



MEDIA RELEASE

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Release Date: March 20, 2007

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Celebrate Spring in Newport News, Virginia

Spring fever got you in its grip? Southeastern Virginia and Newport News are the perfect place to find the cure! Visitors to Newport News from April through June can choose from dozens of events and activities that offer family-friendly fun at affordable prices, including the newly-opened USS *Monitor* Center at The Mariners' Museum and the challenge of *Survivor: Jamestown* at the Virginia Living Museum.

America's signature music soars again in April at the *Ella Fitzgerald Music Festival* from April 18 through 21. This year's festival will include performances by Bobby McFerrin with Viocestra (April 19), Chris Botti and Jane Monheit (April 20) and Natalie Cole (April 21). All performances will be at the Ferguson Center for the Arts on the campus of Christopher Newport University. Now in its tenth year, the festival honors the legacy of Newport News-born Ella Fitzgerald, the "First Lady of Song."

Visitors to the brand-new USS *Monitor* Center at The Mariners' Museum will find themselves stepping back in time as they experience the famous "Battle of the Ironclads," build their own ironclad and walk the deck of a full-scale replica of the *Monitor*. Interactive exhibits also highlight the heroics of the US Navy divers who recovered *Monitor* artifacts from the "Graveyard of the Atlantic."

Two long-running exhibits in Newport News will challenge and enthrall visitors. The first, *Survivor: Jamestown* at the Virginia Living Museum (through November 25), mixes history and fun. Taking on the role of an actual colonist, visitors will wind their way through a maze facing engaging challenges like those that might have been faced by the first English settlers in Jamestown. Activities will include climbing a rocky fall line, riding a zip line while attempting to lasso a sturgeon and searching for gold.

Opening April 7 at the Peninsula Fine Arts Center is *Eastern Light: A Photographic Portrait of the Eastern Shore and the Chesapeake Bay in Celebration of Jamestown 2007*. Running through June 10, this special exhibit will illuminate the wonders of the Chesapeake Bay through the work of twenty photographers, each of whom offers insights into the people and places, the lives and livelihoods, the beauty and nature that characterize this remarkable region.

There are many other special events from April through June, including *Come Home to Newport News* (May 4 and 5), when visitors will be able to meet Captain Christopher Newport and tour a replica of the *Godspeed*, one of the three English ships that brought the Jamestown Colonists to the New World, *Historic Garden Week* (April 21-28) and the *Virginia Arts Festival* (April 17-June 3). Among the nationally known entertainers who will be performing in Newport News are: Kenny Rogers (April 22); Lily Tomlin (May 2); The Beach Boys (May 12) and *Riverdance* (May 25-27).

Outdoor recreation lovers will find bird walks, camping, mountain biking, disc golf, hay rides, freshwater fishing, more than 30 miles of hiking and biking trails and a championship golf course rated “4 Stars” by *Golf Digest*, all in Newport News Park. At more than 8,000 acres, Newport News Park is the largest municipal park east of the Mississippi River.

For more information on these and other events in Newport News this spring, call the Newport News Visitor Center at 888-493-7386 ext. 90 or go online at www.newport-news.org. Hotel packages begin at \$123.00 per room, per night, double occupancy and include attraction admission tickets and some meals. Request your free copy of the 2007 Newport News Visitor Guide and experience spring in Newport News, just minutes from Williamsburg and a short drive to Virginia Beach.