

**NEWS RELEASE**  
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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February 3, 2015

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**UPDATE**

SUFFOLK, Virginia (February 1, 2015) The outdoor Groundhog Day Celebration scheduled for Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, has been cancelled due to forecasted rain. The event will not be rescheduled.

**4<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GROUNDHOG DAY CELEBRATION**

SUFFOLK, Virginia (February 3, 2015) Suffolk Tourism is partnering with the Early Childhood Development Commission (ECDC), the Suffolk Art Gallery and the Suffolk Public Library to celebrate Groundhog Day, on Monday, February 2, 2015, from 9:30 until 11:30 a.m. at the Suffolk Visitor Center Pavilion. This free, kid-focused event will include a petting zoo by The Teeny Tiny Farm, Groundhog Day crafts, Playdoh<sup>®</sup> and blocks stations, as well as storytelling. The Suffolk Public Library will also be signing up individuals for library cards. Attendees are encouraged to bundle up for the outdoor event. Families and pre-school groups are welcome to provide their own snacks. The Suffolk Visitor Center Pavilion is located behind the Historic Nansemond County Courthouse at 524 North Main Street. Please call 514-4130 or visit [www.suffolk-fun.com](http://www.suffolk-fun.com) for additional information.

## **Groundhog Day History ([www.groundhog.org](http://www.groundhog.org))**

### **European Roots**

*(Adapted from "Groundhog Day: 1886 to 1992" by Bill Anderson)*

*Groundhog Day, February 2nd, is a popular tradition in the United States. It is also a legend that traverses centuries, its origins clouded in the mists of time with ethnic cultures and animals awakening on specific dates. Myths such as this tie our present to the distant past when nature did, indeed, influence our lives. It is the day that the Groundhog comes out of his hole after a long winter sleep to look for his shadow. If he sees it, he regards it as an omen of six more weeks of bad weather and returns to his hole. If the day is cloudy and, hence, shadowless, he takes it as a sign of spring and stays above ground.*

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