



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Jessica Kliner, 757-452-6592, [jkliner@downtownnorfolk.org](mailto:jkliner@downtownnorfolk.org)

### **AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED FOR 31<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL GRAND ILLUMINATION PARADE**

NORFOLK, Va. – (November 24, 2015) – More than 80,000 parade-goers along the two-mile route were once again amazed by the spectacular show the 70 plus units in the parade put on for the Musical Madness- themed 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Grand Illumination Parade.

These units also put on a great show for the independent panel of judges, competing to win the coveted Grand Illumination Parade awards.

The Downtown Norfolk Council is proud to congratulate the following 2015 Grand Illumination Parade award winners as selected by an independent panel of judges.

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

Booker T. Washington High School

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

I.C. Norcom High School. I.C. Norcom High School was also the best band winner in 2014.

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

Sail Nauticus

#### **Best in Class**

Animal – Pugs U Gotta Save and the Hampton Roads Pug Meet Up

Motorized – Volkswagen Club of Tidewater

Walking – Virginia Zoological Society

**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.

**Float – Best Illumination**

Sentara Norfolk General Hospital

**Float – Best Theme Interpretation**

Hurrah Players

**Best Commercial Float**

Kelli's Dance Explosion

**Best Non-Commercial Float**

SevenVenues

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

Western Branch High School

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

I.C. Norcom High School and NJROTC

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

Nansemond-Suffolk Academy

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

Norfolk State University

**1<sup>st</sup> Place “Balloonatics” Winner**

The Real Estate Group carrying the Blue Angels Plane. The award recognizes the most enthusiastic Giant Helium Balloon Handlers.

**Nordstrom Style Award**

Copeland Mills School of the Arts. The award recognizes the unit that had the most well thought out, creative and stylish attire.

The Grand Illumination Parade also kicks off six weeks of the annual Holidays in the City celebrations, sponsored by *CHURCH'S CHICKEN®*, in both Downtown Norfolk and Olde Town Portsmouth. It's a magical time to visit these city centers where there's holiday music in the air, the warm glow of 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).

**About Church's Chicken®**

Founded in San Antonio, TX in 1952 by George W. Church, *Church's Chicken®* is one of the largest quick service restaurant chicken chains in the world. *Church's®* specializes in Original and Spicy Chicken freshly prepared throughout the day in small batches that are hand-battered and double-breaded, *Tender Strips®*, sandwiches, honey-butter biscuits made from scratch and freshly baked, and classic, home-style sides all for a great value. *Church's®* (along with its sister brand *Texas Chicken®* outside the Americas) has more than 1,650 locations in 25 countries and international territories and system-wide sales of more than \$1 billion. For more information, visit [www.churchs.com](http://www.churchs.com). Follow *Church's®* on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/churchschicken](http://www.facebook.com/churchschicken) and Twitter at [www.twitter.com/churchschicken](http://www.twitter.com/churchschicken).

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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