



**For Immediate Release**

Contact: Krystal King  
Marketing Assistant  
757-393-5143 EXT 4264  
[krystal.king@portsmouthva.gov](mailto:krystal.king@portsmouthva.gov)

## **Portsmouth Begins Festival Season**

### **28<sup>th</sup> Annual UMOJA Festival**

Kick starting the festival season with a bang is Portsmouth's 28<sup>th</sup> Annual UMOJA Festival. Umoja is a Kiswahili word meaning unity. It is a celebration of family, community and nation. Beginning in 1991, Portsmouth realized the importance of cultural diversity, and the benefits of community exploration. Welcoming all surrounding cities to the Portsmouth coast line, the Umoja Festival starts Friday, May 25 through Sunday, May 27. Enjoy amazing food, live music, market styled shopping and African-American heritage tours. Get your tickets early at [www.pavilionconcerts.com](http://www.pavilionconcerts.com) for the Brian McKnight and Chrisette Michele concert scheduled for Saturday, May 26, at 7:30 p.m. For questions call 393-8481.

### **134<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial Day Parade**

What is known to be one of the longest running Memorial Day parades in the country, the City of Portsmouth's 134<sup>th</sup> Annual Memorial Day Parade, will be held Monday, May 28. Since 1884, Portsmouth has recognized and honored the sacrifices of the brave men and women in the United States Armed Forces. Starting at 10 a.m., the parade features floats, marching bands, military units and plenty of excitement.

### **Seawall Music Festival & Fireworks**

Beginning Friday, June 8 and Saturday, June 9, Portsmouth features live musical performers from your local favorites! Starting at 6 p.m. on Friday and 2 p.m. on Saturday, bring your lawn chairs and umbrellas and get ready to relax to some feel good music. Saturday night at 8 p.m., come out to hear the national recording artist, Heatwave, followed by a great fireworks display! Bring the kids to enjoy the children's activities and have a family fun day! For questions call 393-8481.

### **Sunset Thursdays Return**

The Original Rhondels kick off the Sunset Thursdays concert series on June 7. This is a free concert series of summer shows. All performances will take place on Thursday evening at 6:30 pm. Come relax and enjoy great music, food and beverages, while watching the stunning sunset overlooking the Elizabeth River from High Street Landing. There will be no rain dates, if the event is cancelled due to inclement weather, it will not be rescheduled. For more information please call 393-5111 or visit <http://www.portsvaevents.com/>.

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### **Marketing and Communications**

801 Crawford Street • 5th Floor • Portsmouth, VA 23704  
Office: (757) 393-5143 • Fax: (757) 393-8943 • Web Address: [www.portsmouthva.gov](http://www.portsmouthva.gov)