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**Downtown Honors Pillars in the Community**

*Downtown Norfolk Council will celebrate award recipients at Annual Meeting in June*

**Norfolk, Va.** – (April 22, 2014) – It is with pleasure that the Downtown Norfolk Council (DNC) Board of Directors announces award recipients to be honored at Downtown Norfolk’s Annual Meeting on **June 18, 2014** at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott. Community leaders will come together to honor the 2014 Downtowner of the Year, **Frank “Buddy” Gadams**, President of Marathon Development Group and 2014 Roy Badgley Distinguished Service Award recipient, **Kevin Murphy**, President of the Downtown Norfolk Civic League (DNCL).

The Downtowner of the Year Award is given to an individual who has made a substantial contribution to downtown Norfolk’s community through economic and cultural development. **Frank “Buddy” Gadams** vision for downtown has been commended on more than one occasion. “[He] believes in downtown Norfolk and he has made a substantial investment in backing up his belief while putting what is best for downtown first,” said John M. Profilet, Vice President of S.L. Nusbaum Realty.

Buddy’s developments have attracted retail businesses such as: Groove Record Shop, Sweet Teas Southern Cuisine among other unique eateries to downtown Norfolk that will engage and draw people from all over the Hampton Roads region.

The Roy Badgley Distinguished Service Award recognizes an individual and volunteer who has given continuously to make downtown Norfolk a better place to live, work and explore. This year's recipient, **Kevin Murphy** is someone who has been actively engaged and interested in the growth of the downtown community. He has not only led the DNCL, but has partnered with Re:Vision Norfolk, the City of Norfolk, local developers, DNC and residents to advocate for change and programming that affects the downtown community. "He has earned the reputation of being proactive, engaged, and a thoughtful leader", commented Chelsy Carter, Vice President of Services and Support at Gannett Media Technologies, Inc. and resident in the Norfolk Arts District.

**Towne Bank** is the Presenting Sponsor for the Downtown Norfolk Council Annual Meeting and they will be joined by many other sponsors in recognizing these two exceptional individuals on June 18, 2014.

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*The Downtown Norfolk Council (DNC) is a private, not-for-profit membership organization comprised of businesses and individuals working toward a dynamic, attractive and prosperous Downtown. Also, DNC manages the Downtown Norfolk Improvement District, a 48-block Special Services District providing enhanced services that keep Downtown friendly, safe and spotless. Please connect with us on twitter, Facebook, Instagram or visit [DowntownNorfolk.org](http://DowntownNorfolk.org).*