



Hampton Bay Days

News Release

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Hampton Bay Days Celebrates 25th Anniversary!

--Annual Festival commemorates a quarter century of honoring the Chesapeake Bay--

Hampton, Virginia- Join over a quarter of a million festival seekers as they flood the historic streets and scenic waterfront of Downtown Hampton, Virginia this September 7-9, 2007 for the 25th annual Hampton Bay Days. The event is one of the largest family-oriented celebrations on the East Coast. This year, the festival will include national recording artists, **Grand Funk Railroad, WAR, Cameo, and Sammy Kershaw.**

On Friday September 7, **Grand Funk Railroad** will kick off the concert festivities at 6:30 p.m. on the City Hall Stage. For over three decades, GFR has sold more than 25-million records worldwide. Nicknamed ‘The American Band’ due to their all time classic “We’re an American Band,” GFR will present an anthology of legendary

singles including “Closer to Home,” “Some Kind of Wonderful,” and “The Loco-Motion.”

Saturday September 8 features the presence of two big name acts, offering a double dose of musical delight for R&B and funk lovers collectively. At 6:00 p.m. on the City Hall Stage, SoCal “funk” legends **WAR** will deliver their signature fusion sound (mixing elements of rock, funk, jazz, reggae, and Latin Music) to the Bay Days faithful. Best known for their super-hit “Low Rider”, highlighted in such feature films as the *Dazed and Confused*, *21 Grams*, and *Robots*, WAR continues to impress loyal fans into the 21st Century with their up-tempo, high-energy live performances.

Word up! Be prepared to dance as R & B and funk pioneers **Cameo** hit the City Hall Stage at 8:30 p.m. to perform such staples as “Candy” and “She’s Strange.” One of the most influential bands of the 80’s, Cameo has been covered (and sampled) by everyone from Korn to Mariah Carey to Wu-Tang Clan to Will Smith.

On Sunday September 9, Sammy Kershaw caps off the weekend with two decades of country anthems. Military audiences and civilians alike are sure to enjoy his chart topper “Red, White & Blue,” as well as numerous other hits including “Cadillac Style,” “She Don’t Know She’s Beautiful,” and “Queen of My Double-Wide Trailer.” The fun begins at 3:30 p.m. on the City Hall Stage.

In addition to all of the free musical entertainment presented on four outdoor stages, the 25th annual Hampton Bay Days festival will also include over 100 merchandise and craft vendors, a 30-minute Fireworks Display, over 50 ways to savor tastes of the Bay, a Kid’s Play & Learn About the Bay Entertainment Area, a Rockin’ Sock Hop Car Show, and a Family Carnival.

Other weekend activities include the The Abbitt Realty Bay Days 10K race on Saturday morning.

The core mission of the festival is environmental education. The “Kid’s Play & Learn About The Bay Education Area” offers visitors a wide variety of children’s entertainment, hands-on activities and interactive presentations that promote the conservation of the Chesapeake Bay and its natural resources and history. This year, more than forty environmentally-minded organizations will present Chesapeake Bay educational exhibits, work boats and research vessels offering hours of free family fun.

During festival weekend, over 35 food vendors will be available throughout the downtown area. Those looking for more conventional dining options can choose one of the many eclectic restaurants that line historic Queens Way.

The Hampton Bay Days schedule is as follows: Noon-11:00 p.m. on Friday September 7, 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 p.m. on Saturday September 8, and Noon- 6:00 p.m. on Sunday September 9. Both festival and musical entertainment admissions are free, though a fee will be charged for some carnival rides, games, and food and beverages.

Parking will be available in the downtown area for \$5.00 per vehicle but it is limited. Non-profit organizations staff parking lots and proceeds help fund local charities.

The Fireworks Show is one of the largest and most impressive displays in the area. In order to clear the Settlers Landing Bridge for the fireworks, the Harbour Centre Parking Garage and Settlers Landing Street will close at 8:30 p. m., an hour and a half before the 10:00 p.m. show. Folks who arrive after 8:30 p.m. will not be able to drive on Settlers Landing or park in downtown Hampton.

More information on the 25th annual Hampton Bay Days can be obtained by calling 757/ 727-1641 or by visiting www.baydays.com. Additional information can be obtained by calling the Hampton Visitor Center at 757/727-1102 or 800/487-8778. For hotel and package information, check out www.hamptoncvb.com.

In 1982, Hampton Bay Days was created as a unique outlet to educate the public on the importance of the Chesapeake Bay in the Hampton Roads region, as well as in Northern and Western Virginia and in Maryland. The goal of the festival was, and still is, to provide an entertaining atmosphere while ultimately serving a greater purpose, promoting the conservation of the Chesapeake Bay and its natural resources.

Each year, a prominent citizen leads the festival as commodore and Mr. Hardy Cash, one of the original founders of Hampton Bay Days, will open the festivities starting with the Commodore's Gala. Over the years, Hampton Bay Days has grown into one of the most anticipated festivals of the summer. Over 500 hometown volunteers help put on the event each year.

Bay Days was named one of the top three North American festivals for 2003 and 2004 by Events Media and www.eventcrazy.com. Readers of *Chesapeake Bay* magazine

voted Hampton Bay Days the “Best Waterside Event” in their 2006 Best of the Bay Competition.

Hampton’s new 344,000 sq ft. Hampton Roads Convention Center is located in the center of the Hampton Roads metropolitan area which is partially bordered by Hampton Roads harbor and the Chesapeake Bay. Hampton is nicknamed “Crab Town” because it is home to the first canned crab industry in America, it is the site of America's first harbor and it is the oldest continuous English-speaking settlement in America. It is home to such visitor attractions as the Virginia Air & Space Center and Riverside IMAX® Theater, the Cousteau Society, Hampton History Museum, harbor tours and cruises, Hampton University Museum, Fort Monroe, award-winning Hampton Coliseum, The American Theatre, among others. Hampton was twice-named All-America City, the nation's oldest and most prominent community recognition award.

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