




There couldn't be a more appropriate time for DNC to introduce the new version of **FOCUS**. Without question, at this time of the year the focus is indeed on downtown Norfolk. We hope you'll enjoy this new e-communication. We'll work hard to make it a "quick read". Sometimes we'll let you know what has happened and sometimes we'll be letting you know what's coming up. Every couple of weeks, we'll be touching base, and we hope you'll let us know what you think.

Speaking of what's coming up, the City Manager is inviting everyone to a **Community Q & A on the Budget** on Saturday, April 28 at 9 AM at Norview High School. This is an opportunity to understand the budget and explore detailed program and project information prior to the City Council public hearings on the FY2008 Budget. If you'd like, you can pre-submit questions by calling 664-6510.

The **Virginia Arts Festival** is now in full swing and to add an air of festiveness to downtown, DNC collaborated with the Virginia Arts Festival to strategically place colorful flags and hanging planters. For the next six weeks, there will also be lots of strolling entertainment during the lunch hour and after work. Our thanks to **Councilman Barclay Winn** who donated forty blooming azaleas, perking up downtown street planters, particularly during the Azalea Festival. By the way, don't forget to visit VirginiaArtsFestival.com for a full calendar of incredible events. One of the most incredible will be **Birmingham Royal Ballet** making their only North American appearance in downtown Norfolk. Rumor has it that Royalty will actually be in town on opening night.

Last Wednesday was a thrilling time when five more homegrown musicians saw their star added to the **Legends of Music Walk of Fame**. Honored were: R & B and Rock star, **Clarence "Big Man" Clemons**; a staple on the Norfolk music scene for more than 50 years, **Pat Curtis**; **JoAnn Falletta**, Music Director of the Virginia Symphony; R & B giant, **General Norman Johnson** and Country & Western and film stars, **The Phelps Brothers**. If you haven't seen the stars yet, it's worth a lunchtime stroll down Granby Street. By the way, the "stars" have been adopted by the **Public Safety Ambassadors** and the **Clean Team Ambassadors** who have committed to use their elbow grease to keep the stars shining.

Something else to look for downtown this week....We have two bright new cleaning machines, and all of the machines are sporting our new  logo.

Some have questioned what is happening at the intersection of City Hall Avenue. and Granby Street. In addition to the new signal lights, a landscaped median is being constructed on City Hall Ave. between Granby Street and Monticello Avenue. For up-to-date information on street and lane closures that have the greatest impact to downtown, go to our web site at DowntownNorfolk.org and click **Street Smarts** on the home page.

We send accolades to the **Department of Utilities** for completing the work in the 100 block of Granby Street ahead of schedule. Thanks also to the businesses in that block for their great attitude during a tremendously challenging time. And before too long, that section of Granby Street will link to Town Point Park. The **Granby Street Connector** is scheduled for completion by the first week in June, just in time for Harborfest.

Congratulations to our Operations Manager, Rod McLeod who has been accepted to the FBI Citizen Academy.

We received this nice note from Jeff Griffin, Senior Building Engineer, Town Point Center. ***I just wanted to take a minute and share a good news story. One of your workers came over to my building unsolicited and helped clean up a big mess left by our dumpster guy. I believe your ambassador's name was Ben. Please relay this to him and let him know we really appreciate the job the Ambassadors do everyday. Thanks.*** Thanks Jeff. We know our Ambassadors do a great job but it is always nice when others recognize them.

One last note, this week we sent out invitations to the May 2nd **DNC Member Briefing**. This will be the last Member Briefing of the season and I'd encourage you to make a special effort to attend. These meetings have been very well received and very well attended. We think the May 2nd event will be extra special. The combination of speaker **Ron Dennis**, President of Farm Fresh, a terrific opportunity to mingle with fellow downtowners, and the incredible morning views from the **Half Moone Cruise & Celebration Center** make this an event you don't want to miss.

Cathy Coleman
President & CEO