

Suffolk/Portsmouth – General Information

HISTORIC SITES

Cedar Grove Cemetery - Established in 1832, Cedar Grove is the oldest city-owned cemetery in Portsmouth. Listed on the Virginia and national registers of historic sites, the cemetery is noted for its funerary art and the civic, business, maritime, religious and military leaders who are buried there. Historical markers placed throughout the cemetery allow for self-guided tours. Cemetery is located between Effingham Street and Fort Lane in Olde Towne Portsmouth. Enter through the south gate to the cemetery, located behind Hardee's on London Boulevard. genhank@bellatlantic.net. (757)488-1397.

The Hill House - Four-story 1825 English basement home furnished entirely with original family belongings. It is evident from the furnishings that the Hill family were avid collectors and lived graciously over a period of 150 years. The house remains in its original condition, with limited renovation through the years. Open April through December. Hours: 12:30-4:30 p.m. Wednesdays and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. 221 North St. (757)393-0241. Admission.

Courthouse Galleries - Features temporary exhibitions of national and international artists in a variety of media. Hours: Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday 1-5 p.m., closed on Mondays except during the summer. 420 High St. (757)393-8543. Admission.

Lightship Museum - This restored lightship, a National Historic Landmark, was commissioned in 1915 to guide ships through treacherous waters. Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday; 1-5 p.m. Sunday, closed Mondays except during the summer. Water and London streets. (757)393-8741. Admission.

Portsmouth Naval Shipyard Museum - This museum pays tribute to the Norfolk Naval Shipyard, a government-owned shipyard in Portsmouth and the oldest shipyard in the country. Memorabilia includes uniforms, cannon balls, models of ships and a piece of the CSS Virginia (the Merrimac). Hours: Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m.-5 p.m., Sunday 1-5p.m., closed Mondays except during the summer. 2 High St. (757)393-8591. Admission.

Virginia Sports Hall of Fame and Museum - The Hall of Fame honors Virginia sports heroes ranging from golfer Sam Snead to tennis star Arthur Ashe. Hours: Tuesday through Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday 1 to 5 p.m., closed Mondays except during the summer. 420 High St. webbe@ci.portsmouth.va.us. (757) 393-8031. Free. Virginia Sports Hall of Fame and Museum Web Site

OUTDOOR RECREATION

Bide-A-Wee Golf Course - Reopened in 1999 with an \$8 million renovation, this 18-hole championship golf course - a Curtis Strange signature course - now has L-93 bent greens, 419 Bermuda fairways, two practice putting greens, a chipping green, a golf range, and a practice sand bunker. Lessons available. Clubhouse features a pro shop, grille, meeting room, and a patio. Pavilion can accommodate 350 guests and will cater lunches, dinners, receptions, dances and weddings. 1 Bide-A-Wee Lane. (757)393-8600.

City Park, The Links at City Park, and the Pokey Smokey - A 93-acre beautifully landscaped park along the Western Branch of the Elizabeth River, which includes a 9-hole executive golf course with a 30-station lighted driving range and a challenging 18-hole natural grass putting course. Park also features

boat ramps, tennis courts, and the Pokey Smokey. The Pokey Smokey, an authentic 19th-century reproduction of coal-fired steam locomotive, travels through Portsmouth City Park from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. every Saturday and Sunday, April through October. 140 City Park Ave. (757)465-2937 or (757)465-2935.

Hoffler Creek Wildlife Preserve - This 142-acre site includes vast wetlands, a heavily wooded forest, and a unique saltwater lake. Located on the shores of Hoffler Creek in northwest Churchland, the preserve is the last viable wilderness area in Portsmouth and is a thriving habitat for countless species of plants and animals - both aquatic and terrestrial - native to Southeastern Virginia. Plans are being made to build a 3,200 sq. ft. nature center, along with an outdoor classroom, a habitat display, a butterfly garden and pond, a wildlife meadow, an oyster garden, walking trails and a wildlife observation tower. Programs are free and open to the public. Call for reservations. 4510 Twin Pines Road, near River Shore Road. www.hofflercreek.org. E-mail: hofflercreek@hofflercreek.org. (757)398-9151.

Sleepy Hole Park and Golf Course - Overlooking the Nansemond River, this park offers camping facilities and a golf course to challenge players at every ability level. The course was the site of the LPGA's Crestar Classic from 1981 to 1988. Sleepy Hole Road, Suffolk. (757)538-4100.

Suffolk Golf Course - An 18-hole, par 72 championship - yet friendly - course that is fun for the entire family. Designed by Russell Breeden. 1227 Holland Road, Suffolk. (757)539-6298.

THEATER AND ENTERTAINMENT

Commodore Theatre - A luxuriously restored 1945 Art Deco-style motion picture theater that shows first-run movies while serving light dinners. Among the many features: a 42-foot screen, THX Digital sound system, upholstered seating and crystal chandeliers. www.commodoretheatre.com 421 High St. (757) 393-6962.

Harbor Center - This pavilion-style performance venue accommodates 6,500 (reserved seats total 3,500; another 3,000 can sit on a raised berm behind the seats). Comparable in size and quality to Wolf Trap in Northern Virginia and Chastain Park in Atlanta. The 2001 concert season ranges from The Irish Tenors and Tony Bennett to Widespread Panic and Aaron Carter. 901 Crawford St. (on the waterfront, south of City Hall). Harbor Center. For ticket information: (757) 391-3260.

Portsmouth Community Concerts, Inc. - Portsmouth's oldest presenter of concerts continues to bring to the stage of Willett Hall many nationally and internationally acclaimed artists. Portsmouth citizens, along with those from surrounding cities, are invited to participate. Reasonable season subscriptions and single tickets available. Local restaurants cooperate in a "concert cuisine" discount prior to or following concerts. Visit <http://communitylink.hrtide.com/groups/pcci> or call (757) 686-5447 for more information.

Willett Hall - A 2,000 seat entertainment facility with outstanding acoustics. Features concerts, guest speakers, theater, musicals and dance performances. 3701 Willett Drive. www.portsevents.org. (757)393-5144 or (800)488-6761.

TRANSPORTATION

Elizabeth River Ferry - Pedestrian ferry that crosses the Elizabeth River between Portsmouth and Norfolk. Operates seven days a week, takes bicycles and departs from High Street Landing on the hour and half-hour and from North Landing at 5 minutes after the hour and half-hour for arrival at Waterside in Norfolk. From Memorial Day through Labor Day, ferry runs from 7 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. Monday-Friday and from 10 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. All other times, ferry service ends at 10 p.m. Sunday-

Thursday, and at midnight Friday-Saturday. Adult, senior and children's rates. www.hrtransit.org. (757)222-6100.

VISITOR INFORMATION

Visitor Information Center, Visitor Information Kiosk - The Portsmouth Visitor Information Center, located at 6 Crawford Parkway (at North Landing), offers visitors an abundance of informational brochures on area attractions. In addition to buying souvenirs here from the gift shop, visitors may also purchase the Portsmouth Pass and tickets for the Carrie B Harbor Tour and the Olde Towne Trolley Tour. Dining reservations may also be made. Visitor information is also available at the kiosk at High and Water streets (at High Street Landing) and at the front desk of the Museum of Military History, 701 Court St. (757)393-5111 or (757)393-2773.