

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUFFOLK PUBLIC LIBRARY CELEBRATES AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

SUFFOLK, VA (February 2, 2017) Suffolk is rich in African American History and throughout February, African American History Month, the Suffolk Public Library is offering many opportunities for the community to come together and learn more about it.

Genealogy is one way to look back and make personal connections throughout history. On Thursday, February 16th from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., Eric Sheppard will be visiting the Morgan Memorial Library to share his genealogical success story. Sheppard is a relative of former slave Moses Grandy, and will discuss his ancestor's history as a member of a maroon colony in the Great Dismal Swamp, and his decades-long journey to trace his genealogy. Preceding Mr. Sheppard's presentation will be an overview of the library's genealogical resources.

On Saturday, February 18th, the North Suffolk Library is hosting an event about life in the Great Dismal Swamp from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The library will show a screening of *Dismal History*, a documentary that examines the history of maroon communities of runaway slaves and servants living in the Great Dismal Swamp. Those attending will enjoy a conversation with Dr. Imtiaz Habib of Old Dominion University,

one of the film's producers. Following the film, naturalist Penny Lazauskas will speak about the history and environment of the Great Dismal Swamp and the challenges maroon communities faced.

In continuation of the library's *Afternoon Conversations* series at the Phillips-Dawson House, Suffolk historian and lecturer Therbia Parker will present there on Tuesday, February 21st from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Parker will exhibit his collection of African American memorabilia and speak about Jim Crow at this session of the *Afternoon Conversations* series. The Phillips-Dawson House is home to the Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society and is located at 137 Bank Street.

All three of these events are free and anyone is welcome to attend. Registration is not required.

To learn more about the Suffolk Public Library, visit www.suffolkpubliclibrary.com. Follow the library on Twitter @SufPubLib and check for updates on Facebook at Facebook.com/SuffolkPublicLibrary.

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