



MEDIA RELEASE

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AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED FOR 25TH ANNUAL GRAND ILLUMINATION PARADE

NORFOLK, VA – (November 23, 2009) For 25 years, Holidays in the City has been warming up the heart of Hampton Roads and building family traditions. Saturday night was a spectacular evening, when thousands of spectators lined the streets of downtown Norfolk for the Annual Grand Illumination Parade. Filled with festive lighted floats, giant helium balloons and marching bands, parade units strutted their stuff at the cherished annual event and were judged by an independent panel.

The Downtown Norfolk Council and Farm Fresh congratulate the following 2009 Grand Illumination Parade Award Winners:

Chairman's Award

Presented to the unit with best adherence to theme, originality and audience appeal.

Black & White Cabs

Unit Name: Silver Christmas

Best in Show

Metro Machine

Float Name: A Silver Night in the City

Best Interpretation of This Year's Theme "It's Silver"

City of Norfolk

Float Name: 25 Years of Celebration

Best Illumination

City of Portsmouth

Float Name: Winter Wonderland "in Silver"

Best Commercial Float

Farm Fresh

Float Name: Holiday Farmer's Market

Best Non-Commercial Float

Virginia Caribbean American Cultural Association

Float Name: Silver Flutterfly

1st Place High School Marching Band

Kecoughtan High School Warrior Band, Hampton, VA

2nd Place High School Marching Band

Nansemond River High School Mighty Marching Warriors, Suffolk, VA

3rd Place High School Marching Band

Nansemond-Suffolk Academy, Suffolk, VA

1st Place "Balloonatics" Winner

Wells Fargo Advisors carrying the 35 foot Mistletoes the Snowman. The award recognizes the most enthusiastic Giant Helium Balloon Handlers. This is Wells Fargo Advisors second appearance in the Parade and first time that they are recipients of this award.

Best Walking Unit

Wilkins School of Dance, led by their Director, Jennifer Wilkins is the recipient of this year's award. The award recognizes the walking unit with the best symmetry, choreography, costuming and entertainment value.

Best Dressed Unit

Hurrah Players, led by Founder and Artistic Director, Hugh Copeland. This award recognizes the organization with the best overall appearance and choreography of both movement and costumes with added credit being given for adherence to the parade's theme. Hurrah Players has had a unit in the parade every year for 25 years.

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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