



# CHESAPEAKE CITY CANAL DAY

## *canal day was born*

in Chesapeake City some 33 years ago, when members of the Chesapeake City District Civic Association (CCDCA) celebrated the 150th anniversary of the opening of the Chesapeake and Delaware Canal with a small venue that would allow area scouts, fire companies, and other nonprofits to make a little extra money.

What began with a few folding tables near the town wharf became a local tradition that grew to encompass adjacent streets, as well. Today it continues to attract visitors—by the thousands—with almost 200 craft, gift, and food vendors on the town's streets, music in the park, activities for kids, and a chance to visit local shops or just sit by the water and enjoy the view.

The face of Canal Day changed and grew along with the Victorian town's rebirth as an historic landmark, but its purpose remains the same—to fund maintenance of the CCDCA's sole historic property, Franklin Hall (circa 1870), and the adjacent Pell Gardens, both of which overlook the canal and Chesapeake City's small harbor, Back Creek Basin, which fills with boating revelers every Canal Day.

Today, Canal Day visitors can browse through a seemingly endless variety of items, and there is something for everyone. Vendors line both sides of several city streets, as well as the wharf.

Although the sidewalks are usually packed, you can always slip into a shop for a visit (and a welcome respite from the heat). Afterward, follow your nose down to the basin, where nonprofit vendors load up grills with chicken, crab cakes, burgers, and more. You can wash it down with cold beer, sodas, water, or fresh-squeezed lemonade (don't try taking any open liquor or beer containers outside of Pell Gardens, though).

Some people have said that boaters who visit for Canal Day and pack the basin provide their own show, but for the past several years, law enforcement has reined in unruly revelers and made sure the basin has enough open space.

Once Canal Day gets underway, U.S. Coast Guard personnel (assisted by the local Coast Guard Auxiliary) patrol the crowded basin and often receive a good-natured hosing from boaters with water guns. After all, it can get hot enough in late June to make anyone want to jump in and cool off! ☀

**find out more** →

This year's Canal Day takes place June 27th.  
For more information, call 410-885-2415 or visit  
[www.chesapeakecity.com](http://www.chesapeakecity.com).



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