

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CARNIVAL PLANNED FOR DOWNTOWN SUFFOLK COMMUNITY INVITED TO CELEBRATE THE END OF CAMP SPL WITH A FUN-FILLED CARNIVAL

SUFFOLK, VA (July 23, 2018) From a citywide scavenger hunt to a midsummer vehicle show, Saturdays have been sizzling at Suffolk Public Library. To wrap up a long list of Camp SPL community events, the Library is hosting their Grand Finale Carnival on Saturday, August 4th in downtown Suffolk. The event will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the lot at the corner of West Washington Street and Lee Street.

“We really wanted to celebrate our community of readers here in Suffolk who surpassed our reading goal well ahead of schedule,” says April Watkins, Early Childhood Senior Librarian. “The Carnival is the perfect bookend to our summer programming, and the highlight will be sliming our staff members selected by the community.”

Those attending will find carnival favorites such as pony rides and a petting farm with Dobbins Mini Farm, both traditional and water games, face painting with Ashley Pickin, and complimentary popcorn while supplies last. Virginia National Guard will be on site

with their popular rock wall and Beebop the Clown will offer entertainment and balloon animals. A bounce house will be available for children and people can cool off with the Rainbow Water Arch.

“My hope is that all those in attendance will have a great time coming together as a community to play games, win prizes, and enjoy our many attractions,” says Watkins.

Mainstage events include a pie eating contest, talent show, and the sliming of Library staff members in celebration of surpassing the Library’s community summer reading goal of 8,000 books. The pie eating contest begins at 11:00 a.m. featuring fruit-based pies where contestants will compete for a gift card to O’doodleDoo’s Donuts. Registration is required and can be made through the Library’s online calendar. The Hidden Stars Talent Show kicks off at 12:00 p.m. and will feature ten acts with the Library staff sliming taking place during intermission.

“As the community has shown us their love of reading in a big way, The Hidden Stars Talent Show challenges them to share their hidden talents as well,” says Asa Heyward, Teen Services Senior Librarian. “Each of our ten selected acts have five minutes to show the world their unique abilities.”

All ages are welcome to register for the talent show through the Library’s online calendar for a chance to be one of the selected acts and for a chance to win prizes.

People will have another opportunity to cool off at Water Wars at 12:00 p.m. and can also make bird feeders, boondoggles and pennant banners at the carnival’s craft stations. The Western Branch location of Southeastern Therapy for Kids will be onsite with information about speech therapy, occupational therapy, and physical therapy. Southeastern Therapy for Kids offers free screenings, evaluations, therapeutic treatment, and a collaborative approach for patients receiving multiple disciplines.

Each person who attends will receive one entry into a raffle with sign up located at Library2Go. Prizes include:

- Chuck E. Cheese (large pizza, four sodas, and 30 tokens)
- Moe's (\$20 in Moe's Bucks)
- Children's Museum of Virginia (4 admission passes, valued at \$56)

Those attending can also purchase food at Get Stuffed, the food truck that will be onsite. Suffolk Public Library's Grand Finale Carnival is free and open to the public. All ages are welcome.

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](https://www.facebook.com/SuffolkPublicLibrary).

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