 história

In 2007, Blacksburg became the first town in the Commonwealth of Virginia to earn the Sierra Club’s “cooldown” designation for its commitment to reducing carbon dioxide emissions. The town has since converted its public fleet to biodiesel fuel. And Blacksburg’s downtown merchants will recycle your electronic household waste free of charge—raising customer service to atmospheric heights!

A commitment to “smart growth” is evidenced in the green spaces, bioswales, and buildings of Blacksburg.

mission statement

Downtown Blacksburg, Inc. (DBI) is an association of merchants, property owners, and downtown advocates whose mission is to sustain a dynamic, vital, and diverse community through marketing, events, economic development, and leadership.

annual events

Each year, DBI hosts numerous downtown events. All proceeds are reinvested right back into the community. DBI has provided funding for downtown park benches, brick pavers, street lamps, the Farmers Market, the Lyric Theatre, Blacksburg’s Hand-in-Hand Playground, and more.

Senior Discount Mondays

Come downtown to enjoy the 10% discount at the Lyric Theatre with DBI membership, then grab some lunch or do a little shopping to enjoy all of these wonderful discounts. 4-hour parking is available in the Progress Street Parking Lot and Kent Square Parking Garage.

Summer Solstice Festival

June, Third Saturday: Welcome summer with midway games, dog parade, 5k race, live entertainment, beer garden, and food.

Art at the Market

July, Third Saturday: Local artists display and sell their works of art. Held in conjunction with Breakfast at the Farmers Market.

Steep Out

August, First Friday and Saturday: A Blacksburg tradition! More than 100 craft vendors, three stages of live entertainment, great food, fun, and more.

Halloween Happenings

October 1st & 2nd: Downtown trick-or-treating, special entertainment, costume contest, and other Halloween activities for the young and the young at heart.

Winter Lights & Tubac Christmas

December, First Friday: In conjunction with Town of Blacksburg Holiday Parade. Celebrate the season—candles, holiday lights, hot cider and hot chocolate, visits with Santa, and more.

Downtown Blacksburg, Inc. also partners with other groups during the year for events such as the International Street Fair, Pretty in Pink Ladies’ Night, and other activities promoting the downtown community. In addition, DBI sponsors weekly and monthly retail promotions, including Senior Discount Mondays and Art Walks.

The Blackburg Farmers Market began with a simple structure in 1995. In late 2006, construction of the new Market Square Park was completed, creating an updated site for the vibrant Farmers Market and a gathering space for community activities.

FIVE CHIMNEYS

Circa 1852, stands corner of Washington Street and Draper Road. The Queen Anne porch is distinctive to the home’s original construction in 1852. It underwent numerous renovations in the 1950s. The Town of Blacksburg acquired the property in 1987. It now serves as the Town’s Community Relations Office, including WTOP Channel 2, community access television, and the administrative office of the Blackburg Museum. Visitors are welcome to stop in to view the interior or enjoy the large front yard.

OLD PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Circa 1845, 117 South Main Street

The Presbyterian built a church on Main Street in 1847. In 1890, it was replaced by a new building on the street today and one of the first surviving buildings in Blacksburg constructed before the Civil War. William Thomas, owner of the Thomas Corner Houses, donated the land, land the cornerstone, and contributed “stone and labor” to the construction of the church. The building now houses a restaurant, Cafe Fish Tacos.

PRICE HOUSE AND GARDEN PARK

Circa 1853, north corner of Washington and Lee Streets

James C. Kent built this log and frame house, then valued at $400, in the mid-nineteenth century. When Nelson Price, a longtime resident of the house, passed away in 1915, it was donated to the Town of Blacksburg. It now serves as the Town’s Nature Center.

ST. LUKES AND OLD FELLOWS HALL

Circa 1835, 201 Gilbert Street

For over 160 years, this simple two-story structure served as a gathering place and provided support and services otherwise unavailable to African American residents. In 1995, the Old Fellows Hall was placed on the Virginia Landmarks Register and the National Register of Historic Places. The museum exhibit is free and open to the public and offers a variety of events throughout the year.

THOMAS CONNER HOUSE

Circa 1876, 104 Draper Road

Built by William Howard Thomas in the late nineteenth century, the house features unique details such as the semi-circular arches above the windows. The home is owned by the Town of Blacksburg and leased to Virginia Tech.

Blackburg, Virginia

A Visitor’s Guide to Merchants, Restaurants, & Services

The Lyric Theatre, established in the early 2000s and renovated in 1999, now operates as a not-for-profit movie theatre and community center and is listed on the Virginia and National Register of Historic Places as a part of the Downtown Blacksburg Historic District.

Lyric

The Lyric is Blacksburg’s small, independent movie theatre. The Lyric is a not-for-profit volunteer-run theatre that provides a wide range of movie choices, including independent, foreign, and classic films. The theatre is open to the public, and admission is based on a sliding scale.

The Armory

The Armory was built in 1936, and it served as a military training facility during World War II. After the war, it was converted into a civilian facility and became home to the Virginia Tech Art Center. In 2007, the Armory was renovated and transformed into a multi-use venue for cultural events such as concerts, plays, and art exhibitions.

Regional arts & culture district

Recognized by the Commonwealth as an “arts & culture district,” Blacksburg’s downtown is home to several public and private galleries, the Lyric Theatre and the Community Arts Information Office. It is also adjacent to the Virginia Tech Arts Initiative, which includes several galleries, an experimental theatre, and a regional center for performing arts.