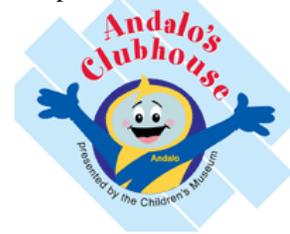




For immediate release:  
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***Monday is the last day to visit the Children's Museum of Virginia  
before it closes for renovation***

*~Museum to close at 5 p.m. Sept. 7 for an expansion expected to last 16 to 18 months~*

**PORTSMOUTH** – The Children's Museum of Virginia may be closing Monday for renovations, but don't worry...the fun will continue at Andalo's Clubhouse, less than two blocks away at 420 High St., which will open Oct. 17.

In celebration of the opening of his clubhouse, Andalo – the official mascot of the Children's Museum – will host a "Moving Celebration" from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday, the last day the Children's Museum of Virginia at 221 High St. will be open to the public. Bring a pet food donation for the Portsmouth Humane Society to receive \$1 off the \$4 per person admission price.

Andalo's "Moving Celebration" will include performances by the Rhythm Project at 1 p.m. and 2:30 p.m., along with karate demonstrations at 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Additionally, pony rides will be available in the grassy area outside of the museum. A private reception for members of the Portsmouth Museums will be provided from noon to 1 p.m. and from 3 to 4 p.m., which includes face painting, balloons, raffles, and cupcakes.

Once Andalo's Clubhouse opens on Oct. 17, it will still offer the same fun the Children's Museum has provided for years, such as birthday parties and Family Fun Days celebrating events like Chinese New Year and Black History Month. Educational programs will also continue at Andalo's Clubhouse – plus through a new outreach program designed to bring a bit of the magic of the Children's Museum directly to the classroom.

Andalo's Clubhouse will be open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday and from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sundays (closed Mondays, except on holidays that fall on a Monday). Initially, admission will be \$3. After the Courthouse Galleries Museum at the corner of High and Court streets opens its "Winter Wonderland" exhibit for the holidays, a combination ticket to both museums will cost \$5 per person.

The Children's Museum of Virginia will remain closed until early 2011 for an expansion that will add nearly 12,000 square feet and dozens of new exhibits. For more information, call 757-393-5258 or visit [www.childrensmuseumva.com](http://www.childrensmuseumva.com).