



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED FOR 32<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL GRAND ILLUMINATION PARADE**

NORFOLK, Va. – (November 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2016) – More than 80,000 parade-goers along the two-mile route were treated to quite an impressive show by the 79 units in the 2016 Grand Illumination Parade.

An independent panel of judges were staged along the route to evaluate the units that were all competing to win one of the prestigious Grand Illumination Parade awards.

The Downtown Norfolk Council is proud to congratulate the following 2016 Grand Illumination Parade award winners as selected by an independent panel of judges.

#### **Elizabeth River Crossing High School Marching Band \$1000 Award – Norfolk**

Granby High School

#### **Elizabeth River Crossing High School Marching Band \$1000 Award– Portsmouth**

I.C. Norcom High School.

#### **President's Award (*Unit with the best use of innovation and imagination*)**

Sentara Norfolk General Hospital Trauma Services

#### **Best in Class**

Animal – Bay Beagle Rescue

Motorized – Black and White Cabs

Walking – The Marching Elites

**Float - Best in Show** Copeland Mills School of the Arts. Copeland Mills School of the Arts was also the Best in Show winner in 2014 and 2015.

**Float – Best Illumination**

Hampton Roads Pride Boat Club

**Float – Best Theme Interpretation**

Hurrah Players. Hurrah Players was also the Best Theme Interpretation in 2015.

**Best Commercial Float**

Lowe’s Home Improvement

**Best Non-Commercial Float**

Pinecrest Baptist Church Children’s Choir

**1<sup>st</sup> Place High School Marching Band**

Western Branch High School.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place High School Marching Band**

Nansemond River High School

**3<sup>rd</sup> Place High School Marching Band**

Granby High School

**Best Marching Band (*Presented to a band other than High School*)**

Old Dominion University

**“Balloonatics” Winner**

The Virginian Pilot carrying the giant snowflake balloons. The award recognizes the most enthusiastic Giant Helium Balloon Handlers.

**Nordstrom Style Award**

Norfolk NATO Festival. The award recognizes the unit that had the most well thought out, creative and stylish attire.

The Grand Illumination Parade also kicks off the annual Holidays in the City celebrations in both Downtown Norfolk and Olde Town Portsmouth. It’s a magical time to visit with holiday music, festive lights decorating the streets and the pleasant aroma of chefs’ special creations at nearby restaurants. Greenery and holiday displays adorn doorways and windows of shops and hotels, and there are special events and festivities scheduled for people of all ages. For a complete list of activities and events, visit [holidaysinthecity.net](http://holidaysinthecity.net).

Downtown Norfolk Council is a private, not-for-profit membership organization comprised of businesses and individuals working toward a dynamic, attractive and prosperous Downtown. DNC also manages the Downtown Norfolk Improvement District, a 48-block special services district with enhanced services that keep Downtown friendly, safe and spotless. Connect with Downtown Norfolk on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram or visit [DowntownNorfolk.org](http://DowntownNorfolk.org).

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