



For Immediate Release

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Countdown Begins for Portsmouth's Active and Distinct Concert and Festival Season

(PORTSMOUTH, VIRGINIA – APRIL 25, 2019) – Spring has finally arrived and that means not only high pollen counts across the region, but it also represents the beginning of festival season in the old port city. Residents and visitors in Portsmouth have a variety of family-oriented functions to participate. Mark your calendars while perusing the list of upcoming events:

Paradise Creek Nature Park Earth Day Celebration

Saturday, April 27, at 10 a.m. Celebrate the planet with a tree planting, nature walks, farmers market, crafts and the grand opening of the TowneBank River Playground. Free and open to the public.

Coffee Concert featuring Jupiter String Quartet

Tuesday, April 30, 10:30 a.m. St. John's Episcopal Church, Portsmouth Chamber music fans have a treat in store with this acclaimed ensemble, as the Dallas Morning News confirms: "Every so often a performance leaves us in awe of its loving sophistication, its attention to the finest details...that's how it was with the Jupiter String Quartet." This program funded in part by the City of Portsmouth and the Portsmouth Museum and Fine Arts Commission. For tickets, visit:
<https://secure.vafest.org/single/eventDetail.aspx?p=723>

Music Maker Blues Revue Thursday, May 2, 7 p.m.

Roger Brown's Restaurant & Sports Bar

A hit from last year's Virginia Arts Festival, the *Music Maker Blues Revue* brings storied blues players back to the stage, giving eager audiences a rare opportunity to hear some of the pioneers of the blues. Discover artists who have shared the stage with such greats as Ray Charles, B.B. King, and many others — it's not just a living lesson in musical history, this show rocks the house! Those who would like to see the exhibit *Our Living Past: A Platinum Portrait of Music Makers* before going to the performance are invited to the Portsmouth Art & Cultural Center at 400 High Street (enter from Court Street). It will be open the night of show until 7 p.m. Free for ticket holders. Non-ticket holders, \$3. To purchase tickets, visit:

<https://secure.vafest.org/single/eventDetail.aspx?p=729>

First Friday: Concert in the Courtyard

Friday May 3, at 5 p.m. Enjoy free admission for exhibits and musical entertainment in the courtyard of the Portsmouth Art & Cultural Center.

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First Saturday: Music by *Who We Are Not*

Saturday, May 4, at 10 a.m. Enjoy free admission to the exhibits Horizons: As Above, So Below; Our Living Past: A Platinum Portrait of Music Makers and the 2019 Outdoor Sculpture. Music by artists Joe Talley and Pamela Jo Sward of *Who We Are Not* beginning at 11 a.m.

Police Unity Tour Concert

Thursday, May 9, 6:30 p.m.

Join us for the **Police Unity Tour Concert** featuring *Hotcakes*. Support our Law Enforcement Officers as they prepare to ride their bicycles in the Police Unity Tour, from Portsmouth to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, D.C. All of these events are to raise awareness about those officers who have died in the line of duty and to raise funds for the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. The concert is free and open to the public.

29th Annual UMOJA Festival

May 24-26, 2019: Festival Park, 16 Crawford Circle

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 24 through Sunday, May 26. Enjoy amazing food, live music, market styled shopping and African-American heritage tours. All concerts and activities are free and open to the public. For more information, call 757-393-8481.

Elizabeth River Run

Saturday, May 25, 8 a.m. Festival Park, 16 Crawford Circle

This event is one of the oldest races in Hampton Roads and is approaching its 40th birthday. Staged at the Pavilion, the route takes runners through Olde Towne, the Portsmouth Naval Hospital, and along the Elizabeth River. The after race party features a DJ, food, and adult beverages. The Elizabeth River Run is a partnership between the Portsmouth Museums Foundation and the Tidewater Striders. Net proceeds go to the Portsmouth Museums Foundation for the benefit of the Children's Museum of Virginia. Museum members can support it by registering here:

<http://www.tidewaterstriders.com/races/race-schedule>

135th Annual Memorial Day Parade

One of the longest running Memorial Day parades in the country, the City of Portsmouth's 135th Annual Memorial Day Parade, takes place Monday, May 27. 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.

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42nd Annual Seawall Music Festival

Beginning Friday, June 7 and Saturday, June 8, this festival 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. Fireworks follow the national act on Saturday night. Bring the kids to enjoy the children's activities and have a family fun day! For questions call 757-393-8481.

Sunset Thursdays

Strictly Bizzness kicks off the Sunset Thursdays' concert series on June 13. This is a free concert series of summer shows. All performances will take place on Thursday evening at 6:30 p.m. Come relax and enjoy great music, food and beverages, while watching the stunning sunset overlooking the Elizabeth River from High Street Landing. For more information please call 757-393-5111 or visit <http://www.portsvaevents.com/>.

31st Annual Cock Island Race

High Street Landing

Touted as one of the largest sailing events on the east coast, the Cock Island Race will kick off Friday, June 14 at 5 p.m., with music and pre-race party. On Saturday, June 15, racing begins at 9 a.m. More than 150 boats will participate.

49th Annual Seawall Art Show

Saturday, August 24 – Sunday, August 25 – High Street between Crawford and Court streets

Two city blocks, on High Street between Crawford and Court streets, will be filled with artists from up and down the east coast. You'll find painters, sculptors, handwoven cloth, jewelry, pottery and more. Join us for the 49th Annual Seawall Art Show. For more information, visit

<https://www.seawallartshow.org/>.

Union Bank & Trust Pavilion Concerts

- **Styx** - Thursday, June 20
- **Slightly Stoopid** with special guests **Tribal Seeds, Matisyahu & HIRIE** – Fri., June 21, at 6 p.m.
- **Lionel Richie** - Wednesday, July 10 at 8 p.m.
- **moe. and Blues Traveler** with special guest **G. Love** – Mon., July 15, at 5:30 p.m.
- FM99 presents **Godsmack** - Friday, July 19, at 8 p.m.
- **Dwight Yoakam** with special guest **The Cadillac Three** – Fri., August 16, at 8 p.m.
- **Gladys Knight** with special guest **The Manhattans** featuring **Gerald Alston** – Sat., August 17, at 8 p.m.
- **106.9 The Fox** presents **The Australian Pink Floyd Show** - Sunday, August 25, at 7:30 p.m.
- **Judah & the Lion** - Saturday, September 7, at 8 p.m.

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Walk the Arts

Saturday, September 14, 4 p.m. Middle Street Mall

Enjoy strolling through the new Portsmouth Cultural Arts District to view more than a dozen examples of public art that are scattered throughout Olde Towne. On this free guided walking tour, you will see whimsical murals like a two-story tall speckled trout as well as unique art that honors historic Portsmouth citizens and events. Please call 757-405-3500 for more information. Sponsored by the Olde Towne Business Association, the Portsmouth Museum and Fine Arts Commission, and the Portsmouth Museums.

Coast Guard 5th Annual Road Rage Race

Saturday, August 3, 7 a.m. Festival Park, 16 Crawford Circle

The annual Coast Guard event takes place in Portsmouth. The 10K run begins at 7 a.m. with the 5K beginning at 9 a.m., and the Sea Otter 1/4 Mile begins at 10 a.m. Awards and prizes will be awarded for each event and in category. For more information, visit <https://www.roadrageevents.com/home.html>.

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