

# MEDIA RELEASE

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Lisa Key, Executive Director  
[lisa@suffolkfest.org](mailto:lisa@suffolkfest.org)  
757.539.6751

Theresa Earles, Publicity Coordinator  
[suffolkpeanutfest@gmail.com](mailto:suffolkpeanutfest@gmail.com)  
757.636.8828

## **“TRADITION, FUN AND A PINCH OF MARDI GRAS” CELEBRATING 45 YEARS OF SUFFOLK PEANUT FEST**

SUFFOLK, VA: Suffolk Festivals, Inc. is pleased to announce that the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Suffolk Peanut Fest is slated for October 5-8, 2023, at the Suffolk Executive Airport. Tiny Andrews, the 2023 Festival Chairman, has announced this year’s theme: “*Laissez les bons temps rouler*” which translates into ‘Let the Good Times Roll,’ introducing the spirit of “Fat Tuesday” into Suffolk’s premiere festival. Festival goers will enjoy musical acts on the Main Stage including The Deloreans; Buckwheat Zydeco Jr. & The Legendary Ils Sont Partis Band; American Idol’s Dan Marshall; ZZ – KC: The World’s Most Authentic ZZ Top Tribute; Nathan & The Zydeco Cha Chas; Celeste Kellogg; and Nuthin Fancy: The Ultimate Lynyrd Skynyrd Tribute Band. The Peanut Stage will showcase performances by Band-it, Suffolk Public Schools’ youth musicians; SnackBar Jones; Griffin Lane; Allonge Dance Academy, The Luke Willette Band; Bobby Blackhat; and The Sam Floyd Band. Suffolk Peanut Fest is proud to host an encore visit by the Tunnel to Towers Foundation’s 9/11 NEVER FORGET Mobile Exhibit, an 83-foot tractor-trailer that transforms into an 1,100 square-foot exhibit featuring World Trade Center Steel, aluminum façade from the buildings, radio transmissions from first responders, and items found in the rubble after the Twin Towers collapsed. This unique mobile exhibit serves to honor and preserve the legacies of the first responders who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

Traditional festival fun continues with the annual Demolition Derby, Swamp Roar Motorcycle Rally, Peanut Cup Race, Monster Truck Rides, plus a full carnival complete with amusement rides, games and food. Special features include the World’s Only Peanut Butter Sculpting Competition,

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Suffolk Ruritan Club Shrimp Feast, fireworks, an Imagination Station by ArtVentures, Clogging Jamboree, a Touch-A-Truck interactive exhibit, straw maze, chalk art contest, petting zoo and pony rides, plus a cornhole tournament, two Princess Meet & Greet Sing-Alongs, etc. The Kent Family Circus will dazzle families with their circus arts and magic, while JB Rattles will delight festivalgoers with a wide variety of reptiles and insects. Senior Bingo returns to Suffolk Peanut Fest through partnership with Suffolk Parks and Recreation. Merchants, vendors, crafters and exhibitors will offer their wares and concessions, including beer and wine, throughout the event site.

Tickets for the 45<sup>th</sup> Annual Suffolk Peanut Fest are now available for purchase online at SuffolkPeanutFest.com. General admission is \$10 per person; Children 10 & under are free. Carload Night is Thursday, October 5, admission is FREE. Purchase up to eight all-you-can-ride wristbands for \$50 total (Carload Night only). Kiddie Day is scheduled for Friday, October 6, with complimentary admission from 10 a.m. until noon and offering a variety of free pre-school age activities. Military Appreciation Day is Sunday, October 8 (1/2 price admission for active, retired military and active first responders). \$30 per person all-you-can-ride wristbands are available on Sunday, October 8. Parking is free. For more information about Suffolk Peanut Fest and associated concerts, events and activities, log onto SuffolkPeanutFest.com or contact Suffolk Festivals at 757.539.6751.

**2023 Pre-Festival Event Dates to Note** (*More details available at SuffolkPeanutFest.com*):

- August 25 | 8 a.m. & 1 p.m.** Suffolk Peanut Fest Golf Tournament to Benefit Tunnel to Towers Foundation at Sleepy Hole Golf Course. Registration required.
- September 28 | 6 p.m.** Suffolk Peanut Fest Queen's Banquet at the Hilton Garden Inn Suffolk Riverfront (Tickets on sale at Cecelia's Boutique & Gifts and the Suffolk Visitor Center)
- September 30 | 10 a.m.** Suffolk Peanut Fest Parade through Downtown Suffolk
- October 6 | 9:00 a.m.** Patriotic Procession Escorting the 9/11 never Forget Mobile Exhibit through Downtown Suffolk to the Suffolk Executive Airport

*Suffolk Festivals, Inc. produces Suffolk Peanut Fest with the support from volunteers, sponsors and various non-profit organizations. Sponsorship, vendor and exhibitor opportunities available. Festival Hours: Thursday, October 5, 4 - 10 p.m.; Friday, October 6, 10 a.m. – 10 p.m.; Saturday, October 7, 10 a.m. – 10 p.m.; and Sunday, October 8, 10 a.m. – 7 p.m. Learn more at SuffolkPeanutFest.com or contact Suffolk Festivals at 757.539.6751. Facebook and Instagram /SuffolkPeanutFest.*