

## NEWS RELEASE

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### FIRST ANNUAL SUFFOLK MYSTERY AUTHOR'S FESTIVAL

SUFFOLK, VA (November 3, 2014) The creators of the page-turners, the “who-done-it’s,” and the suspense stories that keep you up at night are all coming together this Saturday in Suffolk. The Suffolk Division of Tourism, in partnership with the Suffolk Public Library and the Suffolk Center for Cultural Arts, is producing the First Annual Suffolk Mystery Author’s Festival on Saturday, November 8, 2014, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Held at the Suffolk Center for Cultural Arts, this FREE day-long festival will feature eleven national bestselling authors, mostly writers of the “cozy mystery” genre, who will participate in book signings, fan meet & greets and readings. Additional activities include a moderated author panel discussion, multiple workshops and a closing reception.

Featured bestselling authors include: Ellery Adams; Mollie Cox Bryan; Mary Burton; Erika Chase; Vicki Delany (who also writes as Eva Gates); Linda O. Johnston; Joyce and Jim Lavene (who also write as J.J. Cook and Ellie Grant); Maggie Sefton; Gayle Trent (who also writes as Amanda Lee); LynDee Walker; and Wendy Lyn Watson (who also writes as Annie Knox). Additional special guests include freelance editor Jeni Chappelle and literary agent Dawn Dowdle, owner of the Blue Ridge Literary Agency, and several authors from the Virginia Chapter of Sisters in Crime. The Festival also marks the culmination of “The Mystery of a Masterpiece: Iconic Texts Re-imagined” exhibit, on display in the Norfolk Foundation Gallery at the Center from September 12 to November 8.

Multiple workshops will be offered, including three facilitated by several *Virginia is for Mysteries* authors who are part of the Central Virginia Chapter of Sisters in Crime: “Anatomy of a Mystery,” “History of a Mystery”

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and “Mystery Sub-Genres: Rooms in the Mansion of Mystery.” Jeni Chappelle will present “Get Your Novel Ready for Editors and Agents,” and Dawn Dowdle will discuss “Do’s and Don’t’s for Querying Agents.”

The Suffolk Mystery Author’s Festival is open to the public and while there is no fee to attend, those who RSVP their attendance to Katie at [kkelley@suffolkva.us](mailto:kkelley@suffolkva.us) (or call 757.514.4131) will automatically be entered into a drawing for a “Mystery Prize Pack,” valued at \$500; the winner will be announced at the beginning of the moderated author panel discussion.

A very limited supply of the latest titles from each author will be available for purchase; attendees are also strongly encouraged to bring their own books to be signed if they so choose. Door prizes will be given away throughout the day, and there will be light refreshments at the closing reception, immediately following the moderated author panel discussion.

For additional details, including a schedule and a list of frequently asked questions, log onto [VisitSuffolkVA.com](http://VisitSuffolkVA.com), visit us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/SuffolkMysteryAuthorsFestival](http://www.facebook.com/SuffolkMysteryAuthorsFestival) or contact the Suffolk Visitor Center at 757.514.4130.

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