

DID YOU KNOW?

Ashland is home to a diverse group of civic leaders and trailblazers. John R. Fleming was the first African-American to serve on the Hanover County School Board from 1977 to 1981, and he was an early advocate for vocational studies. Ashland native Lester Jackson organized the Hanover County Training School's first baseball team, pulling double-duty as a player and coach. In 1933 he began his professional baseball career as a player for the Jacksonville Redcaps, eventually playing with Jackie Robinson and Josh Gibson.

RECREATION

Poor Farm Park is 254 acres of activity, with fields, beach-volleyball courts, mountain-biking trails, a horseshoe pit and more. You'll also get your exercise at Kings Dominion in Doswell, alternating between its more than 60 rides (including the spinning pendulum-based ride Delirium, scheduled to open this spring) and splashing around in Soak City, 20 acres of water-slides, wave pools and rides.



WESTERN HANOVER COUNTY

Western Hanover County includes the bustle of Interstate 95 and the quiet country roads running through Beaverdam.

ASHLAND

The town is 15 miles north of Richmond and dubbed "the Center of the Universe."

LOOKING FORWARD

Owners Jean and A.D. Whittaker donated the Ashland Theater, built in 1940, to the town of Ashland. Pop-up showings and events have been held regularly as the theater continues to raise funds for restoration and preservation. The town's landmark movie theater is now a nonprofit and as of press time, is in the process of acquiring an industrial revitalization grant to assist with costs.

ENTERTAINMENT

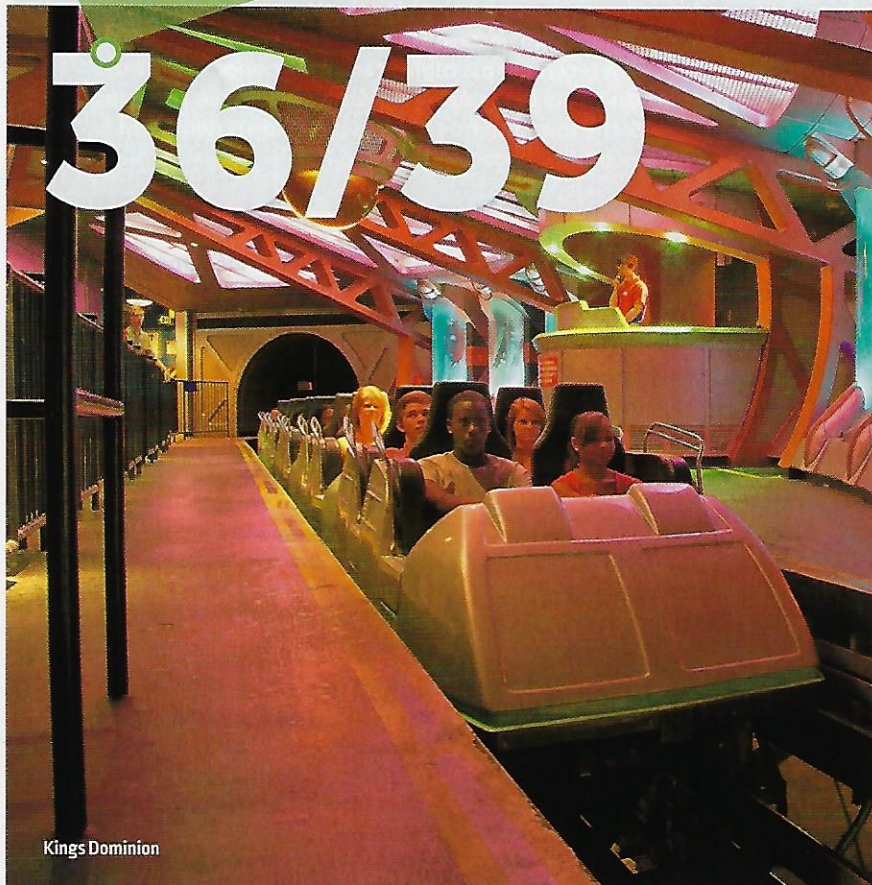
Ashland Coffee & Tea is this area's answer to Nashville's Bluebird Café, with a Songwriter's Showdown that brings in contestants weekly. Virginia Repertory Theatre at Hanover Tavern on Route 301 is a go-to place for four or five productions a year.

THE VIBE

Some people immediately feel right at home in the small-town splendor of Ashland, the self-proclaimed "Center of the Universe." A charming railroad town, it's home to the liberal-arts institution Randolph-Macon College, Victorian homes and trains rumbling right through the center of town. Others prefer simple country living out in Beaverdam or Montpelier.

SHOPPING

Henrico County's Virginia Center Commons gives folk in these parts a mall with a movie theater and restaurants. Retail along routes 1 and 54 near Ashland features the usual suspects for groceries and shopping-center mainstays, but for Southern specialties and a step back in time, Cross Bros. Grocery is your place. Bass Pro Shops at Winding Brook is like an amusement park that sells camping gear, so it's worth the trip. Ashland's unique boutiques and antique shops draw folks from miles around.



Kings Dominion