

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 13, 2011



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What's Happening in Suffolk This Weekend...

SUFFOLK, VA (May 13, 2011)

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, May 13 and 14

- *Suffolk Rockin' Relay for Life*

Relay for Life- American Cancer Society will sponsor the Suffolk Rockin' Relay for Life. The Relay for Life will be held on May 13-14, 2011 at Bennett's Creek Park. Come participate in this FREE event with food, games, and entertainment for the whole family! Each lap gets us closer to a world with more birthdays. For more information, call 493-7956 or visit us at SuffolkRockinRelay.org



- *Fifth Annual Great Dismal Swamp Birding Festival*



Birders and nature enthusiasts will adore the Fifth Annual Great Dismal Swamp Birding Festival, May 12-14, 2011. Despite its dismal moniker, the Great Dismal Swamp is a fascinating ecosystem and home to over 200 species of birds, black bear, bobcats, river otters, insects, reptiles and amphibians. Covering over 112,000 acres of natural wilderness, the Great Dismal Swamp is an ideal spot to glimpse migratory birds.

Held annually, the Great Dismal Swamp Birding Festival includes guided bird walks for experts and beginners, narrated bus tours to Lake Drummond, bird banding demonstrations, owl prowls,

workshops, forums and children's activities. Live entertainment by musician Bobby Plough is slated for Saturday, May 14. Workshops include presentations on photographing nature; The Great Dismal Swamp and the Underground Railroad; the Gulf oil spill; and backyard bird watching and feeder care. Guided walks and bus tours require reservations. All events and activities are free and open to the public. Call 757-986-3705 for information and reservations.

The host hotel for this event is the Hilton Garden Inn Riverfront in downtown Suffolk, offering birders a discounted rate of \$85 per night plus tax. The Great Dismal Swamp Birding Festival is sponsored and produced by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries, the Great Dismal Swamp Coalition and the Suffolk Division of Tourism. Suffolk-Fun.com

SATURDAY, May 14

• 2011 Suffolk Clean Sweep



Litter remains a pervasive problem. Research shows that a strong contributor to littering is the prevalence of existing litter. The Suffolk Clean Community Commission and Suffolk National Night Out 2011 are offering everyone an opportunity to rid our community of any litter by participating in the 2011 Suffolk Clean Sweep.

The Suffolk Clean Sweep will take place on May 14, 2011, 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. Volunteers will be allowed to choose the community they want to give a facelift. Cleanup supplies will be distributed 8 a.m. – 9 a.m. to all Clean Sweep participants in two locations, Bennett's Creek Park (3000 Bennett's Creek Park Rd.) and the Municipal Center's parking lot (441 Market St.).

Following the cleanup, there will be an Appreciation Picnic for all those who took a stand against litter and participated in the Clean Sweep at Sleepy Hole Park (4700 Sleepy Hole Rd.), 12 p.m. – 2 p.m. Cleanup supplies can be returned to Sleepy Hole Park at noon, before the picnic begins. For anyone unable to make the picnic, supplies can be returned to the Municipal Center's parking lot by noon.

For more information about the Clean Sweep, call Hattie Lester, Suffolk Litter Control Coordinator at (757) 514-7604 or via e-mail at hlester@suffolkva.us.

- *“Big Bad Musical Wolf” presented by the Virginia Symphony*



Who's that at the door? It's the “Big Bad Musical Wolf,” presented by the Virginia Symphony Orchestra! Join us on Saturday, May 14, 2011, from 10-10:45 a.m. in the North Suffolk Library lobby, for this musical extravaganza!

Come and hear excerpts from “Peter and the Wolf” and the story of “The Three Little Pigs,” when musicians from the Virginia Symphony Orchestra visit Suffolk. This musical performance is perfect for families and people of all ages. This program is presented through generous support of your local Target store. For more information, call 514-7150.

North Suffolk Library is located at 2000 Bennett's Creek Park Road, Suffolk, VA 23435. Visit us online at www.suffolk.lib.va.us.

- *Skydive Suffolk Ribbon Cutting*



Skydive Suffolk, Inc. will officially open its expanded location on Saturday, May 14, following a 10:30 a.m. ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted by Vice-Mayor Charles Brown at the Suffolk Executive Airport, Hanger #7, 1200 Gene Bolton Drive, Suffolk, VA 23434. The business has expanded and relocated at the Suffolk Executive Airport into a 10,000 square-foot hangar.

Skydive Suffolk was established in 1960. Larry Pennington took ownership of the company in 1983 and today it is identified as Hampton Roads' premier skydiving center for both Tandem and Accelerated Freefall programs. Former United States President George H. W. Bush used Skydive Suffolk for the Tandem jumps he made on his 80th and 85th birthdays. Tandem jumps

involve dropping from heights ranging from 11,000 to 14,000 feet with the novice skydiver connected via harness to the tandem instructor, a 30-minute pre-jump training, and all needed

Following the ribbon-cutting, a special rate reduction on Tandem jumping will be offered during their normal operating hours on Saturday. Skydive Suffolk operates Pratt & Whitney 750 HP Turbo Prop Engine aircraft and has been used for all jumps since June 2005. Each plane has been specifically designed for skydiving and can carry up to 17 passengers.

Hours of operation now until late October are Fridays 3 p.m. until dark and Saturday and Sundays 8 a.m. until dark. Weekday jumps are by appointment only. For additional information, contact Skydive Suffolk at either 757-539-3531 or www.skydiveSuffolk.com

UPCOMING

MONDAY, May 16

• Law Enforcement Memorial Day Service



Please join the Suffolk Police Department and Fraternal Order of Police for a Memorial Service in honor of National Police Week. The service is scheduled for Monday, May 16th at 2 p.m. in the City Council Chamber.

In 1962, President John F. Kennedy signed a proclamation which designated May 15th as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week in which that date falls as *Police Week*. This year, the names of 317 officers killed in the line of duty are being added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial in Washington, DC. These 317 officers include 153 officers who were killed during 2010, plus 164 officers who died in previous years.

We thank you for taking the time to honor the men and women, both locally and nationwide, who have sacrificed their lives in the preservation of peace and order.

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