



## Media Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### Holidays in the City *A Southeast Tourism Society Top 20 Event*

NORFOLK, VA, September 2009 – Holidays in the City, one of **Southeast Tourism Society's Top 20 Events** for November, celebrates 25 years with six weeks of magical festivities, saluting the holidays of Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas, Kwanzaa and New Year's Eve. The festivities begin on Saturday, November 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 pm with the Grand Illumination of the downtown skyline. The lighting of the skyline signals the start of Hampton Roads' most cherished event, the **25th Annual Grand Illumination Parade**. The theme for this year's Grand Illumination Parade is "It's Silver" in recognition of the event's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Festive floats, marching bands, giant balloons, dancers and Santa himself will delight spectators with a sparkling theme as they parade through downtown Norfolk.

Another signature event of Holidays in the City is the award winning **Olde Towne Holiday Music Festival** which will be held on Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. Created and launched in 1998, the Olde Towne Holiday Music Festival is now Portsmouth's signature holiday event, featuring hundreds of musical performances and carolers throughout the day. Concerts, which range from barbershop harmony and jazz to steel drums and brass ensembles, are staged in a variety of indoor and outdoor locations and in several historic churches.

Throughout the holidays, downtown Norfolk serves up seasonal delights. Traditional favorites include: **A Christmas Carol**, presented by the Virginia Stage Company and **Holidays in Virginia**, presented by the Hurrah Players. And do not forget those ongoing treats such as **Winter Wonderland: The Coleman Collection**, and **MacArthur on Ice** the area's largest outdoor ice skating rink at MacArthur Center.

Holidays in the City serves up a season full of amazing experiences in the most vital and vibrant holiday destination in the region. A complete calendar of holiday happenings in downtown Norfolk and Olde Towne Portsmouth is available by visiting [www.DowntownNorfolk.org](http://www.DowntownNorfolk.org) and clicking on "Holidays in the City".

Holidays in the City is presented by Farm Fresh in association with the Cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth and media partners *The Virginian-Pilot* and WVEC TV-13 and is produced & managed by the Downtown Norfolk Council. The Downtown Norfolk Council is a private, not-for-profit membership organization comprised of businesses and individuals working toward a dynamic, attractive and prosperous downtown.

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