

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CITY OF PORTSMOUTH STAGES DAZZLING MUSICAL, DANCE, CRAFT
AND MUSEUM HOLIDAY EVENTS TO DELIGHT ADULTS AND KIDS**

(PORTSMOUTH, VA) – From the “Winter Wonderland” Coleman Nursery Collection display to Singing Santa, carolers, cloggers, toe-tapping jazz, ornament making, a Santa Claus Shuffle run-walk and even an Elvis impersonator, the City of Portsmouth is readying itself for an exciting holiday season in numerous venues across town.

Perhaps the most famous marker of the holiday season in Hampton Roads is the popular Coleman Nursery Collection that became a family tradition for residents and visitors alike. The Coleman Nursery began their holiday collection in the mid-1960s when owner, A. J. “Junie” Lancaster purchased a single “Sleeping Santa.”

Over the years, the collection of animated figures grew to more than 100 figures. Since 2004 when the nursery closed, the collection has been displayed at the Courthouse Galleries at 420 High St. Each year the scenes grow as figures are restored and new ones are added.

Singing Santa will return to Winter Wonderland throughout November and December to delight audiences with seasonal songs, and a Holiday Music Festival will be held from noon-6 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13.

Winter Wonderland opens Friday, Nov. 21 and continues through Dec. 31. Admission is \$2 for adults, \$1 for children ages 2-17 and children under 2 are admitted free. For group reservations call 757-393-5397, ext. 10. For hours call Courthouse Galleries at 757-393-5397 or check the Web site at <http://www.PortsVaEvents.com>.

The highlight of the season is a Holiday Parade, when Santa Claus arrives by fire boat at High Street at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 13 during the day-long Olde Towne Holiday Music Festival. Santa will then join the parade in a horse-and-buggy. The festival concludes with a sing-along with Santa on the Court Street Stage.

Other holiday events to be held at **Courthouse Galleries** are as follows:

Friday, Nov. 21

- Olde Towne Arts & Antiques Open House – 5-9 p.m.
- Holiday crafts and Singing Santa – 5-8 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 22

- Holiday crafts – 12-8 p.m.
- Face painting and a magic clown – 2-8 p.m.
- Singing Santa – 4-8 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 23

- Holiday crafts – 12-7 p.m.
- Magic clowns and face painting -- 12-6 p.m.

- Singing Santa – 6-8 p.m.

Nov. 24 – 27

Closed.

Friday, Nov. 28

- Train and merry-go-round – 10 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Holiday crafts – 10 a.m.-8 p.m.
- Magic clowns and face painting -- 12-8 p.m.,
- Singing Santa -- 5-8 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 29

- Train and merry-go-round --10 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Holiday crafts – 12-8 p.m.
- Magic clown and face painter – 2-8 p.m.
- Singing Santa – 5-8 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 30

- Train and merry-go-round, magic clowns and face painting--12 p. m.-6 p.m.
- Holiday crafts –12-7 p.m.
- West End United Methodist Church Choir-- starting at 2 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 3

- Singing Santa – 5-8 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 4

- Singing Santa – 5-8 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 5

- Singing Santa, holiday crafts, magic clowns, face painting and pony rides – 5-8 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 6

- Train and merry-go-round --10 a.m.-6 p.m.
- Holiday crafts – 12-8 p.m.
- Magic clown and face painting – 2-8 p.m.
- Singing Santa – 4-8 p.m.
- Lunch and a story with Santa – noon. Package includes “kid friendly” luncheon, entertainment and a story by Santa Claus; holiday puppet show by the Spectrum Puppets; admission to the Children’s Museum of Virginia and Winter Wonderland. Cost is \$15 for adults; \$12 for children. Call 393-5258, ext. 10, for reservations by Dec. 1.

Sunday, Dec. 7

- Magic clowns and face painting – 12-6 p.m.
- Holiday crafts – 12-7 p.m.
- Singing Santa – 6-8 p.m.

Dec. 8 – 9

- Closed

Wednesday, Dec. 10

- Singing Santa – 5-8 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 11

- Singing Santa – 5-8 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 12

- Singing Santa, pony rides, holiday crafts, magic clowns and face painting – 5-8 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 13

- Olde Towne Holiday Music Festival throughout Olde Towne Portsmouth. Santa parade, High Street and Performance, Court Street Stage -- 5-6 p.m.; Jazz with Reginald Gist on Saxophone, Court Street Stage – 6-9 p.m.; holiday crafts – 12-8 p.m.; Singing Santa – 6-8 p.m.
- Win a ride with Santa for a family of six – 5:30 p.m. All renewing and existing museum members are eligible to enter during the month of November. One family will be selected to ride in the horse-drawn carriage with Santa during the parade. The winning family will be selected by the Sonshine Artists at 6 p.m. Nov. 30 at the Courthouse Galleries and notified by phone the following week. To enter, call 757-393-8543.

Sunday, Dec. 14

- Magic clowns and face painting – 12-6 p.m.
- Holiday crafts – 12-7 p.m.
- Singing Santa – 6-8 p.m.

Dec. 15 – 16

- Closed.

Wednesday, Dec. 17

- Singing Santa – 5-8 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 18

- Singing Santa – 5-8 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 19

- Singing Santa, pony rides, holiday crafts, magic clown and face painting – 5-8 p.m.

Saturday, Dec. 20

- Train and merry-go-round -- 10 a.m.- 6 p.m.
- Holiday crafts – 12-8 p.m.
- Magic clown and face painting – 2-8 p.m.
- Singing Santa – 4-8 p.m.

Sunday, Dec. 21

- Magic clowns and face painting – 12-6 p.m.
- Holiday Crafts – 12-7 p.m.
- Community choir sing-a-long in the courtyard – 3-5 p.m. All church choirs and others are invited to attend. For more information contact Susan Cocke at susancocke@cox.net.
- Singing Santa – 6-8 p.m.

Dec. 22 – 23

- Closed

Wednesday, Dec. 24

- Holiday crafts, magic clown, face painting and train and merry-go-round – 10 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Singing Santa – 12-4 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 25

- Closed for Christmas

Saturday, Dec. 27

- A Taste of Nigeria at Courthouse Galleries and Children's Museum of Virginia at 221 High St. Event is co-sponsored by Nigerian Women's Association of Hampton Roads and includes a variety of Nigerian cultural activities such as dance, folklore, cuisine, video displays and arts and crafts. Admission for events at Courthouse Galleries is \$2 for adults and \$1 for children 17 and under. Admission at Children's Museum events is \$6 for children over 6 and adults; \$1 discount for seniors and those with military ID; teachers admitted free with school ID. Combination ticket for both is \$6 for children ages 2-17; \$7 for adults. For more information visit www.childrensmuseum.com or www.portsvaevents.com.

Dec. 29 – 30

- Closed.

Wednesday, Dec. 31

- Closing day -- 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Holiday events at Willett Hall:

Saturday, Nov. 29

- Video Showcase featuring DaMilli DaGeneral – 4 p.m. Admission is \$11.

Thursday, Dec. 4

- "Mooseltoe: A New Moosical" – 10 a.m. Tickets are \$13 for adults, \$11 for children, \$8 per student/chaperone. School groups contact box office for discounted purchase. Classroom teachers are free. Mooseltoe, the moose with a dream, and his friends come to life in this colorful, magical and whimsical musical tale. Follow the hero as he pursues his seemingly impossible dream while learning many valuable lessons along the way.

Thursday, Dec. 18

- An evening with Juanita Bynum – 7 p.m. Tickets are \$41 and \$31; \$5 discount for military and City of Portsmouth employees (maximum of four); \$5 discount for groups of 10 or more.

Children's Museum events:

Nov. 16-Dec. 31

- The Children's Museum of Virginia Planetarium show, "'tis The Season," returns. This 25 minute show, "'tis The Season" provides insight into the ironic nature of winter. Winter is the coldest and darkest time of the seasons, yet holds some of the warmest and brightest celebrations of the entire year. This holiday show, produced by Loch Ness Productions, traces the development of many of the world's endearing holiday customs, and how they involve light as a central theme. From the burning of the Yule Log, and the sparkling Christmas tree lights to the lighting of candles, luminaria and the Chanukah Menorah, the show delves into the traditions as well as possible explanations for the Christmas star. Admission to the museum is \$6 per person; children under 2 are free.

Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Museum events:

Saturday, Dec. 13

- History for the Holidays at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Museum at the corner of High and Water streets – 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Regular museum admission rates, no registration required. Join the museum for a day of guided tours, ornament-making and shopping in the museum gift shop. From noon-4 p.m. enjoy your favorite carols, tunes and sing-alongs sung in celebration of the musical traditions of the season by the Hysterically Correct Carolers. For more information, call the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Museum at (757) 393-8591.

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