

MEDIA ALERT/RELEASE

DATE: June 14, 2007

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ALERT: *Media are invited to attend the kick-off of the 18th annual Summer Reading Program at 10:30 a.m. Monday, June 18, with the Portsmouth Public Library and Mayor James W. Holley, III, at the Main Branch, 601 Court Street. Mayor Holley will read a proclamation announcing the program, and approximately 75 children are expected to attend to sign up. A fire truck will be on hand to add to the excitement.*

PORTSMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY SUMMER READING PROGRAM TO KICK OFF MONDAY

Children of all ages can keep up their reading skills and have fun this summer by participating in the 2007 Louise Rapoport Fenster Summer Reading Program at the Portsmouth Public Library, June 18-July 28.

Kids can follow the trail of T. J. Reader, the Library of Virginia's mascot, through Virginia's parks, ride a roller coaster or go to a ball game. They can hike the Appalachian Trail to look for bears, watch the stars or go camping.

Following the Jamestown 400 theme, readers can discover their heritage on the Discovery Trail as they learn about the first Americans and those who came later, and about pirates who sometimes made ocean travel dangerous. On the Story Trail, they'll read tales from around the world, including Africa and other lands, as well as Appalachian tales and tall tales.

Last summer more than 1,400 children registered at the four Portsmouth Public Library locations. For participating in this free program, children will receive incentive prizes for 100, 250 and 500 minutes of reading.

The program is named in memory of Mrs. Louise Rapoport Fenster, a Portsmouth native, and funded by the Fenster family with additional funding by the Friends of the Portsmouth Public Library and the Library of Virginia.

The program also includes contests, movies, crafts and visits from clowns, animals, a magician, fire trucks and more. There are customized programs for pre-teens and a special one for teens at the Cradock branch.

For more details, visit a library branch or the Web site at: www.portsmouthpubliclibrary.org. Branches are located at: (Main Branch) 601 Court Street; (Churchland Branch) 3215 Academy Avenue; (Cradock Branch) 28 Prospect Parkway; and (Manor Branch) 1401 Elmhurst Lane.

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