

## NEWS RELEASE

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### CELEBRATING LOCAL HISTORY: SUFFOLK LIBRARY PARTNERS WITH SUFFOLK-NANSEMOND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

SUFFOLK, VA (June 3, 2016) The Suffolk Public Library (SPL) is excited to partner with the Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society and bring a series of conversations to the Phillips-Dawson House this Summer spotlighting local history and talent. SPL and the Historical Society hope to engage the community in learning more about the history of the area they live in, and inspire them to look at the past, present, and the future.

The opening event, *Daughters of Suffolk*, introduces authors Jeanice Brown Thomas and Margaret E.M. Tolbert in a discussion of their books about overcoming adversity while growing up in Suffolk during the Civil Rights struggle. This event will take place from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, June 11<sup>th</sup>. Both women have inspirational stories to share detailing their experiences during challenging times, and copies of their books will be available for purchase at the end of the event.

To celebrate 100 years of the famous Mr. Peanut, there will be an exhibit on Tuesday, July 12<sup>th</sup> from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. showcasing the original Mr. Peanut drawings by Antonio Gentile, the fourteen year old boy at the time who created the drawing which

later became Mr. Peanut. Gentile's nephew, Robert Slade, will journey through Gentile's interesting but relatively short life and his relationship with the Obici family.

In continuation of SPL's Afternoon Conversations Series, the internationally-renowned Chrysler Museum of Art will be at the Phillips-Dawson House on Tuesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. with their program, *Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow*. Community Engagement Manager Michael Berlucchi will be speaking about the museum's past, their present, and the vision of their future.

All events are free and open to the public, and light refreshments will be available.

The Phillips-Dawson House is located at 137 Bank Street in Downtown Suffolk and is the current headquarters of the Suffolk-Nansemond Historical Society. The house was built in the late 1800's and boasts a rich history. To learn more about the Historical Society and the Phillips-Dawson House, visit [www.suffolkhistory.org](http://www.suffolkhistory.org).

To learn more about the Suffolk Public Library, visit [www.suffolkpubliclibrary.com](http://www.suffolkpubliclibrary.com). Follow the library on Twitter @SufPubLib and check for updates on Facebook at [Facebook.com/SuffolkPublicLibrary](https://www.facebook.com/SuffolkPublicLibrary).

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