



For Immediate Release

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The Olde Towne Business Association Announces:
Museum Day - Historic Portsmouth, VA
Saturday, June 2 – 10AM – 4PM

Looking for a fun free event? Like trains, history or art? Come join us and visit the interesting museums, galleries, and more in Olde Towne, Portsmouth Saturday, June 2. With a free shuttle, free parking, and \$18 value per person you can really enjoy all Olde Towne has to offer. The locations are laid out in a circuit so you can park in one of the free parking garages at 200 County Street or 441 Middle Street, or on the street, and enjoy a 2.5 mile walk around Olde Towne. If you want to save time or steps, catch the Olde Towne Courtesy Shuttle and enjoy door to door service. Maps will be available at all participating locations. **Please note: Not all locations are handicapped accessible.**

The Railroad Museum of Virginia - Court & Wythe Streets - \$7 value

This museum-on-the-tracks features a five-car train with a 1910-era steam locomotive, two walk-through gallery mail cars, a dining car, antique Norfolk-Southern caboose, and a depot-style platform.

Lightship Portsmouth Museum - London & Water Streets

This ship was built in 1915 and served for 48 years off the coasts of Virginia, Delaware and Massachusetts. Board the vessel and see how the men of the Lightship Service lived during the many months at sea. The ship's quarters are fitted out realistically and filled with fascinating artifacts, uniforms, photographs, models, and more.

Hill House Museum – 221 North Street - \$5 value

You will be amazed as you step back in time in this 4-story, 1825 English-basement home. The Hill sisters donated the house, including every piece of furniture, china, crystal, pottery, carpet, and all the window dressings, paintings, ceramics, and household goods that had been collected over a period of 190 years.

Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church – 637 North Street

Founded in 1792, Emanuel AME Church is the oldest African-American church in the area. The church was built entirely by hand by slaves and free blacks in one year and still has the original stained glass windows and hand-carved benches and pews. Emanuel AME prides itself on being one of the stations on the Underground Railroad.

Jewish Museum and Cultural Center – 607 Effingham Street - \$3 value

This museum is a rare surviving example of Eastern European Jewish Orthodoxy. It houses an eighteenth-century Torah Scroll rescued from a synagogue in Trebic, Czechoslovakia – a victim of the Holocaust, along with other artifacts and exhibits that reflect the history of the Hampton Roads Jewish community.

Skipjack Nautical Wares and Marine Art Gallery – 620 High Street

Skipjack was recently selected as one of the 10 Best Art Galleries in Virginia by "Best Things Virginia" and also listed as one of the "10 Best Virginia Art Galleries" by TripAdvisor! They specialize in original nautical and marine paintings, bronze and wood sculpture, folk/sailor art, whale & mermaid carvings, prints, tall ships, tugboats, Chesapeake Bay, models, work boats, classic yachts and more!

Dave Chance Gallery – 610 High Street

Dave Chance Gallery is an exhibition space for art and photography from places near and far. *Explorations in Cuba* is the current featured exhibit.

Portsmouth Art & Cultural Center – 420 High Street - \$3 value

This museum houses several changing art exhibits including *We are the Music Makers: Preserving the Soul of America's Music* and the *2018 Outdoor Sculpture Exhibition*. You can also enjoy the music of local favorites, *Who We Are Not Trio* in the courtyard from 11 am – 1 pm.

Trinity Episcopal Church – 500 Court Street

This church combines both art and history. You can see amazing stained-glass, including 6 beautiful windows added to the church in 1894 by Louis Comfort Tiffany. You can also experience local history. The crew of the C.S.S. Virginia (the ironclad Merrimac) was blessed at the church altar, and the historic churchyard is home to the earthly remains of a number of notable individuals.

Visual Arts Center – 340 High Street

The Visual Arts Center gallery offers over 2,000 square feet of formal exhibition space and features artwork by regional, national and international artists. The current exhibit is *Over and Over: Sculpture & Photographs by Doug Calisch*.

Portsmouth Colored Community Library Museum – 904 Elm Avenue

The museum is a nationally recognized historic site that served Portsmouth's African-American community from 1945-1963. Today it showcases African-American heritage through photographs, journals, books and other memorabilia.

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