



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Portsmouth Museums, Libraries and Historical Society Partner to Host Photo Exhibit**

**(PORTSMOUTH, VA - January 28, 2019)** - Portsmouth Museums, the Portsmouth Public Library and the African-American Historical Society have partnered to produce three photo exhibits that will remain on display through the end of February.

Here are the exhibits and descriptions:

**Portraits of Service: Portsmouth African Americans in the Military 1946 - 1967**  
**Location: Portsmouth City Hall , 801 Crawford Street, First Floor**  
**NOW - February 28, 2019**

Portraits of Service: Portsmouth African Americans in the Military 1946 - 1967 features photographs from the Main Library's Local History Room and are specifically from the Lee Rodgers Collection of photographs. Lee Rodgers (b.1899, d.1969) was a chronicler of mid-20th-century Black life in Portsmouth through his column, Colored Notes, published in the Portsmouth Star newspaper. Through Rodgers' "Notes," readers got a summary of African-American news, names, and happenings in Portsmouth in the post-WWII period. The Lee Rodgers Collection of historical photographs is an invaluable resource for researchers and history lovers today. During the postwar period, Colored Notes published uniformed portraits and snapshots with brief descriptions of the service members' achievements so that family and friends back home in Portsmouth could keep up with their family members who were in the military. According to Curator of History Diane Cripps; "I feel I got to know some of the people in the photos, who were serving their country decades ago." Each photo is displayed with its original newspaper caption.

**Vintage Norcom: A Selection of Historical Images from I.C. Norcom High School**  
**Location Portsmouth Main Branch Library , 601 Court Street**  
**NOW - February 28, 2019**

Vintage Norcom: A Selection of Historical Images from I.C. Norcom High School was first prepared for a reunion of I.C. Norcom High School alumni which took place last fall. The museum installed it temporarily at the Portsmouth Colored Community Library Museum for the reunion. For Black History Month, however, we have installed the images on display boards at the Main Library on Court Street, where it will also remain until the end of February.

### **Marketing and Communications**

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**A Steady Cycle of Lively Events: The African American Social Scene in Postwar Portsmouth**  
**Location: Portsmouth Community Colored Library Museum , 904 Elm Avenue**  
**NOW - October 2020**

At the Portsmouth Colored Community Library, there is a new exhibit on the south side of the gallery space. It's titled A Steady Cycle of Lively Events: The African American Social Scene in Postwar Portsmouth. It tells stories of social and recreational activities and events that were sponsored by schools, social clubs, Greek societies, and churches, all within the context of segregated, mid-20th century Portsmouth. This exhibit remains on display until October 2020.

For more information about these exhibits and other Black History Month activities, contact the Museums at 757-393-8983.

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