



# Petersburg, Virginia Economic Development Information Packet

# THE PETERSBURG, VIRGINIA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION PACKET BROUGHT TO YOU BY

The Petersburg, Virginia City Council

Mayor Samuel Parham

Vice Mayor Annette Smith-Lee

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Treska Wilson-Smith

John A. Hart Sr.

Charles Cuthbert

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Sam Parham, mayor of Petersburg adds, "As mayor of the city of Petersburg, I am proud to present this document on economic development opportunities to prospective businesses considering the city of Petersburg as their potential home. Over the past few years, we have brought back bioscience to Petersburg. Council has worked diligently over the past five years to bring AMPAC Fine Chemicals, Phlow and Civica to our city as we welcome more business partners."

Our successes with new business can be viewed online with this announcement from the Governor of Virginia, Ralph Northam:

<https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/all-releases/2021/january/headline-891601-en.html>



# Economic Development in Petersburg

From agriculture to pharmaceuticals, Petersburg, Virginia is on the cutting edge of bioscience technology



Petersburg has been a leader in bioscience for centuries as a bioagricultural giant in the South's tobacco industry and now in the pharmaceutical industry with a \$354 million grant from the Federal Government to Phlow in 2020. Petersburg will lead the United States in developing new chemical and pharmaceutical drugs and vaccines will be manufactured locally.

# Biobusiness in Petersburg

# Plane Train Automobile

Petersburg is accessible via the following paths:

- Richmond International Airport (RIC) via Interstate 95,295 or Route 1
- Train via Amtrak, CSX, Norfolk Southern
- Major Highways



Interstate 95

Interstate 295

Interstate 85

Route 460

Route 360

Route 36

Route 1

Route 301

Nearly 70% of the US population can reach Petersburg within a day's drive or by train or plane in 3-4 hours.

Petersburg will complete the Park and Ride facility in late 2021 that will house 200+ cars for daily commuters from surrounding counties, cities and towns.

Petersburg, Virginia was settled in the 17th century and incorporated in 1748. After the American Revolution, Petersburg became a hub for railroads and by 1860, was the 2nd largest city in Virginia. The City is located 100 miles south of Washington DC and 25 miles from Virginia's capital, Richmond. Detail history segments from NPR appear on slide 9 of this presentation.

## Accessibility to Petersburg



Pharmaceutical and chemical companies, AMPAC Fine Chemicals (AFC), Phlow and Civica will have production facilities located on a 200 acre campus in Petersburg. Technology developed at nearby Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) School of Engineering has enabled these companies to produce drugs and vaccines in a continuous flow. Instead of outsourcing 80% of its generic drugs, the US will be able to produce current and future pharmaceutical compounds internally. With three colleges/universities in the Petersburg area, companies will be able to employ graduates from any of the following:

- **Virginia Commonwealth University**

VCU is a public research university in Richmond, Virginia. VCU was founded in 1838 as the medical department of Hampden–Sydney College, becoming the Medical College of Virginia in 1854. In 1968, the Virginia General Assembly merged MCV with the Richmond Professional Institute, founded in 1917, to create Virginia Commonwealth University.

- **Virginia State University**

Virginia State University is a historically black public land-grant university in Ettrick, Virginia. Founded on March 6, 1882, Virginia State developed as the United State's first fully state-supported four-year institution of higher learning for black Americans.

- **Richard Bland College of William and Mary**

Richard Bland College is a public junior college associated with the College of William and Mary and located in Prince George County, Virginia. Richard Bland College was established in 1960 by the Virginia General Assembly as a branch of the College of William and Mary under the umbrella of "the Colleges of William and Mary"

- **John Tyler Community College**

John Tyler Community College, which opened in 1967, is named after Virginia native John Tyler, the tenth president of the United States. It serves the cities of Colonial Heights, Hopewell and Petersburg and the counties of Amelia, Charles City, Chesterfield, Dinwiddie, Prince George, Surry and Sussex.



# Higher Education near Petersburg

# Business Sectors

According to the Petersburg Chamber of Commerce (2018) Petersburg is home to over 4,221 businesses with 31,750 citizens

The types of businesses include the following:

- Banking
- Business and professional services
- Construction
- Education
- Government
- Health Care
- Manufacturing, production and wholesale
- Pharmaceutical and BioScience
- Real estate, moving and storage

The largest employers in the area are:

- Fort Lee
- Bon Secours Medical Hospital
- City of Petersburg Government and Schools
- Walmart



## Employment in Petersburg

# Benefits of living and working in Petersburg

According to Redfin.com, the cost of living in Petersburg is rated as “very competitive.” The median sale price of a home is \$170,000 or \$117 per sq foot. Data from areavibes.com also rates the city’s housing costs at 11% below the national average and ranks primary education test scores 22% higher than the national average.

Petersburg is home to Southside Medical Hospital, a 300-bed hospital. Founded in 1948 by the City of Petersburg, it was sold to Bon Secours Hospitals in 2019.

Old Towne Petersburg is consistently used as movie and television backdrops because of its nearly intact 1700s and 1800s architecture. *Movies, Harriet* and *Lincoln* were filmed in Petersburg; television shows, *Turn* and *Mercy Street* were also filmed here. The Virginia Film Office, which is a division of Virginia Tourism and Virginia’s Economic Development Partnership works with the Petersburg government to assuage permitting and policing for filming on location in a variety of areas around the city.

Old Towne has over 20 restaurants within walking distance of the courthouse and boasts numerous museums and shops which are part of the tourism brochure also located on this website.



*Lincoln, Harriet* and *Walking Dead* were filmed here at The Southside Depot.

## Assets in Petersburg

# Regional and National Recognition



CBS6 Saturday Morning with Phlow  
[Click here to watch video](#)



Virginia Municipal League  
Local Champion Awards 2020 Distributed statewide during the  
VML digital annual conference Oct 2020

[Click here to watch video](#)



ABC8/WRIC interview with Deputy City Manager  
Darnetta Tyus covering Cares Act Business Grants for  
Petersburg businesses

[Click here to watch video](#)



How the movie Harriet was filmed in Petersburg  
[Click here to watch video](#)

# TV Media in Petersburg

# Local Media in Petersburg

## ABC8/WRIC

[Petersburg delivering 7,500 Thanksgiving meals to residents | 8News](#)

## NBC12/WWBT

[https://www.nbc12.com/2020/11/15/petersburg-announces-holiday-meals-initiative/](#)

## CBS6/WTVR

### Thanksgiving 2020

[https://www.wtvr.com/our-rva/feed-the-need-city-restaurants-team-up-to-feed-families-in-petersburg](#)

# TV Media in Petersburg

# Regional and National Recognition

Links to radio media on NPR both locally and nationally  
These segments have aired on over 150 NPR stations across the US and  
The Armed Forces Radio Network from 2015 through 2020

The Keziah Affair, 1858	<a href="https://www.amomentintime.com/the-keziah-affair-1858/">https://www.amomentintime.com/the-keziah-affair-1858/</a>
The Lincoln and Grant Meeting	<a href="https://www.amomentintime.com/the-lincoln-and-grant-meeting/">https://www.amomentintime.com/the-lincoln-and-grant-meeting/</a>
Revolutionary War Battle of Petersburg	<a href="https://www.amomentintime.com/revolutionary-war-battle-of-petersburg/">https://www.amomentintime.com/revolutionary-war-battle-of-petersburg/</a>
Peter Jones-A Mystery	<a href="https://www.amomentintime.com/peter-jones-a-mystery/">https://www.amomentintime.com/peter-jones-a-mystery/</a>
Petersburg Cotton Industry	<a href="https://www.amomentintime.com/petersburg-cotton-industry/">https://www.amomentintime.com/petersburg-cotton-industry/</a>
Petersburg Harbor and Port	<a href="https://www.amomentintime.com/petersburg-harbor-and-port/">https://www.amomentintime.com/petersburg-harbor-and-port/</a>
Old Towne Petersburg P1	<a href="https://www.amomentintime.com/old-towne-petersburg-i/">https://www.amomentintime.com/old-towne-petersburg-i/</a>
Old Towne Petersburg P2	<a href="https://www.amomentintime.com/old-towne-petersburg-ii/">https://www.amomentintime.com/old-towne-petersburg-ii/</a>
McKenney Library Sit In 1960	<a href="https://www.amomentintime.com/mckenney-library-sit-in-1960/">https://www.amomentintime.com/mckenney-library-sit-in-1960/</a>
Petersburg Jones Trading Station	<a href="https://www.amomentintime.com/peter-jones-trading-station/">https://www.amomentintime.com/peter-jones-trading-station/</a>

A Moment in Time is hosted and produced by Dan Roberts, Professor of History at the University of Richmond  
Each of the segments also appears on SoundCloud across the globe



## Radio Media in Petersburg

# Local Recognition

## Links to radio media

<https://newsradiowrva.radio.com/media/audio-channel/sam-parham-and-aretha-ferrell-benavides-may-27-2020>

John Reid Show on WRVA May 2020  
Announcement of Phlow grant for the City of Petersburg

<https://newsradiowrva.radio.com/media/audio-channel/aretha-ferrell-benavides-july-22-2020>

John Reid Show on WRVA Sept 2020 Announcement of positive fund balance

# Radio Media in Petersburg

# National and Regional Magazine Recognition

## Links to print media



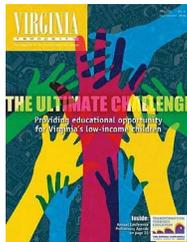
<https://icma.org/articles/pm-magazine/reconnecting-petersburg-virginia>

ICMA Magazine December 2020



<https://www.vml.org/vol-55-no-7-september-2020/>

VML Town and City Spotlight September 2020 Page 29



[https://vml.org/wp-content/uploads/pdf/VTCJulAug2018\\_web.pdf](https://vml.org/wp-content/uploads/pdf/VTCJulAug2018_web.pdf)

VML Town and City Spotlight August 2018 Page 24



<https://pamplinpark.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Petersburg.pdf>

AAA Mid Atlantic Magazine July 2019



<http://www.virginaliving.com/culture/petersburg-rising/> Virginia Living Magazine

March 2019

# Print Media in Petersburg

# The Team

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