

Virginia Beach Featured Business: August

THE TEAM BEHIND THE MISSION

ZACH STEINBOCK
Co-Founder & President

SEAN MATSON
Co-Founder & CEO

Combat veterans. Serial entrepreneurs. Four companies built.
Two exits. Now building the technology that could save lives on and off the battlefield.

Investigational device. Pending FDA clearance.

ACESO
PLASMA
Redefining the Pillars of Wound Care

Aceso Plasma Is Taking on Antibiotic Resistance

Virginia Beach's growing innovation ecosystem is helping entrepreneurs turn bold ideas into global impact. Founded by combat veterans Sean Matson and Zach Steinbock, Aceso Plasma is one example. The company is developing a handheld device that uses energized air to help fight bacteria and support the healing of hard-to-treat wounds—offering a potential new tool as antibiotic resistance becomes a growing challenge. Backed by a Series A led by Stony Lonesome Group, Aceso Plasma is now advancing the technology through pre-clinical development toward use in clinical settings.

Opportunity in Motion

Farnborough International Airshow

July 20 - 24, 2026

Charles Macdowell represented Virginia Beach at the July 20–24 event in the United Kingdom, connecting with aerospace and defense companies exploring U.S. expansion. He joined partners from Virginia Exports and the East of England Regional Defense & Security Cluster to promote opportunities across Virginia Beach and Hampton Roads.



Virginia Business Top Projects and Real Estate Deals

July 28, 2026

Virginia Beach's Atlantic Park and The Pinnacle on 31st Street developments were honored among this year's nominees. The developments reflect the investment and vision transforming the City through new entertainment, housing, mixed-use amenities, and economic opportunity.



VBED-Sponsored Events & Opportunities

Virginia Cup: Pre-Party Celebration @ The HIVE

Sept. 17, 2026 | Virginia Beach, VA

Kick off Virginia Cup night at The HIVE with complimentary drinks, light bites, and networking with founders, funders, creatives, and business leaders from across Virginia.

[Reserve Your Spot](#)

Virginia Cup: Official Startup World Cup Virginia Qualifier

Sept. 17, 2026 | Virginia Beach, VA

Connect with founders, investors, entrepreneurs, and regional partners as Virginia's top startup companies compete on a statewide stage.

[Reserve Your Spot](#)

VMA26 Anchored

Oct. 13 - 15, 2026 | Norfolk, VA

Join 1,500+ leaders in shipping, ports, logistics, and trade at the East Coast's premier international trade symposium.

[Reserve Your Spot](#)

757 TechNite

Oct. 29, 2026 | Virginia Beach, VA

Celebrate the innovators, companies, and technology leaders helping shape Hampton Roads' growing innovation economy.

[Reserve Your Spot](#)

LifeNet Health Foundation Celebration of Life Gala

Nov. 14, 2026 | Norfolk, VA

Celebrate 40 years of saving lives, restoring health, and giving hope while supporting organ and tissue donation, lifesaving research, and the donor families whose gifts make it all possible.

Reserve Your Spot



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