

# Single in this City

For 17 weeks, thousands of people walk through Carytown and have fun with friends while enjoying the atmosphere of the most popular national, regional

I'm strolling through the streets of Carytown one warm August day with resident Brian Feeney and his golden retriever, Colby.

It's the annual Watermelon Festival. The streets are lined with flags bearing the festival's namesake, the beer is cold and watermelon rinds are everywhere. Retailers, hawking unbelievable summertime bargains, spill onto the sidewalks as dozens of bands take turns performing throughout the day. Colby doesn't really care for watermelon, but does appreciate the well-marked doggie rest stops that offer her relief from the heat. And Feeney, a graphic designer for Curtis & Co., enjoys the laid-back party atmosphere. As a 20-something single, Feeney says, "It's important to be around a bunch of other younger people. Living in Carytown, you find a lot more younger folks like me."

As Feeney and other singles have discovered, there are plenty of opportunities to come together during Greater Richmond's long temperate season. And the merrymaking is not just confined to weekends. The Midweek Mojo in the Turning Basin, dubbed the "hippest downtown cocktail party," features a variety of music—Latin,

pop/rock, swing jazz, Afro-Cuban Salsa—and Innsbrook After Hours brings long-time favorites such as the Doobie Brothers, Delbert McClinton and Blues Travelers to town for affordable, outdoor concerts.

"I like to spend time at the Canal Club; they have good shows," says Feeney. "I also like going to Legend's and Baja Bean and sitting on the porch when it's nice out."

Apparently, Feeney's sentiments are widely shared. Last year, Legend Brewing Co. sold 127,100 gallons of its micro-brewed beer. Visit Legend on a late Indian-summer afternoon and enjoy a tall, icy cold beer and their crab quesadillas. Once you sit on the deck at twilight and watch the crimson sun dip below the downtown skyline, reflecting off the buildings

and in the river below end to any day.

It's easy to spend without breaking the bank at the bars, clubs and restaurants—sure—host local music acts with minimal cover. Or spend the weekend at First Friday hopping, you join hundreds of people and hop from one gallery

Just when you thought you were better... "make some noise." Well, it doesn't rhyme, but the well-meaning point. Childless adults are organizing online and in local neighborhoods to organize activities. The (www.nokidding-richmond.com) social club for childless adults. Several guests at the first February came from as far as Louisiana. Together they make a difference.

First on the list? Coffee. I wondered where ever





“...start the month’s initial weekend at First Fridays, where instead of bar hopping, you join hundreds of other art fanciers, and hop from one gallery gala to the next.”

obably haven’t visited a  
bucks or the plethora of  
ue to Richmond. What  
ooks, poetry readings,  
y seating and, of course,

Feeney and Jennifer  
nty high-school teacher,  
oderate cost of living,  
e lowest unemployment  
l below average cost of  
come above the national  
sts that run below, your  
Apartment options range  
) townhouses to resort-  
Rents vary from \$495 to  
ocation, the number of  
nities.


to do in Richmond,” says  
om Fredericksburg. “It’s  
nks the region is pretty;  
nd lots of history. She’s  
vil War buff, you will not  
and around the relics of  
past, it’s evident that  
rly in the 21st century.  
rea has been recognized  
e Cities, which selects  
been most innovative in  
nomy.

s in many ways, and  
own twist on the subject.  
new baseball stadium in  
erfront development, to  
ig on Monument Avenue,

everyone wants to weigh in.

Feeney says, “There’s more hustle and  
bustle than there used to be. Richmond has a  
good kind of mix [of people] and that’s what I  
like.” Indeed, the region is bustling. Philip  
Morris recently relocated its corporate office  
from New York City to Richmond; it already has  
a large manufacturing presence here, and Infi-  
neon Technologies, AG, a German semicon-  
ductor maker, announced its intention to invest  
\$1 billion in a plant that would bring 1,200 high-

tech jobs to Henrico County. They join several  
Fortune 500 headquarters and other large  
companies, including Dominion Resources,  
Owens & Minor, CarMax, Capital One Financial  
Services and HCA, Inc., all of which employ  
many of Richmond’s educated, creative workers.

“I really like Richmond,” says Stocks, as she  
reflects on the blend of good places to work and  
fun places to relax like Carytown. “I feel safe and  
there’s a lot to do. It’s a good city, very friendly,  
and I like that.” 

—KATHLEEN HALL



The Midweek Mojo in the Turning Basin,  
dubbed the “hippest downtown cocktail party.”

