



MEDIA RELEASE

Contact: Mary Miller, Vice President & Director of Marketing
757-623-1757 or mmiller@downtownnorfolk.org

AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED FOR 27TH ANNUAL GRAND ILLUMINATION PARADE

NORFOLK, VA – (November 19, 2011) For 27 years, Holidays in the City has been warming up the heart of Hampton Roads and building family traditions. Tonight under, stunning clear skies, thousands of spectators lined the streets of downtown Norfolk for the Annual Grand Illumination Parade which kicks off six weeks of Holidays in the City. Filled with festive lighted floats, giant helium balloons, marching bands, and crowd pleasing animal units the units strutted their stuff at the cherished annual event and were judged by an independent panel.

The Downtown Norfolk Council is proud to congratulate the following 2011 Grand Illumination Parade Award Winners:

Chairman's Award

Presented to a non-float and non-balloon unit with best adherence to theme, originality and audience appeal.

Pit Bull Awareness Coalition

Unit Name: Shelter Sweetshop

Float - Best in Show

Hurrah Players

Float Name: A Willy Wonka Christmas

Float - Best Interpretation of This Year's Theme "It's A Sweet Life"

Copeland Mills School of the Arts

Float Name: It's A Marshmallow World in the City

Float - Best Illumination

City of Norfolk

Float Name: Simply Delicious!

Best Commercial Float

Kelli's Dance Explosion
Float Name: Sweet Dreams

Best Non-Commercial Float

St. Mark's Christian Academy
Float Name: The Legend of the Candy Canes

1st Place High School Marching Band

Nansemond –Suffolk Academy

2nd Place High School Marching Band

Kings Fork High School Marching Band, City of Suffolk

3rd Place High School Marching Band

Nansemond River High School Band, City of Suffolk

Marching Band

Presented to a band other than High School

Spartan Legion Marching Band, Norfolk State University

1st Place "Balloonatics" Winner

MacArthur Center carrying "Mistletoes the Snowman". The award recognizes the most enthusiastic Giant Helium Balloon Handlers. This is MacArthur Center's fifth appearance in the Parade yet, first time recipients of this award.

Best Walking Unit

Jazzercise is once again the recipient of the best walking unit award. The award recognizes the walking unit with the best symmetry, choreography, costuming and entertainment value.

Best Dressed Unit

Presented to a non-float, non-balloon, or non-walking unit.

Wilkins School of Dance is under the direction of Jennifer Wilkins. 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.

Holidays in the City is presented in association with the Cities of Norfolk and Portsmouth. Our media partners are The Virginian-Pilot, WVEC TV-13 and Sinclair Communications. Holidays in the City 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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