

News Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Hampton Blackbeard Pirate Festival Returns to Downtown Hampton June 2-4

Hampton, VA- The 22nd Anniversary of [Hampton Blackbeard Pirate Festival](#) makes its way back to the City of Hampton. Join Blackbeard and more than 200 authentically-costumed pirate re-enactors, June 2-4 in Downtown Hampton. The festival is free and open to the public. Food vendors will have available for purchase a variety of seafood and international dishes, as well as festival grub like turkey legs, burgers, skewers, corn dogs, funnel cakes, shaved ice and more.

During the late 1600s and early 1700s, pirates roamed the coastal waters of Virginia and North Carolina in search of ships laden with tobacco and other goods. The marauders terrorized waterways and unsuspecting cargo ships, capturing goods, sailors and ships. Captain Edward Teach, better known as Blackbeard the Pirate, was the most daunting of these menacing outlaws. Blackbeard was finally captured and beheaded in a violent sea battle in Ocracoke, North Carolina in 1718. His severed head was impaled upon a pole near the mouth of Hampton Creek, now known as Blackbeard's Point, to serve as an unyielding reminder that piracy would not be tolerated in Colonial Virginia.

The Hampton Blackbeard Pirate Festival includes:

Pirate's Parlay **Friday, June 2, 6 - 8 p.m.**

Start hobnobbing with the Pirates on Friday night, June 2 at The Pirate's Parlay in the encampment at Mill Point Park on Eaton Street from 6-8 p.m. in downtown Hampton. Wear your finest piratical attire for this free evening of dancing outdoors to the piratical sounds of Clan McCool, and hear tales of bounty hunting and folklore as you sit alongside pirates outside their temporary, humble camping quarters.

Blackbeard's Pirate Encampment **Saturday, June 3, 10 a.m. - 10 p.m.** **Sunday, June 4, 12 - 6 p.m.** **Mill Point Park, 100 Eaton St, Hampton, VA and Downtown Hampton Waterfront**

On Saturday, June 3 and Sunday, June 4, continue your Pirate Experience free of charge on the Downtown Hampton Waterfront. Explore Blackbeard's Pirate Encampment in Mill Point Park with world-class living history interpreters teaching the skills of the sailor of the 1700s. Guests may even have the opportunity to learn how to use a cutlass, load a cannon, or sing a sea shanty. On Saturday, June 3, come attend Blackbeard's Block Party held in the large lot along Eaton Street, with musical guest, Vinyl Headlights, performing from 7-10 p.m. Adult beverages will be available for purchase at the Block Party and during most festival hours. Make sure to stay around Saturday night for **The Hampton Blackbeard Pirate Festival Fireworks Display** at 9:00 p.m. over the Hampton River!

Pirate entertainment this year includes:

- Rusty Cutlass
- Brigands
- Trial & Treasure Segment
- Chaste Treasure
- Brigands
- The Motley Tones
- Capt. Jack Sparrow & Elizabeth Swan
- Fins & Seashells
- Capt. Slackbeard & The Cut Throat Crew
- Clan McCool
- Vinyl Headlights
- Bedlum Bones
- The Motley Tones
- The Natterjacks
- Bedlum Bones

For dock space details and availability during the Blackbeard Festival contact marinas located throughout the downtown area, including the Docks at Downtown Hampton (757/727-1276), Customs House Marina (757/636-7772) and Bluewater Yachting Center (757/723-6774).

For the safety and comfort of your pets, we recommend that you leave them at home.

The 2023 Blackbeard Pirate Festival is presented by Hampton Parks, Recreation & Leisure Services, and sponsored by "Mr. Fix It." Contributing sponsors are Bass Pro Shops, LeafFilter, Mr. Rogers Windows, MSP Designs, Atlantic Communications, Inc., Capital Remodeling, M. Price Distributing, and Vacation Village Resorts. For more information on Hampton events and programs, contact the Hampton Visitor Center at (757) 727-1102, or the Hampton 311 Citizen Contact Center at (757) 727-8311, or visit blackbeardfestival.com.

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ROAD CLOSURES AND NO PARKING INFORMATION

City Parking Lot along Eaton Street (Eaton Street side closed; Wine Street side remains open to the public all weekend)

No parking on the Eaton Street side of the lot is barricaded Thursday, June 1, 2023 at 8 a.m. through Sunday, June 4, 2023 at 10 p.m.

Queen's Way, from Easton Street to Wine Street

No parking Friday, June 2, 2023, beginning at 8 a.m. through Sunday, June 4 at 10 p.m.

Road Closed/All Lanes Friday, June 2, 2023 at 2 p.m. through Sunday, June 4 at 10 p.m.

(Old Point Bank customers may access the drive-through on Queens Way from Eaton Street Friday until 6:30 p.m.)

Wine Street, from Old Point Bank Customer Parking Entrance to Settler's Landing Road

No parking Friday, June 2, 2023 beginning at 8:00 a.m. through Sunday, June 4 at 10:00 p.m.

Road Closed/All Lanes Friday, June 2, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. through Sunday, June 4 at 10:00 p.m.

(Old Point Bank Parking, Public Parking Areas, and Private Driveways Accessible)

Eaton Street, from Queen's Way to Eaton Street Parking Lot

No parking Friday, June 2, 2023 beginning at 8:00 a.m. through Sunday, June 4 at 8:00 p.m.

Road Closed/All Lanes Friday, June 2, 2023 at 2:00 p.m. through Sunday, June 4 at 8:00 p.m.

(Entrance to Mill Point Condos remains open)

Booker T. Washington Bridge on Settlers Landing Road

Partial and/or all lanes closed intermittently Saturday evening, June 3, 2023 to accommodate Fireworks Show logistics (the show begins Saturday at 9 p.m.). At 4:00 p.m., traffic will be reduced on the bridge heading into Downtown to one lane (left lane open), and then at 8:30 p.m., all bridge lanes both into and out of Downtown will be closed until 9:15 p.m. while the show is in progress. Please note posted roadside signs and obey police signals for directions.

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Partially bordered by the Hampton Roads harbor and Chesapeake Bay, Hampton, with the 344,000 sq. ft. Hampton Roads Convention Center and the award-winning Hampton Coliseum, is located in the center of Coastal Virginia and the Hampton Roads metropolitan area. Hampton is the site of America's first continuous English-speaking settlement, the site of the first arrival of Africans in English North America, and is home to such visitor attractions as the Virginia Air & Space Science Center, Fort Monroe National Monument, Hampton History Museum, Hampton University Museum, The American Theatre, among others.