

MEDIA RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**DOWNTOWN WILL “SHAKE RATTLE & ROLL”
WITH A SPRING CAR SHOW IN TRIBUTE TO THE OL’ SUFFOLK RACEWAY**

SUFFOLK, VA: Historic downtown will showcase classic autos of yesteryear when a Main Street car show honors the racers, records and fans of the ol’ quarter-mile concrete tract that formerly operated at Suffolk Airport. Produced by Suffolk Tourism, the Saturday, May 9, event is free and open to the public and will highlight pre-1975 vehicles in 12 judged classes, a photo exhibit of the former raceway in a “Bill Gwyn Tribute Tent,” music by *The Rhondels*, food, vendors and pedal-car racing for children age 6 and under.



Frank LeSeur opened the Suffolk Raceway in September 1964 on an unused runway at what is now the Suffolk Executive Airport on Carolina Road. He leased the runway from the city for \$50 a week and created a track that drew drag racers from all over the country. Racing legends like Don Garlits and Ronnie Sox were track regulars. The track closed in 1991 due to conflicts with the Federal Aviation Administration.

“While it might have simply been a quarter mile of concrete, it was an awesome racing venue where many memories were made,” said Suffolk Mayor Linda Johnson.

The show begins at 8 a.m. with awards presented at 2 p.m. on the main stage. Main Street between Washington Street and Finney Avenue will be closed to traffic from 6 a.m. through late afternoon. The event will conclude at 3 p.m.

A classic pedal car will be raffled (\$1 tickets available at the tribute tent) will be drawn from the main stage located at Main and Market Streets. Children age 6 and under are invited to join the Suffolk Rods & Muscle Car Club for some exciting pedal-car racing (between Wachovia bank and St. Paul's Episcopal Church).

The car show is sponsored in part by Beamon & Johnson, Inc., Blanchard's Suffolk Tire & Auto, Bronco Federal Credit Union, Coastal Exteriors, Husband-for-Hire, Inc., Jenn's Insurance, Langley Speedway, Matco



Tools and Tony's Trophies. The host hotel is the Hilton Garden Inn at the downtown Suffolk riverfront. Proceeds will benefit a permanent Suffolk Raceway exhibit at the new visitor center (opening early 2010 in the historic Nansemond County courthouse). For sponsor and vendor opportunities, contact Sonia Thacker at 757-986-3062. For general information, contact the Suffolk Visitor Center at 757-514-4130.

The Tourism Division is the destination marketing organization of record for the City of Suffolk. The mission of the division is to promote the City of Suffolk through creative marketing initiatives and cooperative programs which stimulate visitation and awareness of Suffolk as a tourism destination within the Hampton Roads region.

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