

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUFFOLK TOURISM ANNOUNCES FIRST ANNUAL SUFFOLK MYSTERY AUTHOR'S FESTIVAL

SUFFOLK, VA (July 11, 2014) Together with the Suffolk Center for Cultural Arts and the Suffolk Public Library, the Suffolk Division of Tourism is producing the First Annual Suffolk Mystery Author's Festival slated for 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, November 8, 2014. Held at the Suffolk Center for Cultural Arts, this day-long festival will feature nine bestselling authors, mostly writers of the "cozy mystery" genre, who will participate in book signings, fan meet & greets and readings. Additional activities include a workshop on how to become a mystery author, a moderated author panel discussion in the Birdsong Theater and a closing reception.

Featured bestselling authors include Ellery Adams; Maggie Sefton; LynDee Walker; Melissa Bourbon; Wendy Lyn Watson (who also writes as Annie Knox); Mary Burton; Gayle Trent (who also writes as Amanda Lee); Mollie Cox Bryan; and Joyce and Jim Lavene. The Festival also marks the culmination of "The Mystery of a Masterpiece: Iconic Texts Re-imagined" exhibit, on display at the Center from September 12th to November 8th.

The Suffolk Mystery Author's Festival is open to the public and while there is no fee to attend, those who RSVP their attendance by November 1st to kkelley@suffolkva.us will automatically be entered into a drawing for a "Mystery Prize Pack," valued at \$500. For additional details, contact the Suffolk Visitor Center at 757.514.4130 or log onto VisitSuffolkVa.com.

"Cozy Mysteries" are a subgenre of crime fiction. The crime and detection take place in a small, socially intimate community, where it is assumed that everyone knows everyone. The detectives are nearly always amateurs and frequently women who are typically well-educated, intuitive and often hold jobs that

bring them into constant contact with other residents of their town and the surrounding region. Dismissed by the authorities in general as nosy “busybodies,” the cozy detective is left free to eavesdrop, gather clues and use their intelligence and feel for the social dynamics of the community to solve the crime. The murders take place off stage, and frequently involve relatively bloodless methods such as poisoning and falls from great heights. Agatha Christie is often considered the “mother” of the cozy mystery. Cozy mystery series frequently have a prominent thematic element introduced by the detective's job or hobby, like cooking, knitting, scrapbooking, etc.

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