

News Release FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE September 13, 2021

Contact: Leslie Baker, 757/728-5316
leslie.baker@hamptoncvb.com
Seamus McGrann, 757/727-6841
mmcgrann@hampton.gov

7th Annual BayShore Experience event introduces Hampton History Museum's new exhibit September 18

Hampton, VA—Learn about Hampton's famous Bay Shore Hotel with an upcoming virtual event and new exhibit opening at the Hampton History Museum on September 18. Collectors and community historians Reginald Robinson and Judy Leonard will host the 7th Annual BayShore Experience on [Facebook Live](#) at 6 p.m. The "Historic Black Beaches: Bay Shore and Other Memorable Sands" exhibit will open and continue through February 27, 2022. The museum will offer free museum admission on September 18 and 19.

The "[Historic Black Beaches: Bay Shore and Other Memorable Sands](#)" chronicles the resort's growth in the 1900s-1920s, with the purchase of additional land and increased offerings to visitors. The original four-room cottage was expanded into a 70-room three-story resort, with a bathhouse, restaurant, and other amenities. Followed soon after were a dance hall, amusement park and boardwalk.

Visitors traveled to Bay Shore from as far away as New York, and Richmonders made regular rail excursions for fun in the sun. The dance hall attracted stellar talent including Count Basie, Cab Callaway, Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald and Louis Armstrong.

Notable Bay Shore items displayed include a 1948 carousel horse, a 1940s Pinto Brothers fire engine from the Bay Shore Kiddie Land ride, blue costume and Stratocaster from the legendary Chuck "Guitar" Chavis, a toss-rack game clown and wooden Skee Balls from the Bay Shore arcade, a gaming wheel removed from the Bay shore Hotel prior to demolition in 1978, bathing suits and beachwear from the 1920s-1950s, tokens, tickets, souvenirs and other mementos.

Memorable Sands

"Memorable Sands: Beaches of Northeast North Carolina and Southeast Virginia" looks at five beaches in North Carolina and Virginia Beach. The traveling exhibit features images and artifacts from African American beaches in North Carolina including Chowan Beach in Hertford County, Bias and Hargraves Beaches in Currituck County, as well as Virginia Beach's Seaview Beach.

7th Annual BayShore Experience Virtual Event
September 18, 6:00-8:00 p.m.

Join hosts Reginald Robinson and Judy Leonard for the annual celebration of “The Vacation Paradise of the South.” Take a stroll down memory lane of the beloved Hampton seaside resort for African Americans during the Jim Crow Era. Evening highlights include skits, games, history, stories, and the unveiling of portraits of BayShore notables. There will also be an induction ceremony to honor the BayShore Hall of Fame 2021 class, and present the 2021 Charles H. William Award of Leadership to Hampton businessman and community leader, Roger Saunders, Sr.

The evening’s special guest speaker, Charles H. Hones, M.S. ED, nephew of Charles H. Williams, will present personal memories of his uncle and stories of his days working at BayShore along with his family.

Accompanying the virtual event is a display of artifacts and photos from Robinson’s collection in the museum’s Great Hall on September 18 and 19.

For more information, call 757-727-1102, visit HamptonHistoryMuseum.org.

###

Image attached:
Bay Shore Hotel, 1929, Hampton History Museum

Partially bordered by the Hampton Roads harbor and Chesapeake Bay, Hampton, with the 344,000 sq. ft. Hampton Roads Convention Center and the award-winning Hampton Coliseum, is located in the center of Coastal Virginia and the Hampton Roads metropolitan area. Hampton is the site of America's first continuous English-speaking settlement, the site of the first arrival of Africans in English North America, and is home to such visitor attractions as the Virginia Air & Space Science Center, Fort Monroe National Monument, Hampton History Museum, Hampton University Museum, The American Theatre, among others.