

A Beginner's Guide to Richmond

Information on VCU and Richmond

Neighborhoods	2
Housing	3
Parking & Transportation	3
Shuttle Service	4
Greater Richmond Transit Company	4
Dining in Richmond	4
Grocery Stores & Markets	4
Eating on Campus	4
Vegetarian/Vegan Dining	5
Sports Teams and Arenas	5
GSA Events	5
Richmond Websites	5
Entertainment	6
VCU Websites	7
Telephone Numbers	7
Essential Guide to Technology at VCU	8

The information contained in this guide is by no means all-inclusive. Though many websites and local organizations and business are named, none have sponsored the production of this guide.

Neighborhoods

Downtown: The downtown area extends East/West from the I-95/64 downtown interchange up to Belvidere and North/South from I-64 to Main Street. Known primarily for the medical campus on Broad Street and the financial district in the Main Street area, the downtown area also has several shopping districts, government services, and bars and restaurants (around 17th and 18th Streets).

The Fan: The fan stretches East/West from Belvidere to Boulevard and runs North/South from Broad Street to Main Street. The academic campus is considered part of the Fan. The fan earned its name because while Belvidere, Broad and Main are only four blocks apart they “fan” out to 9 blocks apart by the time they cross Boulevard, by the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. Things to note about the fan: Monument Avenue turns into Franklin at Lombardy, an eastbound one-way street that cuts through the Monroe Park campus. Main Street is a westward one-way street that turns into Ellwood Avenue at Boulevard. The East/West streets that cross Boulevard are Broad and Grace Streets, Monument Avenue, Park Avenue, Kensington Avenue, Stuart Avenue, Hanover Avenue, Grove Avenue, Floyd Avenue and Main Street.

The Upper Fan: The Upper fan stretches west from Boulevard up towards the Downtown Expressway (Thompson Street). There are mostly homes and apartments in the upper fan, with a few scattered restaurants and markets. The notable exception is Carytown, a shopping district located on Cary Street, an eastbound one-way street that runs from the Downtown Expressway to Boulevard. Carytown is a great place to walk around on a sunny afternoon.

The Near West End: The Near West End extends from the western side of the Downtown Expressway up to the Three Chopt and Patterson Avenue area. The Near West End has many shopping districts and housing neighborhoods; one of the more notable is near the University of Richmond and the Country Club of Virginia. The Westhampton area is located near the Grove and Libbie Avenue intersection.

The West End and Far West End: The West End extends, you guessed it, west from the Near West End at Patterson and Three Chopt to as far west as you can drive in 20 or 30 minutes. The West End is continually expanding towards Goochland County and is home to numerous apartment complexes, housing/residential areas and commercial developments, including Innsbrook and the Short Pump area. Many national businesses and restaurant chains (Target, Home Depot, Applebee’s, TGI Friday’s, etc.) can be found in the West End.

The South Side: Located south of the James River, the South Side is home to residential and commercial districts, as well as many of Richmond’s golf courses. South Side neighborhoods include Stony Point, Westover Hills, Blackwell and Bon Air.

The North Side: Neighborhoods here include Bellevue, Washington Park and Ginter Park, as well as Virginia Union University and Virginia Theological Seminary, Richmond International Raceway (RIR) and the Classic Amphitheatre at Strawberry Hill. This area begins on the north side of Broad Street.

Shockoe Bottom and Shockoe Slip: Home to shops, galleries, restaurants and bars, “The Bottom” and “The Slip”, offer loads of Richmond character. “The Slip” is located along Cary Street from about the 1200 block down to the 1800 block. “The Bottom” is in and around Main Street and 17th, 18th and 19th Streets. Close to, if not part of, the downtown area, is the scenic Canal Walk.

Church Hill: Located east of “The Bottom” up the hill on Broad Street, this area is home to some of the most historic homes in Richmond—not to mention the historical St. John’s Episcopal Church. Neighborhoods include St. John’s, Oakwood and Fulton Hill.

Jackson Ward: This area is close to the VCU Monroe Park campus and contains many original Victorian houses. It is also home to the city’s Greater Richmond Convention Center.

Oregon Hill: This small, six-block neighborhood is also close to the Monroe Park campus and contains historic Hollywood Cemetery, the resting place of several U.S. Presidents. It’s also home to Mama Zu’s, a favorite Italian restaurant on Pine Street.

Housing

Off-Campus: There are multiple options for finding apartments and houses to rent or buy in Richmond and the surrounding areas. Since most students will rent property, please consult the Richmond Yellow Pages for a list of home realtors. The following are merely suggestions, a place to start your apartment search. You may want to ask around your department to find out who rents where and why.

Off-campus VCU housing information: www.usca.vcu.edu/offcampus

Graduate School's Classifieds Web site: www.graduate.vcu.edu/community/board/classifieds.html

www.fanrentals.com

www.apartmentguide.com

www.richmond.com

Richmond Times Dispatch Classifieds (www.timesdispatch.com)

Style Weekly (www.styleweekly.com)

Parking and Transportation

www.bsv.vcu.edu/vcupark

Monroe Park Campus: There are several parking decks on the Monroe Park Campus for students to pay by the hour or semester, please consult the above VCU parking website for more information.

Important Tips:

Remember that parking on the street is limited to one or two hour time limits in most areas.

You will get ticketed and/or towed, so please pay attention to the posted signs.

Parking on the streets in the fan is limited to one-hour time limits *unless* you live in the fan and display a fan parking decal. The fan parking permits are available, with proof of lease and a utility bill, from Richmond City Hall, 900 E. Broad Street.

MCV Campus: There are a few VCU parking decks for students on the MCV Campus, please consult the parking website for more information. Also, ask members of your department to find out where they park and how much it costs per day/semester.

Important Tips:

There are several pay-by-the-day lots around the MCV Campus, ranging from \$2 to \$5 a day.

The meters on Broad Street are two hour timed parking spaces from 9am to 4pm.

Do not park in the patient lot at the hospital! Security will watch for students and the consequences can be very expensive.

Parking tips for both campuses:

You must move your car **at least 500 yards** when your meter or time has expired. There is **no feeding** of meters on either campus. You will get a ticket if you feed the meter. The meter attendants have computers that note where your car is parked and at what time they have logged its location. Moving your car two spots down or feeding the meter will result in a ticket.

The average parking ticket is \$60 and to get your car back from the impound lot can cost over \$100.

Transit Service and Commuter Parking

Visit www.bsv.vcu.edu/vcupark/transit.htm for complete information about the VCU transit service, commuter shuttle services and commuter parking services. The main commuter parking deck is located at 1111 W. Broad St. and transit service, provided by Greater Richmond Transit Company (GRTC), is available to both campuses.

GRTC

Greater Richmond Transit Company

www.ridegrtc.com

GRTC and VCU have joined forces to provide students with access to convenient transportation around Richmond with the GRTC Student Transit Pass program.

The GRTC Transit Passes are free to full-time VCU students to ride any GRTC. The pass can be picked up from the Parking Office on either campus.

Dining in Richmond

Please consult publications such as *Style Weekly*, *The Richmond Times-Dispatch*, or www.richmond.com for a complete listing of restaurants in the Richmond area. All offer an extensive listing of Richmond eateries, including reviews and suggestions.

Grocery Stores and Markets

There are grocery stores and neighborhood markets all over Richmond, please consult the Yellow Pages for one near you. The following stores are located near VCU:

Ukrop's: There is a Ukrop's located at the upper end of Carytown (3537 W Cary St). Ukrop's is open Monday through Saturday.

Kroger: There are two locations for Kroger. The first is located at 901 N. Lombardy St and the second location is at the upper end of Carytown (3507 West Cary Street), across from Ukrop's, Kroger is open seven days a week.

Ellwood Thompson's: Natural and organic grocery store located at Ellwood at Thompson Streets.

7-Eleven: There is a 7-Eleven located on the corner of Main and Harrison Streets on the Monroe Park Campus. There is also a 7-Eleven near the corner of Grace and Harrison Streets. Both of these stores are open 24 hours a day. There are no 7-Eleven stores near the MCV Campus.

Eating on Campus

Monroe Park Campus: Eating on the Monroe Park Campus is easy, affordable and convenient. Besides the university dining hall and student commons, there are several off-campus restaurants, coffee shops and convenience stores located around the intersection of Main and Harrison and also on Grace Street.

MCV Campus: Again, aside from the university and hospital cafeterias, there are several street vendors centrally located around Sanger Hall on Marshall and 11th Streets. These vendors are usually open from 11am to 2pm and are cash-only businesses. There are a few sandwich and coffee shops located around the hospitals and downtown business district; just ask students or faculty in your department where they are located.

Vegetarian/Vegan Dining

Evergreen: Chinese. Lots of vegetarian fare. 612 W. Grace St.

Harrison St. Coffee Shop: American. A vegan's delight! 402 N. Harrison St.

Panda Garden: Chinese. Extensive vegetarian menu and buffet. 935 W. Grace St.

Good Taste: Chinese. Will make any menu item into vegetarian upon request. 931 W. Grace St.

Tokyo Sushi: Japanese. Specializes in Sushi and vegetarian fare. 920 W. Grace St.

The Village Cafe: American. Check the blackboard for the daily vegetarian entree. 1001 W. Grace St.

There are many food carts on both campuses that serve vegetarian/vegan meals at a good price.

Graduate Student Association Events

In addition to monthly meetings, the GSA sponsors social events, an annual research symposium and workshops.

Socials: Held in different locations both on- and off-campus. E-mails and fliers will announce events.

Research Symposium: Held in April every year, this event allows graduate students to present their research in a formal setting. Each presenter receives a certificate of participation and a monetary award by the GSA. Information and a call for applications will be sent out to all students and graduate program directors early in the fall.

Sports Teams and Arenas

Richmond Kickers: Soccer, www.richmondkickers.com, 644-KICK.

Richmond International Raceway: NASCAR, www.rir.com, 345-RACE.

Southside Speedway: Auto racing, www.southside-speedway.com, 673-3567.

Richmond Coliseum: concerts, conventions and other sporting events such as gymnastics and WWF, www.richmondcoliseum.org, 780-4974 or 262-8100 (Ticket Master).

Virginia and Richmond Related Websites

www.richmond.com - news, arts & entertainment, calendar, local guides and free e-mail

www.ci.richmond.va.us - information on current events around Richmond

www.timesdispatch.com - the on-line version of the *Richmond Times Dispatch*

www.richmondmovies.com - local theatres, show times and current reviews

www.gatewayva.com - news website for Virginia.

www.virginia.com - information, campgrounds, maps, other Virginia websites, colleges and universities and government addresses

www.styleweekly.com - on-line version of *Style Weekly*, run by richmond.com

www.dmv.state.va.us - the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles website complete with “new to Virginia,” registration, license and license plate information

www.sbe.virginia.gov/cms - Virginia State Board of Elections, voter registration information

Entertainment

Publications such as *Style Weekly*, *Richmond Magazine*, and the “Flair” and “Weekend” sections of the *Richmond Times Dispatch* offer a complete listing of local clubs, theatres, museums and events.

The following is a selection of popular annual events and summer events.

Strawberry Hill Races: In the past, the races have taken place at Strawberry Hill Fair Grounds in Richmond. Now, the annual horse races take place out at the Colonial Downs facility, east of Richmond. Held in April, expect all day tailgating, eating, music and fun. Oh yeah, you might see a horse or two. www.strawberryhillraces.com

Foxfield Races: Horse races held twice a year in Charlottesville. Many make the hour-long trip west to enjoy the sun and festive atmosphere of the in-field tailgate parties. The fall races are in September and the spring races are in late April or early May. www.foxfieldraces.com

Easter Parade on Monument Avenue: Held on Easter Sunday along Monument Avenue, the streets are blocked off for pedestrian traffic only. Large hats and appropriately attired pets are the order of the day. Live music, jugglers, a petting zoo, food vendors and porch gatherings make for a great Easter afternoon.

The Grand Illumination: The official lighting ceremony for the holiday season is held at the James Center in downtown Richmond in early December. There is also a great illumination in Williamsburg that is worth the drive.

Greek Festival: Held in the spring from Thursday to Sunday at the Greek Orthodox Cathedral at the corner of Malvern and Grove Avenues. Greek food and entertainment.

Friday Cheers: Free concert series that runs from the end of May through the beginning of September. Located on Brown’s Island, featuring local and smaller national bands, put on by Downtown Presents.

Jumpin’: Concert series every Thursday from June to August, in the Sculpture Garden of the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts. Features an eclectic mix of bands, tickets are \$10 per show and usually sell out in advance. Season tickets go on sale in June.

Innsbrook After Hours: Located in the West End at the Innsbrook Pavilion, featuring larger national acts and local bands.

Midweek at the Boulders: The South Side’s version of Innsbrook After Hours located at the Boulders.

Midweek Mojo: Free concert series featuring local bands at the Canal Turning Basin in “the Slip.”

Fridays at Sunset: Jazz series, downtown at Kanawha Plaza. Tickets are \$10 - \$15 per show.

Summer City Fest: Over 50 performances take place throughout the city during July, most events are free to the public. Schedules are available in May.

Groovin’ in the Garden: Live music in Lewis Ginter Botanical Gardens.

Essential Guide to Technology at VCU

E-mail @VCU

All new students are required to have a VCU e-mail account to facilitate communication with instructors, classmates, and others at VCU and elsewhere. Accounts are free. To obtain your account, go to the Web site www.vcu.edu/sci/newacct.html and follow the instructions that are presented there. For general information about e-mail at VCU, see www.vcu.edu/it/email.html.

Getting Computer Accounts @VCU

In addition to e-mail accounts, computer accounts are available for accessing VCU research and scientific computing facilities. These accounts are free to all VCU students who need them. For more information or to obtain an account, visit www.vcu.edu/it/computer_accounts.html.

Personal Web Pages

In addition to e-mail accounts and computer accounts, students are able to create personal Web pages on the RamSites network. These accounts are free to all VCU students. For information about this service, please see www.vcu.edu/web/getstarted.

myVCU Portal

myVCU is your personal, customizable, web-based informational portal to VCU. myVCU will help make campus services and information both faster and easier for you to find and manage. The various portlets will allow you to view your Blackboard Courses, customize the view of the University Events Calendar, and look at your Library Record. Other available portlets include access to KnowledgeNet, Library Databases, and much more. The number of portlets is constantly expanding to enhance the capabilities of myVCU. To use myVCU, set your bookmarks to <http://my.vcu.edu> or click on the link on the VCU home page (www.vcu.edu).

Computer Help Desk

If you need help using your computer at home or on campus:

- Call the Academic Technology Help Desk at (804) 828-2227
- Or, send an e-mail to help@vcu.edu
- Or, go to www.at.vcu.edu/helpdesk
- Or, come in person to these locations:

Monroe Park Campus: Cabell Library, Room B-9

Medical Center Campus: Sanger Hall, Room B3-012

Hours of operation for the Help Desk services are listed on the Help Desk web site: www.at.vcu.edu/helpdesk. After hours leave a message and a help desk associate will return your call.

Campus Computer Labs

Several open access computer labs are available on both the Academic and VCU Medical Center Campuses. Labs are open to all students. For hours of operation and other information about these labs, please see www.at.vcu.edu/faq/computerlabs_classrooms.html.