

Newport News Tourism Development Office

Fountain Plaza Two • 700 Town Center Drive • Suite 320 • Newport News, VA 23606
757-926-1400 • Toll Free 888-493-7386 • Fax 757-926-1441 • www.newport-news.org

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEK APRIL 21 - 27, 2017

PERFORMING ARTS

THE ELLA FITZGERALD MUSIC FESTIVAL CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION FEATURING RHONDA ROSS

Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center

April 21; 8 p.m.

Singer-songwriter, Rhonda Ross, is an international Social-Artist, who explores the social environment around her and her relationship to it - questioning constructions of race, gender, sexuality and spirituality through her lyrics. Her original music lives in the gap between jazz, funk and gospel while her lyrics delve into life's biggest questions and answers. From racism, sexism, and homophobia to the never-ending quest for self-love and deeper spirituality, Rhonda uses her music to ask "In the midst of THIS, how can we still be free?" Rhonda's music flows straight from her essence and her bright spirit uplifts everyone in the room. With a crown of natural hair, Rhonda graces the stage with the gravitas and glamour of a modern-day queen. As the only child of Diana Ross and Motown Founder Berry Gordy, it has become evident that Rhonda not only has the talent, but the significance to carry on her parents' legacy, all the while establishing her own unique musical destination. 2410 Wickham Avenue, 757-247-8950, www.downinggross.org.

19TH ANNUAL ELLAFEST CONCERT FINALE FEATURING LIZZ WRIGHT

Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center

April 22; 8 p.m.

Lizz Wright is a vocalist and composer who synthesizes R&B, jazz, folk, blues, and gospel. In 2000, Wright joined the vocal quartet In the Spirit. The group was quickly hailed as the best jazz group in the city, which motivated Wright to hone her craft all the more. Two years later, the Verve label signed her as a solo artist. Her impressive singing style was captured on her 2003 debut, Salt. Dreaming Wide Awake, for which she shifted to Verve Forecast, followed in 2005. After making a guest appearance on the Toots Thielemans album One More for the Road in 2006, Wright released her third album, The Orchard, in 2008. In 2010, she returned with Fellowship, a gospel-heavy set that featured guest performances from kindred spirits Me'Shell Ndegéocello and vocalist Angélique Kidjo. After a move to Concord, she released Freedom & Surrender, in 2015. Her fifth album, it included versions of Nick Drake's "River Man" and Bee Gees' "To Love Somebody." 2410 Wickham Avenue, 757-247-8950, www.downinggross.org.

BEN FOLDS

Ferguson Center for the Arts

April 23; 7 p.m.

Ben Folds is widely regarded as one of the major music influencers of our generation. He's spent over a decade sharing the stage with some of the world's greatest symphony orchestras – from Sydney, Australia to the Kennedy Center, performing his pop hits and his critically acclaimed concerto for Piano and Orchestra. This concert will feature an opening performance by special guest Ryan Lerman. 1 Avenue of the Arts, 757-594-8752, www.fergusoncenter.org.

AN EVENING WITH JASON MRAZ AND HIS GUITAR

Ferguson Center for the Arts

April 26; 7:30 p.m.

Hailed by The New York Times as “part Jack Johnson, part Eckhart Tolle,” Jason Mraz’s amazing journey has propelled him from Southern California’s vaunted coffee house scene to arenas, amphitheatres, and stadiums all over the world. The San Diego-based troubadour has earned diamond, multi-platinum or platinum certifications in numerous territories for his various releases, as well as a myriad of accolades including two GRAMMY® Awards (among six total nominations), two Teen Choice Awards, two People’s Choice Awards, ASCAP’s Song of the Year and Foundation Champion Awards, the Songwriters Hall of Fame’s Hal David Starlight Award, Surfrider Foundation’s Clean Water Award, and four San Diego Music Awards thus far. Though it all, Jason Mraz continually confirms and celebrates music’s myriad forms and miraculous power, inspiring and delighting his countless fans around the world he calls home. 1 Avenue of the Arts, 757-594-8752, www.fergusoncenter.org.

SPECIAL EVENTS AT NEWPORT NEWS ATTRACTIONS

PROFILES OF HONOR MOBILE TOUR

City Center at Oyster Point

April 22; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Modeled on the highly successful Civil War 150 HistoryMobile tour, Profiles of Honor will bring to life the state's integral role in both wars, highlighting stories of Virginians who served in both conflicts. As part of the tour, visitors will be invited to bring their own World War I and II-related photographs to be scanned for inclusion in the Virginia Profiles of Honor project. Mariner’s Row, www.virginiawwiandwwii.org.

EARTH DAY

Virginia Living Museum

April 22; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Virginia Living Museum celebrates Earth Day with special activities for our animals and guests. Observe the animals as they receive toys, treats and other enrichment activities to stimulate natural behaviors. Learn ways to help the environment by reducing, reusing and recycling waste. Several environmental organizations will have displays and information about conservation measures. Earth-friendly vendors will show and sell green wares. There will also be crafts, eco-friendly giveaways, thousands of native plants for sale and earth-friendly animal shows. Plus, bring your batteries, cell phones and old sneakers for recycling. 524 J. Clyde Morris Boulevard, 757-595-1900, www.thevlm.org.

MEMBER APPRECIATION DAY

The Mariners' Museum and Park

April 22, 2017; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Join us for Members' Appreciation Saturday! David Gardener, costumed interpreter, will be in the Age of Exploration gallery from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m., with sea shanties and historic tunes played on a fiddle. Member Programs: 10 a.m. – Family-friendly educational activities, 1 p.m. – Gallery Talk with Master Gardener and Tree Steward Rand Milam, 2 p.m. – Docent-led tour of the new Ship Model Gallery. Reservations are required for Member programs as space is limited. 100 Museum Drive, 757-596-2222, www.marinersmuseum.org.

SPRING NATIVE PLANT SALE

Virginia Living Museum

April 22 – 23; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Choose from an incredible array of beautiful and unusual native plants for a variety of garden sites and styles, from wet ponds to dry rock gardens. Many of these are excellent plants for attracting butterflies, hummingbirds and other wildlife to your yard. The Virginia Living Museum's horticulture staff holds this annual sale as a fund-raiser, but the real goal is to introduce the gardening public to the incredible variety of native plants that will do well in the landscape, and to educate gardeners about those which are better left in the wild. Native plants are good choices for area gardeners because such plants tolerate the area's weather and serve as food and shelter for area wildlife, while also providing a good show in the garden. The sale will be held in the Conservation Garden and as always, the Museum's knowledgeable horticulture staff will be on hand to answer your questions, discuss the wildlife benefits of native plants and help with any particular gardening situations. All plants are nursery propagated and many are not yet available in the commercial nursery trade. Sale held rain or shine. Admission to the sale is free. 524 J. Clyde Morris Boulevard, 757-595-1900, www.thevlm.org.

COLOR ME RAD 5K

City Center at Oyster Point

April 23; 9 a.m.

We're the only 5K that will send you running through RAD color stations and leave you covered from head to toe in powders of pink, yellow, green, blue, and violet. Not only will you be having healthy amounts of fun, but you'll be getting your daily exercise in the process. To top it off, we're making it rain with free t-shirts, a RAD temporary tattoo, and a pair of RAD sunglasses for all regular participants. That's right - FREE. www.colormerad.com.

HISTORIC GARDEN WEEK IN VIRGINIA: NEWPORT NEWS TOUR

April 26; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Majestic oaks, graceful pines and bewhiskered cedars beckon visitors to properties circling the green along Douglas Drive and Gary Road in Newport News' Cedar Grove neighborhood. Tour the first-floors of 6 private homes, as well as the surrounding gardens. Visitors will enjoy family heirlooms, stunning artwork and beautiful landscaping brimming with flowering shrubs, trees and spring bulbs. Begin at the Peninsula Fine Arts Center, where guests will park and board a shuttle bus bound for Douglas Drive. Once at the tour site, all the homes are within an easy half-mile walk of each other. Educational seminars on beekeeping, butterfly gardens, cut flower gardening and flower arranging are included in the ticket price. www.vagardenweek.org.

VIETNAM COMBAT EXHIBITION

Peninsula Fine Arts Center

Continuing through April 23

On loan from commemorative partners consisting of County of Roanoke, Salem, Town of Vinton and Stonewall Jackson Chapter/Ausa under special agreement with the US Army Center of Military History. 101 Museum Drive, 757-596-8175, www.pfac-va.org.

GENESIS: A COLLEGE JURIED COMPETITION

Peninsula Fine Arts Center

Continuing through April 30

101 Museum Drive, 757-596-8175, www.pfac-va.org.

IN ELLA'S LIFETIME: 100 ARTISTS FOR ELLA

Downing-Gross Cultural Arts Center

Continuing through April 30

An original exhibit in the Newport News Gallery featuring works by artists inspired by the songs and song titles of "The First Lady of Song," Ella Fitzgerald. This exhibit will showcase paintings, photography, sculpture and more. 2410 Wickham Avenue, 757-247-8950, www.downinggross.org.

PLANETARIUM SHOWS

Virginia Living Museum

Continuing through May 14, 2017

Choose among three shows in the Virginia Living Museum's Abbitt Planetarium. "The Friendly Stars" introduces preschoolers to the night sky. It is shown Saturday and Sunday at 12:30 p.m. "The Future is Wild" envisions the fantastic creatures that may walk the Earth in 5 to 200 million years. It is showing Wednesday through Sunday at 1:30 p.m. A staff astronomer takes a tour of the current night sky in "Virginia Skies," showing Saturday and Sunday at 2:30 p.m. The planetarium is open Wednesday through Sunday. Tickets are \$4 plus museum admission. 524 J. Clyde Morris Boulevard, 757-595-1900, www.thevlm.org.

WOLF TO WOOF: THE STORY OF DOGS

Virginia Living Museum

Continuing through May 14, 2017

Today, dogs enhance the lives of millions in countless ways, but they are also some of humans' oldest friends. Ancient clues like cave paintings and burials reveal that dogs and people have lived together for thousands of years. But why have humans formed such close relationships with dogs, and not cows or chickens? This exhibit sniffs out the facts on dogs and explores what makes the human/dog relationship so unique. Through multimedia displays, dioramas and interactive stations visitors can learn about the different types of dogs, how they are related to wolves, how they have helped humans and what we can do to help them. Enter a "howling area" and guess what dogs are saying, test your nose against a dog's great sense of smell, and climb into an avalanche scene to see what it's like to be saved by a search-and-rescue dog. This is the largest and most comprehensive traveling exhibition ever created on the history, biology and evolution of dogs. It uses the familiarity and love of these four-legged friends to explore science and biological concepts. 524 J. Clyde Morris Boulevard, 757-595-1900, www.thevlm.org.

POLYNESIAN VOYAGERS

The Mariners' Museum

Continuing through June 11, 2017

In collaboration with Hawaiian educators, the *Hokule'a* crew and staff, and the Polynesian community, this new exhibition is designed to evoke the feeling of what it is to be a voyager. Guests will encounter displays demonstrating the origin of the Polynesian culture and community and how they are inherently maritime focused. *Polynesian Voyagers* will feature the traditional supplies and methods encountered on a Polynesian voyaging canoe, and guests will be able to listen to Polynesian chants that would have been used in ancient times to share history among civilizations without a common language. 100 Museum Drive, 757-596-2222, www.marinersmuseum.org.

SOARING: WORKS FROM THE NASA ART PROGRAM, CELEBRATING NASA LANGLEY'S CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

Peninsula Fine Arts Center

Continuing through June 25

The Peninsula Fine Arts Center is proud to host this art exhibition that celebrates the centennial anniversary of NASA Langley Research Center. In 1962, NASA's administrator James Webb sent a memo regarding the involvement of artists to help tell the agency's story of adventure as the United States began a race to space and the moon. Thus, began the NASA Art program which has resulted in over 3,000 works of art in the past fifty years. Early pioneers included Norman Rockwell, Jamie Wyeth and Robert Rauschenberg who traveled to Kennedy Space Center to watch firsthand the launches and document the events. This exhibition will feature 30 works of art including paintings, photographs, drawings, and mixed media works dating from the early 1960s to 21st century. Artists include Robert McCall, Andy Warhol, Annie Leibovitz, Nam June Paik, William Wegman and Chakaia Booker. 101 Museum Drive, 757-596-8175, www.pfac-va.org.

TREASURES OF NOAA'S ARK EXHIBITION

The Mariners' Museum

Continuing through December 31

A traveling exhibition, Treasures of NOAA's Ark will explore the history of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and how the agency, part of the U.S. Department of Commerce, has impacted people across the nation and world. As the organization has evolved and grown over the years, NOAA has become an international leader on scientific and environmental issues. Treasures of NOAA's Ark will feature artifacts like 18th-century maps and early scientific instruments. The exhibition will highlight NOAA's legacy of science, service, and stewardship and will explore how we are all connected to the environment. 100 Museum Drive, 757-596-2222, www.marinersmuseum.org.

RESTAURANTS AND CLUBS

BRIAN SEWELL

Craft 60 Ale House

April 21; 10 p.m.

13361 Warwick Boulevard

(757) 988-0506

www.craft60.com

JACK ENEA

Aromas

April 21; 7 p.m.

706 Town Center Drive

(757) 240-4650

www.aromasworld.com

**JAZZ FRIDAY FEATURING
PRINCE NIGHT**

Train Station Restaurant

April 21; 7 p.m.

2295 Harbor Road

(757) 247-7512

www.thetrainstation757.com

**MICHAEL GLASS, DAVE
CRUMPLER & KEVIN BLATNIK**

Hilton Tavern Brewing Company

April 21; 8 p.m.

10184 Warwick Boulevard

(757) 873-2337

UNLEASHED

Hoss's Deli

April 21; 9:30 p.m.

806 Old Oyster Point Rd

(757) 596-9104

www.hosssdeli.com

**MIKE ARONIN WITH ERYCA
NOLAN**

Cozy's Comedy Club

April 21; 9 p.m.

April 22; 8 p.m.

9700 Warwick Boulevard

(757) 595-2800

www.cozzys.com

BUCKSHOT

Hoss's Deli

April 22; 9:30 p.m.

806 Old Oyster Point Rd

(757) 596-9104

www.hosssdeli.com

SUNDAY FUNNIES

Cozy's Comedy Club

April 23; 8 p.m.

9700 Warwick Boulevard

(757) 595-2800

www.cozzys.com

BRIAN SHUHZ

Hoss's Deli

April 24; 8 p.m.

806 Old Oyster Point Rd

(757) 596-9104

www.hosssdeli.com

**MUSIC OPEN-MIC WITH VAUGHN
DEEL**

Cozy's Comedy Club

April 24; 7:30 p.m.

9700 Warwick Boulevard

(757) 595-2800

www.cozzys.com

**OPEN-MIC WITH DENISE KENT
Salsa's Mexican Grill**

April 25 and 27; 6:30 p.m.

704 Mariners Row

(757) 596-6080

www.salsasmexicangrill.net

BRANDON BOWER

Hoss's Deli

April 26; 6 p.m.

806 Old Oyster Point Rd

(757) 596-9104

www.hosssdeli.com

OPEN MIC NIGHT

Aromas

April 26; 7 p.m.

706 Town Center Drive

(757) 240-4650

www.aromasworld.com

**OPEN MIC HOSTED BY THE
LOVECATS**

Craft 60 Ale House

April 26; 10 p.m.

13361 Warwick Boulevard

(757) 988-0506

www.craft60.com

**BY THE BOOK WITH MARTIN
BLOCKSON**

Train Station Restaurant

April 27; 7 p.m.

2295 Harbor Road

(757) 247-7512

www.thetrainstation757.com

**COMEDY OPEN-MIC WITH
SID BRIDGE**

Cozy's Comedy Club

April 27; 9 p.m.

9700 Warwick Boulevard

(757) 595-2800

www.cozzys.com

KARAOKE WITH KAY

Hilton Tavern Brewing Company

April 27; 7 p.m.

10184 Warwick Boulevard

(757) 873-2337

UNITED SOULS

Manhattan's Deli

April 27; 10 p.m.

601 Thimble Shoals Boulevard

(757) 873-0555

www.manhattansdeli.com

NOTE: This calendar was compiled based on information submitted to the Newport News Tourism Development Office by the Newport News tourism industry. All events are subject to cancellation and date and time changes. Attraction operating hours, as well as admission and event fees, are subject to change without notice. Please contact event planners directly to confirm information. Additional Newport News events can be found online at www.newport-news.org.